



## Modern Justice on the Prairie in 1894

By David Larson

The men shown above were members of a Boone County grand jury called in December 1894. The 21 men present conform to a federal grand jury specification that limits the size of the jury to from 16 to 23 jurors.

More than a century ago, men were called exclusively to serve as grand jurors. Those were the days before women gained the right to vote. Before 1928, when the states ratified the work of Congress, women rode with their husbands to the polls, but they could not vote at the polls.

More recently, equalizing the status of women in the state has been through the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution. It is designed to guarantee equal legal rights for all American citizens regardless of sex. This effort began in 1971 and requires 38 states to ratify it to become a constitutional amendment. Illinois finally ratified it in 2018, but not with the vote of our state representative, Joe Sosnowski.

The idea of using a grand jury to determine if the state holds sufficient evidence to bring criminal charges dates back to ancient common law in England. Historians chart the path back to the first grand jury that convened sometime in 1166 about a century after William the Conqueror took England. The idea of a grand jury was repeated years later in the Magna Carta

*Continued on Page 4*

## Comptroller Reports: State's Backlog of Bills is Near the End

*Mendoza says bills now being paid on time; claims penalties don't deter lateness*

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

Illinois Comptroller Susana Mendoza is calling for repealing a law that imposes a 12 percent interest whenever the state is late paying its bills, along with a program that allows private investors to purchase the debt owed to vendors and collect that interest penalty.

Speaking to a Senate budget committee Tuesday, Mendoza said the state is nearly caught up on its bill backlog and that those two programs are no longer needed.

"This program has allowed private lenders to loan money to state vendors, then rake in the 12 percent interest that state taxpayers were on the hook for with these late bills," Mendoza said. "Now happily the days of connected private lenders profiting off the state's financial problems can and should be over."

Mendoza was referring to a 1993 law known as the Prompt Payment Act, which says that whenever the state fails to pay a bill within 60 days, the state must pay an interest penalty of 1 percent per month, or 12 percent per year.

During the height of the two-year budget

*Continued on Page 5*

## 'A Bit Opaque' And Confidential: Behind Illinois' Gubernatorial Pardon Process

*Man who pleaded guilty to arson named fire chief after Pritzker grants clemency*

By Beth Hundsdorfer Capitol News Illinois

Jerame Simmons got his long-held wish in December when he became the chief of the fire department that dismissed him 24 years ago after he was charged with setting fire to a vacant house and attempting to burn down his high school.

It took a prosecutor's dismissal of a serious felony arson charge, a plea deal to get rid of two other felonies, misdemeanor charges wiped from his record, dismissed domestic violence charges and a limited police investigation into a gun charge to help make it happen.

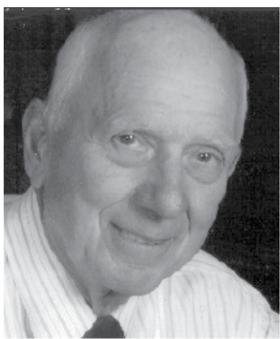
But it was a pardon from Gov. JB Pritzker that finally cleared the way for Simmons to become the full-time, paid fire chief for the Prairie Du Pont Fire Department.

It's one of 162 pardons issued thus far by the governor.

The case drew national attention as 11 of the department's 13 firefighters resigned following the fire protection district's decision to oust the former chief in favor of Simmons, although some of them reapplied. A petition from the ex-chief's wife to

*Continued on Page 5*

## Raymond Alfred Roach



Raymond Alfred Roach, 90, of Fairdale, Ill., died peacefully, Feb. 17, 2022, at home surrounded by his family. He was a loving husband, devoted father, and a fun-loving grandfather. He made friends wherever he went.

Raymond was born on April 19, 1931, to Carl and LaNora (Fowler) Roach in their home in St. Charles. Raymond married Charlene Hedtke on Oct. 24, 1949, celebrating 72 years of marriage. After graduating from Belvidere High School, Raymond sought a career as a mechanic working at Fairdale Mill, JC Penny Auto Center, and Falls Products. He also owned the Mobil Gas Station in Kirkland for five years. Never retiring, Raymond farmed for over 80 years in Boone County.

Raymond was a compassionate, tender-hearted man who was very generous. He loved his family and friends, enjoying the time spent together. He looked forward to eating breakfast at the Kirkland Family Restaurant, taking an afternoon nap, attending the "flip" at 4:00 pm, and watching Walker, Texas Ranger, or a military movie. On the weekends, he enjoyed playing cards, going to auctions, and watching Football and/or the Cubs. When he got the chance, he loved going to the casino. His favorite place was spending time up at the lake in Wisconsin fishing, boating, playing cards, and observing wildlife. Watching his kids and grandchildren enjoy watersports was one of

his favorite pastimes. Raymond also had a love for animals. Although Raymond was tender-hearted, he was a very resilient man who was a survivor overcoming many illnesses, accidents, and even the Fairdale tornado.

As a supporter of the community, Raymond was a volunteer for the Kirkland Community Fire Department and was one of the original members. To make sure he drove the fire truck, he ran to the Fairdale fire barn to arrive first. He was also a member of the Fairdale Men's Club.

Raymond is survived by his wife, Charlene; children, Judy (Don) Cook of Rockford, Ron (Connie) Roach of Kirkland, Laurie (Dan) Lawrence of Poplar Grove and Tammy (Jon) Aldrich of Roscoe; grandchildren, Jeff (Tara) Cook, Danny (Ellen) Cook, Jeremy (Michelle La May) Cook and Kristi (Matt) Kirchhoff, Stephanie Hoffman, Dustin (Crystal) Hoffman and Michael (Jennifer) Roach, Dan Lawrence Jr., Ryan (Sandy) Lawrence, Kyle (Carli) Lawrence, Kari (Adam) Davidson, and Trent and Trey Aldrich; great-grandchildren, Hailie, Colten, Caylee, Jalen, Nick, Jaden, Anthony, Michael, Nathan, Olivia, Owen, Rhett, Ellis, Amelia, Jack, Oliver; great-great-granddaughter, Olympia; and brother, Thomas (Leona "Sis") Roach. He was predeceased by his parents, and siblings, Carl and Ramona.

A viewing will be held at 10 am Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022, at Kirkland Community Fire Station, 3891 IL 72, Kirkland, IL 60146 with "Ring of the Bell" ceremony and Celebration of Life prior to a luncheon at noon. Plan to share stories and fond memories. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Kirkland Community Fire District.

Arrangements by Olson Funeral & Cremation Services, Ltd., Quiram Kirkland Chapel For more information to leave a message of condolence visit [www.olsonfh.com](http://www.olsonfh.com) or 815-522-3563

before the event.

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### New Scholarship Opportunity for Belvidere School District Students:

Thanks to a generous donation, Belvidere School District 100 announces a new scholarship in partnership with Rock Valley College for District 100 students pursuing careers in welding, mechatronics, or CNC operations. Students who are awarded this scholarship will have their tuition, materials, and course fees covered for their training at Rock Valley College's Advanced Technology Center now open in Belvidere. Students or families interested in learning more about the scholarship can visit [www.district100.com/families/scholarships](http://www.district100.com/families/scholarships).

### New Scholarship Opportunity for District 100 Postgraduates in College:

The Boone County Community Foundation (BCCF) announces the addition of the JoAnne & Warren Emry Scholarship, a new scholarship opportunity for postgraduates of Belvidere and Belvidere North High Schools. For a full list of eligibility criteria please visit the scholarship page on the Foundation's website at <https://boonecountycmmunityfoundation.org/scholarships/> Students apply through the Foundation's website portal.

### World-Renowned International GFNY Cycling Marathon Coming to Winnebago County:

RACVB signs three-year agreement with Gran Fondo New York (GFNY) to host global event in 2022, 2023, 2024; will generate visitor spending of \$3.9 million over three years.

The Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (RACVB) and community partners from throughout Winnebago County are thrilled to announce the internationally known Gran Fondo New York (GFNY) cycling marathon will take place in Winnebago County on Sunday, August 7, 2022, with planned run rides on Friday and Saturday before the race.

All fitness levels and any athlete over age of 18 is eligible to participate in this cycling event. Participants do not have to qualify or be a licensed racer with a federation to take part in GFNY. Registration information can be found at [www.gfny.com](http://www.gfny.com).



- Cushman, Marlene, 87, Belvidere, February 17
- Flores, Robert, Belvidere
- Frost, Jack "Frostman", 65, Belvidere, Feb.5
- Jones, Glenda, Cherry Valley
- Panick, Richard, Belvidere
- Pierce, Theodore Jr., 74, Cherry Valley, Feb.12
- Roach, Raymond, 90, Fairdale, February 17
- Smith, Fred, 80, Belvidere, February 15
- Theisen, Loras, 76, Belvidere, February 16
- Urbas-Porter, Jean, 97, Poplar Grove, Feb. 13

## COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

### Covid-19 Testing Sites:

For a full list of testing sites in Boone County and for further information, go to <https://dph.illinois.gov/Covid19/Testing.html>.

### The Poplar Grove Aviation Education Association 2022 Scholarship Program:

The Poplar Grove Aviation Education Association and Vintage Wings & Wheels Museum is pleased to announce the availability of scholarships to students currently or intending to enroll in an aviation or automotive education program. The recipients must intend to utilize the training to become a professional in the aviation/automotive industry, including maintenance, and the education program must result in a degree or FAA certificate. The recipients must be at least a junior in high school at the time of application. The recipients must reside in Boone, Winnebago, Kane, Dekalb, or McHenry counties in Illinois, or Walworth or Rock counties in Wisconsin. Further information and applications are on the Museum's website under the Education tab. [www.poplargrovetowingsandwheels.com](http://www.poplargrovetowingsandwheels.com).

### Winnebago and Boone County Genealogical Society – Regular Meeting:

Saturday, March 5, 2022, at 1:30pm ZOOM EVENT.

It is important to have a plan when going into the Internet to do genealogical research. This presentation will help you go into the searches in a controlled and well-organized manner to prevent surfing and losing your way. It highlights genealogical collections that you will not find online as well.

See our Facebook page or email [wbcgensociety@gmail.com](mailto:wbcgensociety@gmail.com) to get your ZOOM link BEFORE NOON on the day of the event. Your sign in information will be emailed to you a few days



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**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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# Republicans Cite SAFE-T Act as Reason a Man Not Charged with Murder

*Grand jury approved weapons charges, not first-degree murder*

By Grace Kinnicutt Capitol News Illinois

Illinois House Republicans on Wednesday continued a push to repeal a criminal justice reform bill passed one year ago, citing the law as the reason a Chicago man was not charged with murder for his role in a shootout that left one bystander dead.

A Cook County grand jury declined to indict Travis Andrews, 26, for the murder of Melinda Crump, 54, who was shot in the abdomen during a shootout initiated by Andrews while walking to a convenience store in December, according to the Chicago Sun-Times.

While Andrews initiated the shootout by firing multiple shots at someone else, his bullet did not kill Crump. Bullets apparently fired by the intended target, who has not been identified, struck Crump in the abdomen.

State law, in certain circumstances, allows a person who did not directly take the action that led to a death to be charged with first-degree murder. But reformers, in passing the criminal justice reform law, tried to lessen prosecutors' ability to file those so-called "felony murder" charges if a person's action doesn't directly cause the death.

The reform bill, called the Safety, Accountability, Fairness, and Equity-Today, or SAFE-T Act, passed during a lame duck session in January 2021. It changed one of three subsections to crimes contained under first-degree murder.

Under the SAFE-T Act, it allows for felony murder charges of an individual if "he or she, acting alone or with one or more participants, commits or attempts to commit a forcible felony other than second degree murder, and in the course of or in furtherance of such crime or flight therefrom, he or she or another participant causes the death of a person." The previous version did not include the language which said "causes the death of a person."

Andrews was indicted on weapons charges in the shooting but not on the first-degree murder charge.

While grand jury deliberations are secret, the Sun-Times reported that Assistant State's Attorney James Murphy told a judge during a hearing that jurors cited the SAFE-T Act as the reason for not pursuing the murder charge.

"The Cook County grand jury's decision not to indict Travis Andrews on first-degree murder because of the SAFE-T Act highlights what we have been saying all along," Rep. Dan Ugaste, R-Geneva said at a news conference Wednesday. "The SAFE-T Act has made Illinois a less safe place to live."

"How does [Gov. Pritzker] explain this dismal failure that played out before the Cook County grand jury on this investigation," House minority leader Jim Durkin, R-Western Springs, said.

But Jobi Cates, executive director of Restore Justice Illinois, said the reforms "narrow the wrongdoings" and make it difficult to charge people with first-degree murder when they did not intend to kill the person who died.

Cates said the change in the statute is intended to prevent the possibility of charging someone with a first-degree murder when the killing was committed by a third party.

"It's a minor change to the statute, people can still be charged," Cates said in a phone interview with Capitol News Illinois Wednesday.

"We want to actually solve for violence," she added. "We want to actually make communities safer."

Rep. Justin Slaughter, D-Chicago, released a statement following the GOP news conference and grand jury's decision, saying he hoped the person responsible for Crump's death would be arrested.

"The criminals who instigated and participated in the shooting that led to Melinda Crump's death must be brought to justice," Slaughter said. "I am glad Travis Andrews is facing more than a decade of jail time, and I hope the gunman who shot and kill Ms. Crump is found and charged with murder."

Republicans have continually claimed that the criminal justice reform bill has led to an increase in violent crime. In response, they filed House Bill 4499 to repeal the SAFE-T Act

Among other provisions, the SAFE-T Act overhauls police certification and decertification, reforms use-of-force standards, increases police accountability and abolishes cash bail.

"The Democrats insist on staying the course with the SAFE-T Act. They refuse to acknowledge the policies they passed are leading to spikes in crime," Ugaste said.

Durkin said that Illinois is becoming a "lawless state when it comes to crime," and that repercussions need to be put in place to prevent violent offenders.

"We need to immediately repeal the failed Democrat law, the SAFE-T Act, before more tragedies occur," Durkin said.

Slaughter said the SAFE-T act makes the justice system more fair and effective and that "Republicans are continuing their scare tactics by twisting the law and the facts of this case in order to score political points in an election year."

Pritzker was asked about the Andrews case Wednesday in a news conference.

"Well, let's begin by saying that the crime that was committed and the death, of course, heinous and something that someone should have the book thrown at them for," he said. "The fact is that what he's been charged with, would result

in, if convicted, 14 years in prison without possibility of parole. Not every crime will have first-degree murder as the charge that gets brought against somebody, but I am at least pleased that he's been apprehended and that he will be prosecuted on those crimes."

*Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.*

# Tom Cullerton Resigns Senate, Reportedly Plans to Plead Guilty to Federal Charges

*Former labor committee chair was charged with being paid by unions without doing work*

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

State Sen. Tom Cullerton, D-Villa Park, resigned his seat Wednesday and will reportedly plead guilty next month to federal corruption charges.

Cullerton, 52, a former chairman of the Senate Labor Committee, was first elected to the Senate in 2012 and was seated in 2013. In August 2019, he was indicted on multiple charges of embezzlement for allegedly receiving pay and benefits from Teamsters Joint Council 25 while doing little or no work for the union.

Cullerton had denied any wrongdoing and was originally scheduled to go on trial in 2020, but that was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. His most recent trial date was scheduled for April 18.

On Wednesday, though, the Chicago Sun-Times reported that Cullerton's attorney, Daniel Collins, had requested a change of plea hearing and Cullerton submitted his resignation to the Senate.

U.S. District Judge Robert Gettleman scheduled that plea hearing for March 8.

"Tom Cullerton served his constituents in the 23rd Senate District for nearly a decade. I look forward to welcoming and working with a new senator from the district," Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, said in a statement.

Cullerton's indictment in 2019 grew out of a sprawling investigation by U.S. Attorney John Lausch's office into public corruption in Illinois politics. That investigation also led to indictments of former Sen. Martin Sandoval, now deceased, former Sen. Terry Link and former Rep. Luis Arroyo, all Democrats.

It also led to indictments of several officials at utility giant Commonwealth Edison for allegedly trying to bribe former longtime House Speaker Michael Madigan, D-Chicago, in exchange for passing favorable legislation for the company.

Although Madigan himself was not charged and denied any wrongdoing, that controversy, among others, led to him being ousted from the speaker's position by Democrats in the General Assembly and, in 2021, his resignation from the House.

Continued on Page 8

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## Grand Jury

from page 1

in 1215. The settling of grievance and the formal, objective adjudication of crime is a mark of the modern state, as government evolved away from the medieval state's singular authority of a king.

Boone County in 1894 had been building the institutions of a modern state on the prairie with varying degrees of success since the 1830s.

Soon after English citizens began to be exiled to America in the 1600s, villages adopted rules of law from their homeland. In those days, most criminal investigations and prosecutions were brought by private citizens. A citizen who thought he had been robbed could bring the question before a group of local citizens convened into a grand jury.

The original idea behind a grand jury, some claim emerged from what was called the "Star C(h)amber" in ancient England. Local noblemen met in secret proceedings to determine the guilt or innocence of those indicted for alleged crimes. The idea was further smudged during the Salem Witch trials, when many innocent Massachusetts women and men were hung at the mere accusation they were touched by Satan without any sound evidence. Acquiring such hard evidence would be difficult in any age, but the rope used and the gallows erected for punishment were very real.

Grand juries have a long and varied history in American jurisprudence. Today, the grand jury process provides the chief prosecutor the opportunity to present to a panel of local jurors the evidence held against a specific defendant. These jurors are asked to determine if there are sufficient grounds for a "true bill" of indictment to be found. In this instance today, in Boone County, the State's Attorney convenes a grand jury to present evidence to against a defendant, and asks the grand jury to return a true bill of indictment.

Today, in other parts of the world, grand juries have been disbanded. England abandoned grand juries in the mid-1930s and now uses what is called a "committal procedure," that is also used in Australia. In England and Australia, a judge or magistrate hears evidence during a preliminary hearing, and determines if there is sufficient evidence for the prosecution to move forward.

In America, preliminary hearings are frequently held instead of a grand jury. However, many prosecutors prefer the grand jury process for more serious crimes, because everything disclosed to a grand jury remains secret. That is why many compare the grand jury process to the "Star Chamber."

Every bit of evidence and every word of testimony delivered in a grand jury proceeding is held in secret. Some defense attorneys have complained, "A state's attorney can get a ham sandwich indicted," and the essence of their complaint is that hearsay and other evidence can be introduced without the defense having an opportunity to challenge what has been said. The ability for defense counsel to challenge testimony and evidence comes later in an open trial.

The question of Constitutionality within the context of grand juries has been brought before the United States Supreme Court several times, but, in each instance, the Court has refused to hear the case. Under the rules of grand juries, a defendant cannot be brought before the panel and forced to provide incriminating evidence against him, but many prosecutors will call the defendant and force the accused to invoke Fifth Amendment rights.

Prosecutors prefer a grand jury instead of a preliminary hearing because their evidence can be presented in a secret hearing, and they do not need to disclose that evidence until after an indictment has been found. A preliminary hearing is held in open court. A grand jury proceeding prior to trial forces the defense to request discovery of all the evidence held by the state and the prosecutor has the benefit of additional time to prepare the case before disclosing the evidence to the defense.

This dignified group of local Belvidere gentlemen from 1894 stood for the photographer and refused to smile. Whether their refusal was based upon the solemnity of the occasion or because smiling was not tradition is uncertain. These men all dressed in their best suits for their work and most likely did see what they were called to do as going to work. This grand jury as is the case today, contains doctors and farmers and factory workers and shop clerks. The grand jury system is based upon the proposition that those called to hear the evidence are not trained in the law but will hold a level of "common sense" to ascertain the validity of the evidence held and judge accordingly.

The Journal wants to thank the Boone County Historical Society for allowing use of the photograph. We also want to acknowledge valuable research information provided by wikipedia.org, the Internet encyclopedia and the American Bar Association for providing valuable factual data used in the preparation of this piece in its original form by James Middleton.

# OP-ED

## Better Politics, Smarter Government: Return of Congressional Town Halls Would be a Sign of Healing

By John T. Shaw

Several years ago, the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute was invited to join a dozen universities in the United States to promote bipartisan collaboration and productive discourse at the state and local level.

The Institute developed a plan to strengthen how congressional town hall meetings are conducted in Illinois. Our recommendations outlined ways these meetings could be more informative, civil, respectful and productive. We sent our ideas to members of the Illinois congressional delegation and received encouraging responses. Then COVID-19 descended in 2020 and disrupted all our lives. In-person town hall meetings seemed ill-advised and unsafe during a pandemic.

Even if COVID-19 had not battered our world, we were aware that in-person town halls are threatened by other pervasive and pernicious diseases in the United States — the rise in political polarization, the decline of civility, and the atrophy of our collective ability as Americans to discuss contentious issues constructively, without rancor or acrimony.

The twin maladies of COVID-19 and political polarization upended in-person town hall meetings in Illinois and elsewhere.

The institute is not giving up on its conviction that town hall meetings are an important instrument to revive our democracy.

Congressional town hall meetings have been an important feature of America's culture of representative democracy for more than two centuries. In their ideal form, they allow lawmakers to describe their work at home and in Washington and to listen to the concerns of their constituents. Open and vigorous dialogue benefits policymakers and the public.

However, the nature of the town hall meeting has changed dramatically in the last decade or so, driven by deepening political polarization and advances in technology, especially the revolution of social media. Both conservative and liberal activist groups often regard town hall meetings as opportunities to confront lawmakers they oppose and create embarrassing moments that can be captured on camera and then disseminated through social media. Even before COVID-19,

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**OP-ED**

*from page 4*

many in Congress began to hold only virtual town hall meetings in which constituents attended via phone, internet or Zoom. These meetings are often tightly controlled and often fuel public anger and skepticism about the political process.

Paul Simon powerfully summarized the value of in-person town hall meetings: "It's one thing to read about the farm problem, much different to talk to flesh-and-blood people whose agony is written on their faces and in what they say," he wrote. "It's one thing to know unemployment statistics, another to talk to a mother who is worried about the mental health of her son because he can't find a job. The people who took time to attend town meetings held in every corner of the state helped me to become a better senator."

The institute believes that in-person town hall meetings can again become a constructive part of our political discourse. However, we urge lawmakers and the public to approach them differently. Civility must be the coin of the realm. Town hall meetings should be restructured as listening and learning sessions that center on lawmakers hearing the views of constituents. They should be moderated by a nonpartisan community leader who sets the tone for a respectful discussion. The range of people who attend town halls should be widened so the audience is more diverse and includes both partisans and independents.

There is no magic solution to rescue and revive town hall meetings. Success ultimately depends on the goodwill and respect of both the public and policymakers.

As we approach the spring of 2022, there are cautious reports that the pandemic is easing. Hopefully we can soon contemplate in-person events, albeit with appropriate public health precautions.

I will take it as a good sign about the health of our nation and our democracy when we are able to revive town hall meetings that are both safe and civil. It is important to relearn that we can exchange views with public officials and fellow citizens in a spirited and civil way. We are all custodians of a remarkable country and state — and citizens of the same political community.

*John T. Shaw is the director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Shaw's monthly column explores how Illinois can work toward better politics and smarter government.*

With the state's cash flow problems now largely ironed out, Mendoza said, she believes it is time to phase out the Vendor Payment Program, and she said she believes the Prompt Payment Act has failed to achieve its purpose.

"I understand that the intent of the act is supposed to have a deterrent effect on budget makers that forces them to keep a budget living within its means," she said. "However, I would argue that this interest expense is not penalizing state government, it penalizes taxpayers."

She said that during the budget impasse, the state paid out more than \$1 billion in interest penalties, something she said was proof that the penalties did not force lawmakers or other state officials to be more disciplined with their budgets.

"The days of taxpayers being on the hook for billions of dollars in late payment interest penalties should be over at a time when we finally have our heads above water," she said. "It is now when we need to take a hard look at what happened and to reform our policies so that taxpayers are not having to pay for these exorbitant costs."

*Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.*

**Pardon**

*from page 1*

remove Simmons currently has 128 signatures.

It also shined a light on Illinois' pardon process, described as "a bit opaque" by a former U.S. pardon attorney.

The process starts with the Illinois Prisoner Review Board, a governor-appointed, 14-member board which has, for several months, been operating with three vacancies and nine members serving without full state Senate approval.

The board reviews all clemency petitions and makes a recommendation to the governor as to whether they should be granted, but their decisions are confidential, according to the board's chief legal counsel, Kahalah Clay.

"(T)he IPRB does not retry cases," Clay said. "The IPRB reviews the petitions that come before them and makes the requisite recommendations based on those petitions."

Simmons filed his petition on July 15, 2019, directly contradicting contemporary law enforcement reports of a number of 1998 incidents which led him to confess to setting a fire and using his father's law enforcement siren to make an unlawful traffic stop.

"This is a nightmare I play through my head a lot," Simmons wrote in his petition to receive that pardon. "If I had a chance to change anything in my life, it would be the month of January and February the year of 1998. Those two months have put my whole life upside-down regarding any career that I wished to have in any full-time job in public safety."

In his petition for clemency, Simmons, the son of a former deputy U.S. marshal and Metro East mayor, claimed innocence and submitted testimony from local officials attesting to his work ethic and trustworthiness.

Due to the confidentiality of their recommendations, it's unclear how the IPRB weighed his former guilty plea against Simmons'

current-day claims of innocence and evidence of reform.

But Pritzker's spokesperson, Jordan Abudayyeh, pointed to consideration of rehabilitation in his clemency decision.

"The governor is a strong believer in criminal justice

reform and that means carefully and thoughtfully considering petitions for clemency from those who have demonstrated a commitment to rehabilitation while serving their sentence and after," she stated. "The governor takes the PRB's recommendations to heart as he weighs these decisions."

Simmons did not return repeated requests for comment.

**The discrepancies**

The fire that led to Simmons' guilty plea occurred Feb. 13, 1998, when an abandoned home nearby a bonfire that Simmons had attended was set ablaze.

The contemporary report from the Illinois Fire Marshal noted there was a 5-gallon gas can with a small amount of gas inside found on the first floor of the home, and flares were found at three different locations throughout the house. Evidence of an accelerant was found on the steps of the home, which had been set on fire three times before.

The report also outlined that Simmons, who was 18 years old at the time, was driving a white van seen leaving the scene of the fire, and he wore gloves and a coat that had the odor of gas.

As well, Simmons' cousin told police that Simmons had started the fire.

Simmons eventually confessed to a St. Clair County Sheriff's detective, but in his petition Simmons said the officer "acted like a jerk" and lied to him to leverage the confession.

Simmons now blames his cousin, according to the petition, which described the evening in question as a typical night out that went terribly wrong.

Simmons wrote he took a girl to dinner, then to a local bar and grill, then to a bonfire in a rural area near the village of Dupo. Everyone at the party was drinking or smoking marijuana, he wrote, except him.

At that bonfire, he bumped into his cousin, who later asked for a ride home.

Someone had the idea of lighting a nearby vacant house on fire, and an unlit road flare was tossed into the home, according to the petition.

After the teen boys taunted each other as "chicken," Simmons wrote, his cousin threw a lit flare into the house. The others watched and shouted. Simmons wrote that he left the scene with his cousin in tow and his date in the backseat.

Simmons, who was a volunteer firefighter at the time, received a page alerting him of the fire as he was dropping his cousin off at home. He headed to the Prairie Du Pont fire station where he served as a volunteer firefighter and went out to help extinguish the fire at the vacant house.

That's when police stopped Simmons and questioned him after a neighbor identified the white van leaving the scene of the fire.

After his arrest, Simmons was charged with starting another fire at Dupo High School one month prior to the February evening. He could have faced 15 years in prison on that charge.

Simmons was also charged with using emergency lights to stop a car in the early hours of Jan. 24, 1998 – nine days after the fire at the school and three weeks before the fire at the vacant house.

The two men reported a white van pulling them over. The driver of the van got out, asked if the two men had alcohol, then displayed a badge and told them he was a U.S. marshal. The van driver left, but the man who was pulled over called deputies. They found Simmons at the wheel of a white Chevrolet Astro Van registered to his father, Herb Simmons, who served as a deputy U.S. marshal.

*Continued on Page 8*

**Comptroler**

*from page 1*

impasse that stretched from 2015 to 2017, the backlog of past due bills climbed to as high as \$16.7 billion, with interest penalties accruing on those bills. So in 2016, lawmakers authorized the Vendor Payment Program, which authorized "qualified purchasers" – typically, wealthy investors – to purchase the bills by paying off the principal owed to those vendors, then collecting that money back from the state with 12 percent interest.

In 2020, however, some of the investors taking part in the payment program criticized Mendoza for paying off the principal owed to the vendors, but not paying off the interest owed to the investors.

Mendoza's spokesperson, Abdon Pallasch, said Tuesday that more than \$665 million in interest penalties have now been paid to those investors and that about only \$41 million is still owed to them.

Meanwhile, the state's bill backlog is now down to about \$3.6 billion as of Tuesday.

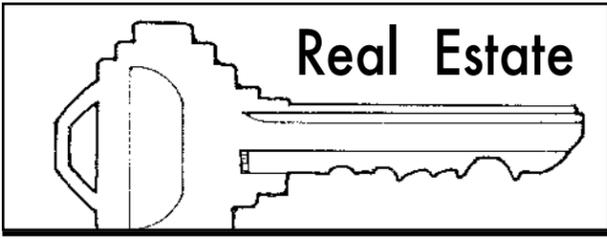
That includes about \$900 million in late health care bills from the state's group health insurance plan, which Gov. JB Pritzker has proposed paying off in next year's budget. Bills paid out of the state's General Revenue Fund, Mendoza said, are now paid, on average, within 17 days of being received by her office.

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

DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE  
FOR ARGENT SECURITIES INC, ASSET-BACKED PASS THROUGH  
CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-W4 Plaintiff,

-v- 2020 CH 48

ROBERTO GOMEZ JR, MARIA R. BOBADILLA-GOMEZ, CANDLE-  
WICK LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC, AMERICAN GENERAL FINAN-  
CIAL SERVICES OF ILLINOIS, INC N/K/A ONEMAIN FINANCIAL  
OF ILLINOIS, INC, Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of  
Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 14, 2021,  
an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on March  
15, 2022, 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 129 DREW COURT NE, POPLAR GROVE, IL  
61065

Property Index No. 03-22-253-007

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$147,323.22.

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, including the Judicial Sale fee for  
the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is  
calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or  
fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300,  
in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No  
fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pur-  
suant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or  
other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the  
residential real estate arose prior to the sale. 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  
admitted 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 FORECLO-  
SURE 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, Alexander Potestivo, POTESIVO & ASSOCIATES,  
P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 223 WEST JACKSON BLVD, STE 610, Chica-  
go, IL, 60606 (312) 263-0003. Please refer to file number 111480.

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](http://www.tjsc.com) for a  
7 day status report of pending sales.

POTESIVO & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

223 WEST JACKSON BLVD, STE 610

Chicago IL, 60606

312-263-0003

E-Mail: [ilpleadings@potestivolaw.com](mailto:ilpleadings@potestivolaw.com)

Attorney File No. 111480

Case Number: 2020 CH 48

TJSC#: 42-9

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are ad-  
vised 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 # 2020 CH 48

13186750

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 10, 17, 24, 2022.

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

DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE  
FOR SECURITIZED ASSET BACKED RECEIVABLES LLC TRUST

2006-WM4 Plaintiff,

-v- 20 CH 58

GREGORY ARMSTRONG A/K/A GREGORY A. ARMSTRONG,  
CITIBANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR CMLTI ASSET TRUST

Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of  
Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 17, 2021,  
an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on March  
18, 2022, 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 1406 16TH AVENUE, BELVIDERE, IL 61008

Property Index No. 05-35-303-016

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$133,078.72.

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, including the Judicial Sale fee for  
the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is  
calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or  
fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300,  
in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee  
shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant  
to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or  
other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the  
residential real estate arose prior to the sale. 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  
admitted 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, The sales clerk, LOGS Legal Group LLP Plaintiff's  
Attorneys, 2121 WAUKEGAN RD., SUITE 301, Bannockburn, IL, 60015  
(847) 291-1717 For information call between the hours of 1pm - 3pm.  
Please refer to file number 20-093986.

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](http://www.tjsc.com) for a  
7 day status report of pending sales.

LOGS Legal Group LLP

2121 WAUKEGAN RD., SUITE 301

Bannockburn IL, 60015

847-291-1717

E-Mail: [ILNotices@logs.com](mailto:ILNotices@logs.com)

Attorney File No. 20-093986

Case Number: 20 CH 58

TJSC#: 42-33

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.

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 17, 24, Mar 3

## LEGAL NOTICES

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

DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE  
FOR J.P. MORGAN MORTGAGE ACQUISITION TRUST 2007-CH1,  
ASSET BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-  
CH1,

PLAINTIFF

VS. Case No: 2022FC6

LEONARD R SPATES A/K/A LEONARD SPATES, TIFFANY SPATES,  
CANDLEWICK LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC. ; UNKNOWN OWNERS  
GENERALLY, AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS.

DEFENDANTS

Property Address:

243 Briar Cliff St SW

Poplar Grove, IL 61065

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby  
given to: Leonard R Spates, Tiffany Spates and Unknown Owners, and  
Non Record Claimants, Defendants in the above-entitled action, that a  
Complaint for Foreclosure and Other Relief has been commenced in the  
Circuit Court of Boone County, by said Plaintiff against you and other  
defendants, praying for the foreclosure of certain mortgages conveying the  
premises legally described as follows:

LOT TWENTY-NINE (29) IN CANDLEWICK LAKE UNIT NO. 8  
ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED AS DOCUMENT  
NO. 72-3073 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY,  
ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF  
ILLINOIS.

P.I.N.: 03-27-153-035

COMMON ADDRESS: 243 Briar Cliff St SW, Poplar Grove, IL 61065

And which mortgages were made by Leonard R Spates a/k/a Leonard  
Spates, as Mortgagee(s); and given to Chase Bank USA, N.A. as Mortgagee;  
to wit: that certain "Mortgage" dated (a) 04/26/2005, and recorded as  
Document No.05R04684, that Summons was duly issued out of said court  
against you as provided by law, and that the said Complaint is now pending  
for foreclosure of said mortgages and for other relief.

Now, therefore, unless you Leonard R Spates a/k/a Leonard, Spates  
Tiffany Spates and Unknown Owners, and Non Record Claimants, file  
your Appearance and Answer to the Complaint in said action in the office  
of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Boone County, Chancery Division, on  
or before March 28, 2022, default may be entered against you at any time  
after that day and a judgment entered in accordance with the prayer for  
relief in said Complaint.

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

Kluever Law Group, LLC

225 West Washington Street Suite 1550

Chicago, IL 60606

(312) 236-0077

[courtresults@klueverlawgroup.com](mailto:courtresults@klueverlawgroup.com)

Atty. No. 6275308

6088-921202

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 24, Mar 3, 10-SW

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

In the Matter of the Estate of JOHN T. WOLF, Deceased.

CASE NO. 2022 PR 5

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of JOHN T. WOLF. Letters of Office were  
issued on February 3, 2022, to AMY J. WILCOX, 9562 Lawrenceville  
Road, Garden Prairie, IL 61038, who is the Independent Executor of the  
Estate. The attorney for the Estate is MICHAEL J. SCHAPPERT,  
HolmstromKennedyPC, 800 North Church Street, Rockford, Illinois  
61103.

Claims against the Estate may be filed on or before August 10, 2022,  
that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or  
within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to  
creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 18-3 of the Illinois  
Probate Act, 1975 as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed  
by the requisite date stated above shall be barred.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Boone  
County Circuit Clerk - Probate Division, at 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere,  
Illinois 61008, or with the Estate legal representative, or both.

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

Dated: February 7, 2022.

AMY J. WILCOX, Independent Executor of the Estate of JOHN T.

WOLF, Deceased

HolmstromKennedyPC, Her Attorneys

Attorney Michael J. Schappert

HolmstromKennedyPC - ARDC #3128183

Attorney for Independent Executor

800 N. Church Street

Rockford, IL 61103

(815) 962-7071

[mjs@hkrockford.com](mailto:mjs@hkrockford.com)

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 10, 17, 24, 2022.

Claims with notice to heirs (Will)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF

BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS,

COUNTY DEPARTMENT,

PROBATE DIVISION.

ESTATE OF Marian Adamczyk, DECEASED. NO. 2021PR8.

Notice is given of the death of the above named decedent. Letters of  
Office were issued to Gabriela Rozborksa, 1375 E. Woodfield Road, Suite  
550, Schaumburg, IL 60173, as Independent Executor, whose attorney of  
record is WITAS, EDWARD J. (6298782), 1375 E WOODFIELD RD  
SUITE 510, SCHAUMBURG, IL 60173.

Notice to Heirs and Legatees

Notice is given to Joanna Adamczyk; Sylvester Adamczyk;  
Evona Vasquez; Christopher Adamczyk; Piotr Adamczyk; Katarzyna  
Borysewicz; and Gabriela Rozborksa, as Trustee of the Marian Adamczyk  
Living Trust dated December 14, 2016, Most Recently Amended  
September 14, 2021; who are heirs or legatees in the above proceeding  
to probate a will and whose names or addresses are also stated in the  
petition to admit the will to probate, that an order was entered by the  
court on 01/18/2022, admitting the will to probate.

Within 42 days after the effective date of the original order of  
admission you may file a petition with the court to require proof of the  
will by testimony of the witnesses to the will in open court or other  
evidence, as provided in section 5/6-21 of the Probate Act of 1975 (Ill.  
Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755, par. 5/6-21).

You also have the right under section 5/8-1 of the Probate Act (Ill.  
Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755, par. 5/8-1) to contest the validity of the will  
by filing a petition with the court within 6 months after admission of the  
will to probate. The estate will be administered without court supervision,  
unless under section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (Ill. Compiled Stat. 1992,  
Ch. 755, par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent  
administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate  
to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Boone  
County Circuit Clerk's Office 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois  
61008, or with the representative, or both, on or before July 21, 2022, or,  
if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by  
section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice.  
Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim  
filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the  
representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited  
exceptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing  
service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers>.  
htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional  
help or have trouble e-filing, visit [http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/  
gethelp.asp](http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp).

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 10, 17, 24, 2022.

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

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

In The Interest of: Caiden Hendrix, minor

No. 19-JA-19

CLARISSA HEUBERGER/ To whom it may concern/All unknown  
natural Fathers

ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Take notice that on September 19, 2019, 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 Clarissa Heuberger, minor; and  
that in the County Courthouse in Belvidere, Illinois, at 1:30 P.M. central  
daylight time on 3/17/2022; or as soon thereafter as this cause may be  
heard, a termination of parental rights 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 THE 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 RIGHT 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 amend 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: February 8, 2022

Pamela Coduto, CIRCUIT CLERK

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb. 17, 24, March 3 - C

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

DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE  
FOR ARGENT SECURITIES INC, ASSET-BACKED PASS THROUGH  
CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-W4 Plaintiff,

-v- 2020 CH 48

ROBERTO GOMEZ JR, MARIA R. BOBADILLA-GOMEZ, CANDLE-  
WICK LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC, AMERICAN GENERAL FINAN-  
CIAL SERVICES OF ILLINOIS, INC N/K/A ONEMAIN FINANCIAL  
OF ILLINOIS, INC, Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of  
Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 14, 2021,  
an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on March  
15, 2022, 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:

LOT19 IN CANDLEWICK LANE UNIT NO. 11, ACCORDING TO  
THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NO. 73-2314 IN  
THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Commonly known as 129 DREW COURT NE, POPLAR GROVE, IL  
61065

Property Index No. 03-22-253-007

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$147,323.22.

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, including the Judicial Sale fee for  
the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is  
calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or  
fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300,  
in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee  
shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pur-  
suant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or  
other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the  
residential real estate arose prior to the sale. 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 admitted 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, Alexander Potestivo, POTESTIVO & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 223 WEST JACKSON BLVD, STE 610, Chicago, IL, 60606 (312) 263-0003. Please refer to file number 111480.

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.

POTESTIVO & ASSOCIATES, P.C.  
223 WEST JACKSON BLVD, STE 610  
Chicago IL, 60606  
312-263-0003

E-Mail: ilpleadings@potestivolaw.com

Attorney File No. 111480

Case Number: 2020 CH 48

TJSC#: 42-9

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 # 2020 CH 48  
13186750

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 10, 17, 24, 2022.

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

DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR SECURITIZED ASSET BACKED RECEIVABLES LLC TRUST 2006-WM4 Plaintiff, -v- 20 CH 58

GREGORY ARMSTRONG A/K/A GREGORY A. ARMSTRONG, CITIBANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR CMLTI ASSET TRUST Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 17, 2021, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on March 18, 2022, 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:

LOT TWENTY-SEVEN (27) AS DESIGNATED UPON PLAT NO. 2 OF SHEFFIELD HILLS, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (1/4) OF SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, THE PLAT OF WHICH WAS RECORDED JUNE 21, 1993 AS DOCUMENT NO. 93-5227 AND FILED IN PLAT INDEX FILE 128A IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 1406 16TH AVENUE, BELVIDERE, IL 61008

Property Index No. 05-35-303-016

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$133,078.72.

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, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. 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 admitted 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, The sales clerk, LOGS Legal Group LLP Plaintiff's Attorneys, 2121 WAUKEGAN RD., SUITE 301, Bannockburn, IL, 60015 (847) 291-1717 For information call between the hours of 1pm - 3pm.. Please refer to file number 20-093986.

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION

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

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

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

E-Mail: ILNotices@logs.com

Attorney File No. 20-093986

Case Number: 20 CH 58

TJSC#: 42-33

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.

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 17, 24, Mar 3

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF (DECEDENT):

Name: Promise K. Slater

Address: 127 W. 2nd St.

City, State, Zip: Belvidere, IL 61008

Date and Place of Death: 06/19/2021

Case No. 2022 PR 9

PUBLICATION NOTICE INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION

TO: CREDITORS, CLAIMANTS, AND SHAWN SLATER,

1. Notice is hereby given of the death of Promise K. Slater who died on 06/19/2021, a resident of Boone County, Illinois.

2. The Representative for the estate is: Amanda Slater, 1426 Douglas Court #381 Belvidere, IL 61008

The Attorney for the estate is: Faviola Ramirez, 2275 Church Rd., Aurora, IL 60502

3. Claims against the estate may be filed on or before AUGUST 17, 2022. Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court, 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008 or with the Representative, or both Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or

delivered to the Representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

4. On 02/10/2022 an Order Appointing the Representative was entered.

5. The estate will be administrated without Court supervision unless an interested party terminates independent administration by filing a petition to terminate under Article XXVIII 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4).

Law Hesselbaum LLP  
Law Elder Law, a division of Law Hesselbaum  
Office of the Kane County Public Guardian & Administrator  
Office of the Kendall County Public Guardian & Administrator  
2275 Church Road, Aurora, IL 60502

Phone: 630-585-5200

Fax: 630-566-0811

6088-921043

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 17, 24, Mar 3

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF (DECEDENT):

Name: Stanley R. Follis II

Address: 127 W. 2nd St.

City, State, Zip: Belvidere, IL 61008

Date and Place of Death: 06/18/2021

Case No. 2022 PR 8

PUBLICATION NOTICE INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION

TO: CREDITORS, CLAIMANTS, AND DAWN BREWER

1. Notice is hereby given of the death of Stanley R. Follis II who died on 06/18/2021, a resident of Boone County, Illinois.

2. The Representative for the estate is: Tina Follis, 1324 Pearl St., Belvidere, IL 61008

The Attorney for the estate is: Faviola Ramirez, 2275 Church Rd., Aurora, IL 60502

3. Claims against the estate may be filed on or before AUGUST 17, 2022. Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court, 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008 or with the Representative, or both Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or

delivered to the Representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

4. On 02/10/2022 an Order Appointing the Representative was entered.

5. The estate will be administrated without Court supervision unless an interested party terminates independent administration by filing a petition to terminate under Article XXVIII 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4).

Law Hesselbaum LLP  
Law Elder Law, a division of Law Hesselbaum  
Office of the Kane County Public Guardian & Administrator  
Office of the Kendall County Public Guardian & Administrator  
2275 Church Road, Aurora, IL 60502

Phone: 630-585-5200

Fax: 630-566-0811

6088-921042

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 17, 24, Mar 3

Public Notice

Garden Prairie Organics, located at 11887 US Route 20, Garden Prairie, Illinois in Boone County is submitting an application to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for a permit renewal to continue to operate an existing landscape waste compost facility. The facility will continue to accept landscape waste, such as leaves, grass clippings, and brush. Questions regarding the application can be directed to the Manager of Garden Prairie Organics, Michael DiMucci, at 815-597-1318. Written comments may be mailed to the IEPA at the address provided below. The deadline for submission of comments to the IEPA is March 24, 2022.

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Permit Section, Division of Land Pollution Control  
1021 North Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19276  
Springfield, IL 62794-9276  
217-524-3300

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 17, 24, March 3

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

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION  
In The Interest of: JULIUS SANCHEZ, minor

No. 22-JA-2  
DIEGO SACHEZ/ To whom it may concern

ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Take notice that on JANUARY 7, 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 Julius Sanchez, minor; and that in the County Courthouse in Belvidere, Illinois, at 3:00 P.M. central daylight time on 3/24/2022; or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a termination of parental rights 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 THE 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 RIGHT 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 amend 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: February 16, 2022

Pamela Coduto, CIRCUIT CLERK

Published in *The Boone County Journal*; Feb. 24, March 3, 10 - C

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

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION  
In The Interest of: GRACELYNN WILLER, DAVID WILLER, LANDON WHITE, minors

No. 20-JA-9, 10, 11  
SYDNEY STAYER/ To whom it may concern

ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Take notice that on February 27, 2020, 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 Gracelynn Willer, David Miller, Landon

White, minors; and that in the County Courthouse in Belvidere, Illinois, at 1:30 P.M. central daylight time on 3/17/2022 & 4/7/22; or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a termination of parental rights 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 THE 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 RIGHT 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 amend 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: February 15, 2022

Pamela Coduto, CIRCUIT CLERK

Published in *The Boone County Journal*; February 24, March 3, 10 - C

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

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION  
In The Interest of: Celenia Garcia, minor

No. 22-JA-1

To whom it may concern

ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Take notice that on January 7, 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 Celenia Garcia, minor; and that in the County Courthouse in Belvidere, Illinois, at 3:00 P.M. central daylight time on 3/24/2022; or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an pre-trial 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 THE 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 RIGHT 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 amend 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: February 16, 2022

Pamela Coduto, CIRCUIT CLERK

Published in *The Boone County Journal*; February 24, March 3, 10 - C



ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION  
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a quilting services business in said County and State under the name of JUDYBEEZ QUILTING at the following post office address: 9859 Little Lucy Lane, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Judith Bender, 9859 Little Lucy Lane, Belvidere, IL 61008; phone # (815) 690-6938.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 7th day of February, A.D. 2022

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk

Published in *Boone County Journal* 02/10, 02/17, 02/24

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION  
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a landscaping services business in said County and State under the name of HR LANDSCAPING SERVICES at the following post office address: 1250 South Appleton Road, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Manuel Hernandez, 1250 South Appleton Road, Belvidere, IL 61008; phone # (815) 914-9507.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 4th day of February, A.D. 2022

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk

Published in *Boone County Journal* 02/10, 02/17, 02/24

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION  
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a lawn care business in said County and State under the name of DOANE'S TURF CARE at the following post office address: 2523 Gustafson Road, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Kyle Doane, 2523 Gustafson Road, Belvidere, IL 61008; phone # (815) 543-1929.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 11th day of February, A.D. 2022

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk

Published in *Boone County Journal* 2/17/22, 2/24/22, 3/3/22

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION  
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a window tinting business in said County and State under the name of VAZQUEZ WINDOW TINT at the following post office address: 1105 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Jaime Vazquez, 2133 Wynnwood Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008; phone # (815) 997-4662.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 7th day of February, A.D. 2022

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk

Published in *Boone County Journal* 02/10, 02/17, 02/24

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION  
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a bridal and formal wear alterations business in said County and State under the name of RYNN BRIDAL at the following post office address: 320 Church Street, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Christine Seaver, 320 Church Street, Belvidere, IL 61008; phone # (414) 828-8531.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 14th day of February, A.D. 2022

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk

Published in Boone County Journal 2/17/22, 2/24/22, 3/3/22

## ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

State of Illinois County of Boone ss This is to certify that the undersigned intend... to conduct and transact a Home Inspection business in said County and State under the name of POWERS HOME INSPECTIONS at the following post office addresses: 532 Prairie Point Dr., Poplar Grove, IL, 61065 and that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with the respective residence address of each, are as follows:

NAME AND ADDRESS OF RESIDENCE: Aaron Powers, 532 Prairie Point Dr., Poplar Grove, IL, 61065. Signed: Aaron Powers, 02/22/22

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me this 22nd. Day of February 2022,

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk,

by Sherry Blauert, Deputy

Published in the Boone County Journal 02/24, 03/03, 10

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION  
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a beauty salon business in said County and State under the name of THE INDIGO ROOM at the following post office address: 110 Lovesee Road, Roscoe, IL 61073 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Michele Hansel, 110 Lovesee Road, Roscoe, IL 61073; phone # (815) 543-6050.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 23rd day of February, A.D. 2022

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk

Published in Boone County Journal 2/24/22, 3/3/22, 3/10/22

**Cullerton***Continued from page 3*

In October 2021, Cullerton's attorney filed a motion to dismiss most of the charges. In that motion, he explained that Cullerton had been a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and worked as a truck driver for Hostess Brands until that company filed for bankruptcy in 2012, the same year he was elected to the Senate.

"Cullerton had been elected to the state Senate, but like most members of the state legislature, he needed a second job – one with some flexibility, especially since he would be in Springfield during legislative sessions," his attorney explained.

In March 2013, John Coli, the former president of Teamsters Joint Council 25 who has also been indicted, hired Cullerton and told him "to complete his political responsibilities and to attend picket lines and other union events," according to a statement Coli made to a grand jury that was included in Cullerton's court filing at the time.

Cullerton was charged with 39 counts of embezzlement – one for each paycheck he received – as well as illegally obtaining health care through the union's health insurance plan.

Judge Gettleman denied the motion to dismiss the charges and ordered the case to proceed.

Cullerton's seat will be filled by appointment from the Democratic party organization in the 23rd Senate district.

*Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.*

**Pardon***from page 5*

Herb Simmons, who was then the mayor of East Carondelet, later worked as the 911 coordinator for St. Clair County. He now oversees St. Clair County Emergency Management.

Simmons wrote in his petition that he was in the car with a friend when his friend hit the emergency light. Simmons wrote that he immediately turned it off, but the car in front of them pulled over. The car then followed him to a nearby gas station – where he was confronted by his brother's ex-girlfriend who was a passenger in the car. In his petition, Simmons denied ever getting out of the car.

**The deal**

In 1999, prosecutors offered Simmons a deal. They dropped the most serious felony, related to

the Dupo High School fire. In exchange, Simmons would plead guilty to the other two charges. Simmons avoided jail time, receiving a sentence of four years of probation.

Despite claiming innocence in his 2019 petition, Simmons never filed a petition for post-conviction relief, never appealed in state court, and never challenged his convictions in federal court in the 20 years following his guilty plea.

That's not surprising, said Margaret Love, who served as U.S. pardon attorney between 1990 and 1997, and has represented numerous individuals in the federal conviction clemency process.

"It's hard to overturn a conviction, especially if there is a guilty plea," she said.

While claiming innocence in a clemency petition is rare, it's not unheard of, she added.

"Both things can be true," she said. "That he confessed and pleaded guilty and that he is actually innocent."

Simmons completed his probation but was later charged with a host of other crimes. Those include:

- A 2006 charge of leaving the scene of an accident, to which he pleaded guilty and was sentenced to six months supervision.
- A 2006 charge of violating an order of protection, which was dismissed.
- A 2008 charge of falsely impersonating a police officer, which was also dismissed.
- Two charges in 2008 for violating an order of protection, both of which were dismissed.
- A 2009 charge of obstructing a police officer, to which he pleaded guilty and was sentenced to conditional discharge.
- A 2016 charge of disorderly conduct, to which he pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 90 days of court supervision.

In 2018, Simmons was charged with disorderly conduct for a fight at a strip club in Sauget. One of the bouncers at the club told police that Simmons pulled a gun on him when he tried to remove his wife from the club, according to a 2018 report from the Belleville News-Democrat.

Simmons later told police that it was an electronic cigarette. Police did not review the surveillance tape of the incident, the article said. If the tape showed Simmons had a gun, it could have resulted in a felony possession charge.

Instead, Simmons pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor and received 90 days court supervision.

He also included an explanation for the violations of the order of protection charges. The petition stated that Simmons and his wife had a "falling out" and he was arrested.

In a sworn petition requesting that order of protection, Simmons' wife outlined six months of abuse that included choking, punching, head-butting, breaking her phone and threatening to "blow up" her car.

A Monroe County judge ordered Simmons to stay away from his wife for two years. Simmons' wife later asked the judge to lift the order, but he refused.

**The PRB**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board's responsibilities include setting release conditions for offenders exiting prison, making decisions on the revocation and restoration of good conduct credits, holding hearings to determine whether parolees have violated conditions of parole, and notifying victims and their families when an inmate is about to be released.

That's on top of providing confidential recommendations to the governor.

The clemency process is not always transparent, but it is absolute, said Love, the former pardon attorney.

"The Illinois system is a bit opaque," she said. "As far as the Prisoner Review Board, who knows why they recommended or didn't recommend it? And who knows why the governor granted it or didn't grant it?"

Nine of the 11 current members of the Prisoner Review Board appointed by Pritzker are awaiting full approval from the Senate, and there are three vacancies on the 14-member board.

Despite the urging of the Senate Republican Caucus, the Senate Executive Appointments Committee has repeatedly failed to take up the nine pending appointees since 2019.

In March, Pritzker withdrew the nine appointments and reappointed them to reset their appointments in the absence of the committee acting within a legislative legal timeline.

Senate Republicans cried foul, claiming the four appointees sat on the board without approval for more than two years, making major decisions without proper Senate vetting.

Sen. Laura Murphy, D-Des Plaines, chairs the Executive Appointment Committee and did not return a request for comment.

**A clean slate**

Simmons' pardon was signed by Pritzker on May 14. Those cases were expunged and are no longer available for review.

When a police officer runs Simmons' record, his convictions will not show up. The public cannot view his court files. The only version available to the public was included by Simmons in his clemency petition.

Simmons can now legally carry a gun, and he's free to serve in the full-time, paid public safety officer position he currently holds.

And by several accounts, he's a changed man.

Included with his petition were letters of support from Brooklyn Police Chief Thomas Jeffery, Brooklyn Village President Vera Gaspard-Banks, former Washington Park Fire Chief Charles Schreiber, East Carondelet Police Lt. Rodney Stone and East Carondelet Village Trustee James Brown.

"He has proven himself to me to be an honest, trustworthy, hardworking, caring individual. I would not be writing this letter if I did not truly believe Jerame possessed those qualities and traits," Dupo Police Chief Kevin Smith wrote.

Simmons trained with a K-9 officer, searched for missing kids, and started a Boy Scout Police Explorer program. He received First Responder, Firefighter Chief, Police Safety Commissions and University of Illinois and Federal Emergency Management Association certificates.

He served as the director of the Public Safety Department of Emergency Services for East Carondelet – where his father was the longtime mayor – in 2005. He volunteered with Golden Garden Fire Department, Valmeyer Fire Department, and East Carondelet Fire Department. He was acting fire chief for the Brooklyn Fire Protection District.

In the ideal clemency petition, according to Love, the person accepts responsibility for the criminal conduct and shows how they have changed by doing good work in the community.

A little bit of influence doesn't hurt, she added. She encourages clients who have connections to use them to support their bids for clemency.

Acts of community service are also important factors for the PRB and the governor to consider, Love said.

Abudayyeh, the governor's spokesperson, specifically pointed to the letters of community support when it came to the governor's decision to pardon Simmons.

*Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.*

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