

Thursday • August 3, 2023
Vol. 28, Issue 14 • No. 1418

BOONE County JOURNAL

FREE

Fair Issue 2023 - Schedule and Map inside





2023 Boone County Fair Schedule Of Events



Breakfast Served Daily at the Grange Food Complex, 6 AM - 10:30 AM
All Livestock Shows & Events are FREE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8TH

NON-LIVESTOCK BLDG. CLOSED TODAY ONLY FOR JUDGING
 Commercial Exhibit Halls Open At Noon

| | | |
|--------------|--|---------------------------|
| 8 AM | 4-H Poultry Show | Poultry Barn |
| 8:30 AM | 4-H Horse & Pony Show | Outside Horse Arena |
| 12 PM | Flag Raising - VFW Color Guard | Grandstand |
| 12 PM | Harness & Colt Racing | Grandstand (Free) |
| 12-1 PM | (Rain Date: Wednesday, 12 Noon) Music by Hallie & The Milestone Singers (Country/Bluegrass) | Entertainment Pav. (Free) |
| 2:30-5:30 PM | Galaxy (Classic Country Band) | Entertainment Pav. (Free) |
| 4-8 PM | Weigh-In Swine Jr. & Open Show | Swine Barn |
| 6-9:30 PM | Ranch Sorting Contestants Enter at Gate 4 | Pony Arena |
| 7-10 PM | Dale Rhode & The Crossroads Band (Country) | Entertainment Pav. (Free) |
| 7:30 PM | QUEEN PAGEANT & LITTLE MISS PAGEANT (Sponsored by Byron Bank) | Grandstand (Free) |

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11TH

All Exhibit Halls Open at 10 AM • Midway Opens at Noon
 Fish Dinners at Grange Food Complex from 11 AM until Gone.

| | | |
|--------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 8 AM | Dairy Goat Show - Open Class | Goat Show Arena |
| 8:30 AM | Open & Junior Market Barrow Show | Swine Barn |
| 9 AM | Open Sheep, Dairy & Beef Shows Plus Junior Dairy & Beef | Livestock Buildings |
| 9 AM | Draft Horse Halter Show | Inside Horse Arena |
| 9 AM | Pony Halter & Performance Classes | Pony Arena |
| 10 AM - 1 PM | ATV 4-Wheeler Racing (Sponsored by Hammertime Sports) | Grandstand/Bleachers (Free) |
| 12-3 PM | Grass Attack (Bluegrass/Country) | Entertainment Pav. (Free) |
| 3:30-4:30 PM | Magic by Herb Rosene | Entertainment Pav. (Free) |
| 4:30-7 PM | Gene Shepherd & Mike Schneider Band | On The Grounds |
| 5 PM | 4-H Master Showmanship Contest | Livestock Arena |
| 5-6 PM | Mary Lee's School of Dance | Entertainment Pav. (Free) |
| 6 PM | Open Wether Show | Sheep Barn |
| 7-10 PM | Silver Creek Band (Country) | Entertainment Pav. (Free) |
| 7 PM | NEXT LEVEL PRO BULL RIDING (Sponsored by Berg Industries, Boone County Fire Protection Dist. #2, Cosmopolitan Club of Belvidere, Bel Rock Asphalt, Gallano Trucking, Twin Towers) | Grandstand (\$15) |

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9TH

All Exhibit Halls Open at 10 AM
 Midway Opens at Noon. Ride Specials from Noon - 5 PM

| | | |
|--------------|---|---|
| 7:30 AM | Open & Jr. Poultry Show | Poultry Barn |
| 8 AM | Open Rabbit Show | Rabbit Show Room (Behind Livestock Arena) |
| 9 AM | 4-H Purebred Swine & 4-H Sheep Show | Livestock Buildings |
| 9 AM-12 PM | Kids Day (Games & Contests) Ages 8 & Under, Ages 9-12 (Sponsored by Midland States Bank) Compete in Sack Races, Balloon Blowing, Bubble Gum Chewing, Egg Toss & Watermelon Eating for Trophies & Prizes. Ages 8 & Under | Gazebo Park (Free) (Behind Exhibit Hall #3) |
| 12-5 PM | REDUCED CARNIVAL RIDES (Rides individually priced. No wristbands.) | Midway |
| 12-1 PM | Max Armstrong w/FFA & 4-H Students (and Dale Rhode & The Crossroads Band) | Entertainment Pav. (Free) |
| 1 PM | Dairy VIP Classes | Dairy Arena |
| 1:30-3:30 PM | 95.3 The Bull's Chip Messiner (One-Man Country Band) Contests held during band breaks - Ages 15 & Older | Entertainment Pav. (Free) |
| 3 PM | Watermelon Eating, Seed Spitting, Bubble Gum Blowing, Twinkie Eating, Soda Drinking. | |
| 3 PM | 4-H Dairy Steer Show | Livestock Arena |
| 3 PM | Mule & Pony Team Driving | |
| 4 PM | Obstacle Course | Outside Horse Arena |
| 4 PM | 4-H Beef Carcass Show | Livestock Arena |
| 4 PM | Mule & Horse Team Driving | |
| 4-5 PM | Obstacle Course | Outside Horse Arena |
| 5 PM | Jung's Tae Kwon Do Demonstration | Entertainment Pav. (Free) |
| 5 PM | Antique Tractor Parade | Grandstand (Free) |
| 5 PM | Horses (Draft or Light) Team Driving, Obstacle Course | Outside Horse Arena |
| 6 PM | Team Feed Race Obstacle Course Followed by 4-H Driving Drill Team | Outside Horse Arena |
| 6:30 PM | 4-H Rabbit Show | Livestock Arena |
| 6:30 PM | MULTI-EVENT TRUCK PULL WITH SHOOT OUT CHALLENGE (1,050 lbs. Super Stock Garden Tractors & 6,800 lbs. Gas Stock Truck (2-day total distance event) (Sponsored by: Burger King) | Grandstand (\$10) |
| 7-10 PM | Detour Band (Old Country 50's & 60's) | Entertainment Pav. (Free) |

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12TH

All Exhibit Halls Open at 10 AM • Midway Opens at Noon
 Charcoal-Broiled Chicken Dinners at Grange Food Complex from 11 AM until Gone.

| | | |
|--------------|--|---------------------------|
| 7:30 AM | Rock County Pullers (Followed by Amateur Garden Tractor Pulls) | Grandstand (Free) |
| 8 AM | Weak End Antique Tractor Pulls | Grandstand (Free) |
| 8:30 AM | Pee Wee Swine Show | Swine Barn |
| 9 AM | Open Sheep Show | Sheep Barn |
| 9 AM | Open & Jr. Steer Judging | Livestock Arena |
| 9 AM | Open & Jr. Dairy Cow Classes (Beginning with Holstein & Including All Breeds) | Dairy Show Arenas |
| 9 AM | Pony Performance & Hitch Classes | Pony Arena |
| 9 AM | Boer Goat Open Show | Large Tent Near Gate 3 |
| 9 AM | Amateur Talent Contest Sign Up (Open To All Amateur Talent) | Entertainment Pav. (Free) |
| 10 AM | Draft Horse Hitch Classes (Starting with 6 Horse Hitch & Work Down) (Sponsored by Byron Bank) | Horse Arena |
| 10 AM | Swine Costume Contest (Contact Debbie Nelson 815-378-8422) | Swine Barn |
| 10:30 AM | Junior Talent Contest (Age up to 14) | Entertainment Pav. (Free) |
| 12:30 PM | Senior Talent Contest (Age 15-21) Prizes for Both: 1st Place - \$200, 2nd Place - \$150, 3rd Place - \$100 | Entertainment Pav. (Free) |
| | Contestants Must Pay Admission To The Fair (Sponsored by Parnell Foods) | |
| 2 PM | Supreme Gr. Champ. Dairy Selected | Dairy Arena |
| 3 PM | Fur & Feather Auction | Livestock Arena (Free) |
| 3:30-4:30 PM | Main Street Players of Boone County Theatre Group | Entertainment Pav. (Free) |
| 4:30-7 PM | Gene Shepherd & Mike Schneider Band | On The Grounds |
| 5-6 PM | Celia's Dance Center Performance | Entertainment Pav. (Free) |
| 6:45 PM | THE FEUDING HILLBILLYS | Grandstand |
| 7-10 PM | Missing Links | Entertainment Pav. (Free) |
| 8-9:30 PM | TRACY BYRD | Grandstand/Track (\$25) |

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13TH

All Exhibit Halls Open at 10 AM • Midway Opens at Noon
 Charcoal-Broiled Pork Chop Dinners at Grange Food Complex from 11 AM until Gone.

| | | |
|---------------|--|---------------------------|
| 8:30-9:30 AM | Church Service (Conducted by Gideon's International) | Entertainment Pav. (Free) |
| 9 AM | Alpaca Costume Show | Goat Barn Show Arena |
| 9:30 AM | No. Illinois Outlaws - Mounted Shoot "Six Shooters At Dawn" | Pony Arena (Free) |
| 10 AM | Pedal Pushers Pull (Sponsored by A.R. Henninger Family) | Livestock Arena (Free) |
| 11 AM | Junior Dairy Cattle - Pee Wee Show | Dairy Arena |
| 12 PM | Auction of Wood Carvings & Glass Blowing Items | South of Gate 2 |
| 12:30-1:30 PM | Lip Sync Contest (Prizes: 1st Place - \$75, 2nd Place - \$50, 3rd Place - \$25) Contestants Must Pay Admission To The Fair | Entertainment Pav. (Free) |
| 1 PM | DEMOLITION DERBY (By Robbo's Extreme Derby Promotions) | Grandstand (\$15) |
| 1:30 - 3 PM | Karaoke Contest | Entertainment Pav. (Free) |
| 5-8 PM | Acoustic Millennium Band | Entertainment Pav. (Free) |
| 6 PM | DEMOLITION DERBY (By Robbo's Extreme Derby Promotions) | Grandstand (\$15) |

Schedule subject to change, but we do our best to adhere to it.

During The Fair SHOW TICKETS on sale all day at Gate 1 Ticket Office or at Grandstand Ticket Office before shows!



HORSE EVENTS

TUESDAY

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 8:30 AM | 4-H Horse & Pony Show | Outside Horse Arena |
| 12 PM | Harness & Colt Racing | Grandstand (Free) |
| 6-9:30 PM | Ranch Sorting | Pony Arena |

WEDNESDAY

| | | |
|---------|---|---------------------|
| 9 AM | 4-H Horse Speed Show | Livestock Buildings |
| 3 PM | Mule & Pony Team Driving | Outside Horse Arena |
| 4 PM | Mule & Horse Team Driving | Outside Horse Arena |
| 5 PM | Horses (Draft & Light) Team Driving Obstacle Course | Outside Horse Arena |
| 6 PM | Team Feed Race Obstacle Course | Outside Horse Arena |
| 6:30 PM | 4-H Driving Drill Team | Outside Horse Arena |

THURSDAY

| | | |
|------|--|---------------------|
| 9 AM | Pony Classes | Pony Arena |
| 4 PM | Junior Draft Horse Performance & Cart Classes Ending With An Open 6-Horse Hitch - Classic Series (Sponsored by Byron Bank) | Outside Horse Arena |

FRIDAY

| | | |
|------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 9 AM | Draft Horse Halter Show | Inside Horse Arena |
| 9 AM | Pony Halter & Performance Classes | Pony Arena |

SATURDAY

| | | |
|-------|---|---------------------|
| 9 AM | Pony Performance & Hitch Classes | Pony Arena |
| 10 AM | Draft Horse Hitch Classes Starting With 6-Horse Hitch | Outside Horse Arena |

SUNDAY

| | | |
|---------|---|------------|
| 9:30 AM | No. Illinois Outlaws Mounted Shoot "Six Shooters At Dawn" | Pony Arena |
|---------|---|------------|

FREE ADMISSION TO ALL HORSE EVENTS LISTED HERE

Entertainment Pavilion

Located East Side Of Exhibit Hall #1. Free Admission.

(Sponsored by: Concessions Unlimited, George's Fun Foods, McKinney's Foods, DRS Skinners' Amusements, Thornberry's Concessions & Parnell Foods)

TUESDAY

Music by Hallie & The Milestone Singers (Country & Bluegrass).....12-1 PM
Galaxy (Classic Country Band).....2:30-5:30 PM
Dale Rhode & The Crossroads Band (Country).....7-10 PM

WEDNESDAY

WGN Radio Legend Max Armstrong.....12-1 PM
95.3 The Bull's Chip Messiner Country Show.....1:30-3:30 PM
Contests held during breaks – Ages 15 & Older
Watermelon Eating/Seed Spitting, Bubble Gum Blowing, Twinkie Eating and Soda Drinking. Prizes for Each Contest 1-\$15, 2-\$10, 3-\$5.
Conducted by Arnie Pearse
Jung's Tae Kwon Do Demonstration.....4-5 PM
Detour Band (Country 50's & 60's).....7-10 PM

THURSDAY

Matthew Wundrow Band (Polka/Country).....12-2 PM
Audrey Fontana Band (Nashville Country).....2:30-4:30 PM
Kevin Burns 'Good Vibrations' (Beach Music).....5:30-10 PM
Sign-Up For Look-A-Like Contest.....5:30 PM
Mother/Daughter Look-A-Like Contest.....6 PM
Father/Son Look-A-Like Contest.....7 PM
(Look-A-Like Contests Sponsored by: Parnell Foods)

FRIDAY

Grass Attack Band (Bluegrass/Country).....12-3 PM
Magic by Herb Rosene.....3:30- 4:30 PM
Mary Lee's School of Dance.....5-6 PM
Silver Creek Band (Classic Country).....7-10 PM

SATURDAY

Amateur Talent Contest Sign-Up.....9:30 AM
Free to sign up. Must pay admission to fair.
Junior Talent Contest (Ages up to 14).....10:30 AM
Senior Talent Contest (Ages 15-21).....12:30 PM
1st Prize \$200 * 2nd Prize \$150 * 3rd Prize \$100
Main Street Players Theatre Group Presents.....3:30-4:30 PM
Celia's Dance Center Performance.....5-6 PM
The Missing Links (Classic Rock/R&B Band).....7-10 PM

SUNDAY

Church Service by Gideon's International.....8:30-9:30 AM
Lip Sync Contest conducted by Arnie Pearse.....12:30-1:30 PM
Karaoke Contest conducted by Arnie Pearse1:30-3:00 PM
(Contestants must pay admission to fair at the gate)
Acoustic Millennium Band (Classic/Folk Rock).....5-8 PM

FREE GRANDSTAND SHOWS

TUESDAY

Flag Raising - VFW.....12 PM
Harness & Colt Racing.....12 PM
The Queen & Little Miss Pageant.....7:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

Antique Tractor Parade.....5 PM

FRIDAY

ATV Racing.....10 AM - 1 PM

SATURDAY

Rock County Pullers.....7:30 AM
Amateur Garden Tractor Pull.....8 AM
Weak End Antique Tractor Pull.....8 AM

FREE ATTRACTIONS & ENTERTAINMENT

Located At Various Locations - See Map On Back Page!



Watch The RHINESTONE ROPER Fantastic Show For All Ages!

Located North of Big Thunder Rd., East of Admin. Building

SHOWTIMES:

Tues.-Fri. 1, 3 & 6 PM • Sat. 11 AM, 3 & 6 PM • Sun. 11 AM & 3 PM
(Sponsored by: Chiropractic First of Rockford, Kunes Auto Group, River Valley Electric, Solutions Bank & Wisconsin Cheese)



PORK CHOP REVUE Watch These BARNYARD BUDDIES

Present A Show Featuring Fabulous Stunts & Laughable Antics!

South of Antique Tractors, South of Big Thunder Rd.

SHOWTIMES:

Tuesday-Thursday 2 & 5 PM • Friday & Saturday 12, 2 & 5 PM
Sunday 12:30 & 2:30 PM

(Sponsored by: Boone Co. Family Restaurant, Countryside Fresh Markets, The Smokin' Coop BBQ)



CINCINNATI CIRCUS

Outdoor Circus Featuring Aerial Acrobatics w/Hoops & Silk, Chair Balancing, Fire Juggling & More!



Located North of Big Thunder Rd., East of Admin. Building

SHOWTIMES: Tues.-Sat. 12, 2 & 5 PM • Sun. 12 & 2 PM

(Sponsored by: UW/Swedish American Hospital, Union Savings Bank, Hammertime Sports, and Tobin, Ramon & Barber Law Firm)

Mr. D's Amazing Magic House on Wheels

Located West Side of Flora Rd. Near Gazebo

SHOWTIMES: Tuesday-Friday 12, 2, 5 & 7 PM • Saturday 12, 1:30, 3 & 5 PM
Sunday 11:30 AM & 1 PM

(Sponsored by: Boone County Shopper and Mike & Darcie Chamberlain)

Zoli's Wood Carving

On Prairie Road South of Gate 2

SHOWTIMES: Wednesday-Saturday 11 AM, 2 & 5 PM • Sunday Auction at 12 Noon
(Sponsored by: Lee Auction Service, Area Services Inc., Minnihan's Tree Service, Pleasant Hill Construction Inc., Tractor Town, Watson & Son Excavating)

ATV Racing by Kickabuda Promotions

Grandstand Bleachers - SHOWTIMES: Friday, 10 AM

(Sponsored by: Hammertime Sports)

Kids Day Games & Contests

Behind Exhibit Hall # 3 - Wednesday & Thursday, 10 AM

(Sponsored by: Midland States Bank)

Pedal Pushers Tractor Pull

Livestock Show Arena - SHOWTIMES: Sunday, 10 AM

(Sponsored by: Henninger Family)

Antique Tractors On Display with Antique Gas Engines

County Line Rd. - ON DISPLAY DAILY - 200 Plus Tractors

Wee Farm Petting Zoo

Behind Exhibit Hall 3 # - OPEN DAILY - 9:30 AM - 8:30 PM

One Room School House

South End of Track - OPEN DAILY - 10 AM - 6 PM

The New Boone County Grange Hall Museum

North of The Sheep Barn - OPEN DAILY - Sunday 9:30 AM - 8:30 PM

Gene Shepherd & Mike Schneider Band

Strolling The Grounds

SHOWTIMES: Thursday, 11:30 AM - 2 PM, Friday & Saturday, 4:30-7 PM

Magic Mike

Strolling the Grounds Afternoons & Evenings Wednesday - Sunday

Alpaca Exhibit & Demonstration

South of Antique Tractors, South of Big Thunder Road, East of Pork Chop Revue

SHOWTIMES: Thursday & Friday 1 PM, Saturday 1 & 4 PM

Sunday Costume Parade & Judging from 9 AM - 12 PM In Goat Barn Show Arena

(Sponsored by: Selective Superior Seeds)

Mobile Glass Studios

Near Prairie Road, Near Zoli's Wood Carving

SHOWTIMES DAILY: 12 - 6 PM Producing At Least Four Items Per Day Which Will Be

Auctioned Sunday Along With Wood Carvings at 12 Noon.

(Sponsored by: C.E.S. Inc., Envoy Mortgage & J & M Plating)

Stilt Walker

On The Grounds Tuesday-Saturday 11 AM - 6 PM, Sunday 10 AM - 2 PM

I.O.U. Club Marks 100 Years in 2023

By David Larson

With no other club in the world by that name, Belvidere's I.O.U. Club is unique. The club was invented by 23 local businessmen in 1923 to serve the children of Belvidere. The goal is to make a Belvidere childhood memorable by producing events or purchasing some of the things that children need. The I.O.U. Club's activities and presents are deeply woven into the identity of this community.

Celebrating 100 years of success this year, the club limits membership to 50 members. The organization was originally formed as the Thirteen Club by 13 local businessmen as a subcommittee of the Belvidere Chamber of Commerce. The Thirteen Club's initial purpose was economic development. The club quickly went broke. In March of 1923, the Thirteen Club found itself bankrupt after producing a fund-raising play performed at the new Apollo Theater. Despite strong ticket sales, revenues did not cover the cost of production. The group expanded their numbers and learned from their mistakes. Expanding the membership to 23, they broke away from the Chamber of Commerce and took out a loan to get them going. They took another shot at it on their own.

The new club's only purpose then was to meet

for lunch on Fridays at noon at Tim's Restaurant to socialize and organize something as they saw fit. One hundred years later, the members still meet every Friday for lunch.

Perhaps you are wondering what the I.O.U. name represents? In accounting, it means "I owe you." The members of the reorganized club needed a loan to produce their first fund raiser, a comedy play, so they went to a local bank and got a loan. The story goes that when a bank employee asked what name to put on the loan document, a quick decision was made to call it the I.O.U. Club. The name has stuck.

The club's first fund raisers were a success. Instead of purchasing a turnkey entertainment production, the new club hired a professional production company to lead 60 local individuals in the creation of a comedy play at the Apollo. In 1924 and 1925, the productions performed at the Apollo netted the club adequate funds to send nearly 75 Belvidere boys to Camp Rotary for a week each year. The I.O.U. annual comedies were a source of funding for the next 50 years.

The I.O.U. Club produces three major events every year that have their roots in 1925 and the subsequent Depression: The Easter Egg Hunt in the Belvidere Park; The Halloween Parade on State Street (with ice cream and hot dogs free of charge at the Community Building); and a Christmas Party for every First Grader in Boone

Continued on Page 5



Carol Ann Chambers

Carol Ann Chambers passed away peacefully on Monday, July 24, 2023, in the comfort of her home in Belvidere, Illinois at the age of 59 years young. She was born on February 18, 1964, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Belvidere. Carol was more than a loving wife, a caring mother, a sister, an aunt, and a grandmother; she was an incredible force of warmth, love, and laughter. She led a remarkable life in service of others, touching the hearts of everyone who had the undeniable privilege of knowing her. Carol's light will only grow upon the foundation of love and kindness she instilled in each of the lives she touched.

Preceded in death by her parents, Donald and Esther Nelson, her family finds comfort in the knowledge that Carol will be welcomed home with open arms. Carol is remembered and deeply missed by the love of her life, Dean Chambers, to whom she was married for 38 wonderful years. Her two sons, Heath (Emily) Chambers and Brock (Kassie) Chambers. A sister, Deb (Bill) Werner, niece, Renee (Shane) Lunde, and nephew, Branson (Susanna) Werner. Mother-in-law, Dixie Chambers, and father-in-law, Howard Chambers. Brother-in-law Brad (Shannon) Chambers and nieces Olivia and Lauren. Carol leaves behind a host of grateful grandchildren and great-nieces whom she showered with love at every opportunity: Skye, Brynlee, Rowan, Madison, Riggins, Harlow, and Elle.

Carol did not reserve her love solely for her family, she loved freely and gave deeply to her church and community. Carol taught Sunday school at First United Methodist Church in Belvidere, Illinois for over 25 years. She served in the community as a registered nurse for over 24 years and volunteered at her church's yearly summer camp for children in foster care. Everywhere she went, Carol's positivity was contagious. She had a way of making everyone feel like they were the most important person in the room and made every event a cause for celebration. Carol cast such a bright light into the world, her warmth will continue to be felt even in memory.

For those wishing to pay their respects, visitation services will be held on Monday, August 7, 2023, at the Anderson Funeral Home in Belvidere, Illinois from 6-8 pm. On August 8, 2023, at First United Methodist Church in Belvidere, a visitation will be held at 10 am followed by a service at 11 am. As Carol Chambers dedicated her life to caring for others, her family asks that in lieu of flowers, this tradition is continued and all tributes be made in the form of donations to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation at bit.ly/JDRKcarol.

OBITUARIES

Carol Chambers, 59, Belvidere, July 24

Wanda Ingle, 70, Marengo, July 5

Charlotte Mankowski, 81, Harvard, July 11

Karolyn Tucker, 79, Poplar Grove, July 21

Harold Wisted, 95, Marengo, Mat 6

Tony Bennett, 96, New York, July 21

Paul Rubens, Pee-wee Herman, 70, Los Angeles, July 30

Sinéad O'Connor, 56, London, July 26

DFA
Dairy Farmers of America
DAIRY BRANDS
MIDWEST ICE CREAM
630 Meadow St., Belvidere

Enriching Communities and Consumers' lives through all the possibilities of dairy.

Uniquely
815
GIFTS & MORE

Open 10 AM
Closed Sunday

The Best Kept Secret in Town
109 Buchanan Street, Belvidere

REAL JOURNALISM FOR A REAL DEMOCRACY

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Publisher/Editor | David C. Larson |
| Senior Writer/Editorial | Charles Herbst |
| Photography | Susan Moran |

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

THE BOONE COUNTY JOURNAL
419 S. STATE ST • BELVIDERE, IL 61008
PHONE: (815) 544-4430 FAX: 544-4330
WWW.BOONECOUNTYJOURNAL.COM
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.

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



I.O.U Club's 50th Anniversary Dinner at Bel-Mar Country Club 1972

I.O.U. Club

from page 4

County in December, where every child receives a gift. The Christmas Party began during the Depression. Every child was treated to a well-prepared dinner and a gift for Christmas. After the Depression, the spirit of those tough times inspired the club to continue the event.

In 1925, history was made with the first Halloween Parade in Belvidere and the first Easter Egg Hunt. Every year at the Halloween Parade, men with I.O.U. ball caps walk in the parade, handing out prizes. There are floats and costumes created in every imaginable variety. It is a time of celebration, and to be as weird as you can. A tradition is to meet at the end for free food for both children and adults. In 1925, cider donuts and hot dogs were the treat, and the post-parade celebration was held in the street at the intersection of South State Street and Logan Avenue. That same year, the club flooded what is now Doty Park for ice skating and created toboggan runs near the State Street Bridge during the winter.

Annually, the club makes several other donations to youth-centered projects. In 1967, a \$15,000 donation was made to help fund the building of the YMCA. Today, that \$15,000 is worth over \$135,000. A few weeks ago, the *Journal* published a story about a city-wide party thrown by the I.O.U. Club when Belvidere got its first stop light at South State Street and Logan Avenue.

The club sponsored sports teams and continues to do so today. The I.O.U Tossers played teams like the Post Office Grasshoppers, which were early forms of Belvidere Youth Baseball, formerly known as Little League.

The I.O.U. Club remains a passionate group of men who enjoy giving to the community, but also socializing. Often, trips have been made on the club bus to Lake Geneva to the Lady of the Lake Dinner Cruise or to Chicago to see a ballgame. An annual prime rib dinner, to which the public is invited, is one of the major fund raising projects for the club. Today, many of the I.O.U. Club members are sons and grandsons of former members.

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

**Be the first to
Read the Journal**
The Boone County Journal is available
Online at no cost
at boonecountyjournal.com
Leave your email and you will receive a
notice whenever
a new issue is posted on the website.

ACKERSON DOOR
ads
SALES

"We give your garage closure"

- Sales • Doors • Openers • Replacement Sections
- Service • Cables • Installations • Springs

C.H.I. Visit Our **CHRYSLER** Showroom **LiftMaster**
PROFESSIONAL

2255 Rt. 173 815-623-2616
Caledonia, IL 61011 815-765-1551
Fax: 815-765-0333

**Belvidere Begins
Comprehensive Planning**

By David Larson

On July 24, Belvidere City Council viewed a presentation by Houseal Lavigne Associates on the process that will be unfolding over the next 6 to 9 months in building a comprehensive plan for Belvidere.

The process will begin with the collection of an understanding of present conditions in the city. It is expected that stage will conclude in early November.

Following that, community workshops with select individuals as well as the entire community will be held before the end of the year to discover what Belvidere wants to become.

The final stage of the work of Houseal Lavigne Associates will be the creation of both a draft and final update to the document.

Houseal Lavigne Associates' representative said this should serve as a guide, but will be revised as circumstance and visions change. It was his recommendation that the city examine the continuing relevance of the plan every 5 years.

Houseal Lavigne Associates is being paid \$49,880, which was budgeted for in the prior fiscal year and the remainder of this budget year.

Get instant cash for your **GOLD**

WE PAY HIGHEST PRICES

Belvidere Collectible Coins

880 Belvidere Rd.
Belvidere, IL
815-547-7111

Additional 10% off Jewelry with this ad
Mon-Fri 10am - 5pm
Sat 10am - 2pm

Visit us Online at www.goldsilverjewelrycoin.com

Boone County Fair Pageant 2023

- Contestant # 1. Nadia Rubi Escamilla*
- Contestant # 2. Carmen Sofia Sadewater*
- Contestant # 3. Isabelle Faith Klinefelter*
- Contestant # 4. Alivia Maris Malcolm*
- Contestant # 5. Jillianne Nicole Klinefelter*
- Contestant # 6. Emma Lynn Cordray*
- Contestant # 7. Delphine Marcelle Calabrese*



Nadia Rubi Escamilla

1. Nadia Rubi Escamilla is the 17-year-old daughter of Rachel and Rodolfo Escamilla of Poplar Grove. Nadia will be entering her senior year this fall at Belvidere North and is planning to attend Rock Valley College to obtain her Associate's Degree in Nursing. Nadia would then like to transfer to the University of Texas to obtain a bachelor's in pediatric nursing. Nadia is an avid member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, and the 4-H Latino Club. Nadia is employed at Bravo Pizza, Poplar Grove. Nadia's Platform is Leadership and Mentoring. Nadia is Sponsored by Heart to Heart CPR

RJBowers DISTRIBUTORS, INC. *Boone County Fair Building #1*



Electric & Gas Motor Cold Units & Homeowner Styles

Floor Scrubbers-Sweepers

Karcher® Electric Motor Hot Pressure Washer

Certified Service Center Large Parts-Accessories Supply & Detergents



MiTM® Gas Motor Hot Pressure Washer

2003 Harrison Ave Rockford IL 815.399.8839 paul@rjbowers.com



On a farm, you don't work 9 to 5. Neither do we.

Let a local independent agent help you cover all you've worked so hard to build.

Call or visit us:
AWE INSURANCE AGENCY
 428 W Main St
 Genoa, IL 60135
815.784.6614

Auto-Owners
 INSURANCE
 LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

ROCKFORD BUSINESS SYSTEMS

- Digital Color & Black & White
- Multi Functional
- * Copy * Print * Fax * Scan
- * Service • Supplies • Toner

Sharp ~ Canon ~ Toshiba ~ Lexmark ~ HP ~ Xerox ~ Ricoh

Sales: 815-608-1173 Service: 815-282-4002

See Us At The Fair In Our Air Conditioned Tent!

ALLEN
 Heating and Cooling



18th Anniversary Specials

0% Financing up to 60 months or 15% Off Free

Lifetime Maintenance on all High Efficiency Equipment installed
(for qualified customers and equipment)

www.allenheatcool.com
815-298-8020

VISA MasterCard Discover American Express

BELVIDERE - ROCKFORD - FREEPORT



Carmen Sofia Sadewater

2. Carmen Sofia Sadewater is the 17-year-old daughter of Michelle Severson and Bret Sadewater of Belvidere. Carmen will be entering her senior year this fall at Belvidere High School. Carmen is a member of the Thespian Honors Society and Theater Performing Arts. Carmen plans to attend college to become a special effects makeup artist. Carmen is employed at Smokin-Coop, Belvidere.

Carmen's platform is Mental Health/Social Media.

Carmen is Sponsored by O'Reilly Auto Parts, Belvidere



Isabelle Faith Klinefelter

3. Isabelle Faith Klinefelter is the 17-year-old daughter of Katrina Klinefelter and Jeremy Thompson of Belvidere. Isabelle will be entering her senior year this fall at Belvidere High School. Isabelle plans to attend college and is interested in becoming a dental hygienist, however she is keeping all options open at this time. Isabelle participates in basketball, showing pigs, and working on trucks. Isabelle is employed at Sips and Sprinkles, Belvidere.

Isabelle's platform is Suicide Prevention.

Isabelle is Sponsored by Meiborg Enterprises.

Hub Barber Shop
815-547-4969
 402 S. State St. Belvidere

Shop Hours:
 Tues-Friday 7am - 5pm
 Saturday 6am - 3pm
 Closed Sunday & Monday

Selective Superior Seed
 Hughes-Burris Credenz
 Asgrow N K DeKalb Channel
Jack Ratcliffe
 4095 Townhall Rd. • Belvidere, IL 61008
 Mobile: (815) 262-4242

Milos Dental Care
 Dr. Jamie Lynn Milos
 129 S. Phelps Ave. Suite 307, Rockford, IL 61108
 (815) 315-4200
 Call now for an appointment!!
www.milosdentalcare.com



**My clients have questions.
 I provide answers.**

They know that their taxes are prepared professionally, and they don't have to fear a letter from the IRS.

When was the last time you had a legal question? Or had some large organization try to intimidate you, and you really weren't sure of your rights. Did you know someone you could ask? Or did you just "wing it" and hope for the best? My clients know they can call me anytime for some quick advice.

Historically, lawyers have prepared tax returns. Using a tax attorney gives you a unique advantage: At least once a year, you can talk to an attorney and discuss what is important to you. We can discuss your will or trust, assist with an upcoming real estate transaction, or even put your business into an LLC to protect your assets. Or maybe just answer a question that's been bugging you for years.

My overhead is low, so my rates are reasonable, and things are done privately. There's no fish-bowl atmosphere or flimsy partitions. Hours are by appointment.

Owe the IRS money? Haven't filed? Afraid to file? Gotten a letter from them? I can help. With 35 years of experience as a tax attorney, I've helped many other people in your situation.

If your return consists of more than just a W-2, or you have a tax problem, please give me a call.



CHARLES HERBST, J.D., LL.M.
 LAW, PLANNING AND TAX

Belvidere and Rockford • 815 484 9482 • taxviking.com



Alivia Maris Malcolm

4. Alivia Maris Malcolm is the 16-year-old daughter of Andrea and Andy Malcolm of Belvidere. Alivia will be entering her junior year at Rockford Christian High School. Alivia's future plans include getting into the medical field and continuing on to pre-med. Alivia is on the Honor Roll, School Volleyball team, Club Volleyball, Key Club, enjoys golf, fishing, photography, and has just discovered pickleball. Alivia is employed at Cattle and Cream.

Alivia's platform is Drunk Driving Awareness.
Alivia is Sponsored by Malcolm Pediatric Dentistry.



Jillianne Nicole Klinefelter

5. Jillianne Nicole Klinefelter is the 18-year-old daughter of Katrina Klinefelter of Belvidere. Jillianne is a 2022 graduate of Belvidere High School and has attended her freshman year at Grand Canyon University. Jillianne is currently attending Educators of Beauty to obtain her license as a hair stylist. Jillianne is involved with 4H, FFA, and club volleyball. Jillianne is employed by Northwood Care Center.

Jillianne's platform is Body Positivity.
Jillianne is Sponsor by Baney Construction

COWabunga . . . check out our farm insurance!

Call or visit us
Awe Insurance Agency
Genoa • 815-784-6614
877-AWE-FARM

Auto-Owners Insurance

WE NEED BLOOD...
LIKE MILK
NEEDS A SHAKE!

CALL 815.965.8751 OR VISIT RRVBC.ORG

70
Rock River Valley
BLOOD CENTER
Saving Lives for 70 Years

POWERFEST
SALES EVENT

Rebates up to \$1,200 on select ATVs, side-by-sides, and motorcycles

We are clearing out non-current models.
Visit our store today for the best selection and find out more.

18307 Beck Rd • Marengo • IL
www.randyscycle.com
815-923-0500

CFMOTO

CFMOTO reserves the right to vary specifications which are subject to change without notice. Read the Owner's Manual and review vehicle warning labels before operation. Always dress properly for your ride with a helmet, eye protection, and appropriate protective apparel. Avoid excessive speeds and never engage in stunt riding. Observe good road manners and courteous behavior toward other motorists. Never ride under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. Always inspect your CFMOTO vehicle before riding. For safety and training information, see your dealer or call CFMOTO at 763-398-2690. Copyright 2023, Zhejiang CFMOTO Power Co. Ltd. CFMOTO is a registered trademark of Zhejiang CFMOTO Power Co., Ltd. All rights reserved.



Emma Lynn Cordray

6. Emma Lynn Cordray is the 18-year-old daughter of Stephanie and Andrew Cordray of Belvidere. Emma is a 2023 graduate of Belvidere High School and will be attending UW-Whitewater this fall. Emma was a Mantel Scholarship Nominee, received the Braden Ramey Memorial Scholarship, Olney and Jeane Witbeck Scholarship, Boone Co. Arts Council Visual Arts Scholarship. Clarence F. Gates Scholarship, Preston Trush Magnuson Scholarship. Dave Graham Scholarship, Wilbur & William Cummings Memorial Educational Scholarship, UW- Whitewater Chancellor Scholar, All State Choral Student, and National Choral Student awards. Emma also participated in Girl's Golf, 4-H Federation, Color Guard, Student Council, National Honors Society, Theatre and has performed with The Studio in Rockford. Emma is employed at BHS Performing Arts Center. Emma's platform is Community Service. Emma is Sponsored by Gallano Trucking.



Delphine Marcelle Calabrese

7. Delphine Marcelle Calabrese is the 19-year-old daughter of Fabienne and Tim Calabrese of Belvidere. Delphine is a 2022 graduate of Belvidere North. Delphine is currently working on getting her Bachelors in Psychology including sociology and criminal justice. She would then like to obtain her PhD and work in Forensic Science. Delphine has participated in Competition Dance Poms, as Football Manager, and the Rockford Robotics Team. Delphine is a member of Flora Grange, and enjoys participating in all community activities. Delphine's platform is Agriculture Education. Delphine is Sponsored by Selective Superior Seed.

MUELLER

Cooling the World's Milk

Accu-Therm® E-Star® Fre-Heater®

TRI COUNTY DAIRY SUPPLY, INC.

4107 N US Hwy 51
Janesville, WI 53545
608-757-2697
Fax: 608-757-0242

DFE.PAULMUELLER.COM 466-2116931

Experience Counts

Rene Hernandez
Attorney At Law

Serving Boone County and Winnebago Counties for over two decades.

Concentrating In:
Felonies / Misdemeanors
Federal Court Litigations
Federal Civil Rights / Police Misconduct
Sexual Harassment / Employment Law
Civil Litigation and Personal Injury

A SERIOUS ATTORNEY FOR SERIOUS PROBLEMS.

Law Office of Rene Hernandez, P.C.
1625 E. State Street, Rockford, IL 61104
815-387-0261



1. Allahni Alexandria Lyon is the 6-year-old daughter of Kaitlyn Franta of Belvidere. Allahni will be in 1st grade this fall and is sponsored by Allen Heating and Cooling.



2. Emerie Grace Streed is the 7-year-old daughter of Sarah and Daryn Streed of Belvidere. Emerie will be in 2nd grade this fall and is sponsored by Luckey Farms.



3. Elizabeth Alexandra Quiroz is the 8-year-old daughter of Stacy Kellems and Karlo Cruz of Belvidere. Elizabeth will be in 3rd grade this fall and is sponsored by Midwest Millwright Services Inc.



4. Riley Marie Mace is the 8-year-old daughter of Ashley and Warren Mace of Belvidere. Riley will be in 4th grade this fall and is sponsored by Memories by Dawn Photography.



5. Olivia Grace Paulsen is the 8-year-old daughter of Cassandra and Timothy Paulsen of Belvidere. Olivia will be in 3rd grade this fall and is sponsored by Mom and Dad.



6. Aubree Lynn Hand is the 8-year-old daughter of Stephanie and Nathan Hand of Belvidere. Aubree will be in 3rd grade this fall and is sponsored by F&F Tire World.



7. Makayla Mae Travis is the 7-year-old daughter of Heather and Daniel Travis of Belvidere. Makayala will be in 2nd grade this fall and is sponsored by The Flower Bin.



8. Emerson Rosemarie Matz is the 7-year-old daughter of Brittany and Daniel Matz of Belvidere. Emerson will be in 2nd grade this fall and is sponsored by Crosby and Crosby Law.



9. Nora Mae Branom is the 9-year-old daughter of Tara and Matt Branom of Rockford. Nora will be in 4th grade this fall and is sponsored by Treat Yourself Aesthetic Studio.



10. Sutton Gene Beasley is the 7-year-old daughter of Cassie and Chad Beasley of Belvidere. Sutton will be in 2nd grade this fall and is sponsored by Larry Fowler.



11. Emerson Margaret Annette Tobin is the 8-year-old daughter of Cooper and Jonathan Tobin of Belvidere. Emerson will be in 3rd grade this fall and is sponsored by Big Jon's of Belvidere.



12. Taylynn Miracle Pearse is the 8-year-old daughter of Amanda and Dawayn Evans of Belvidere. Taylynn will be in 3rd grade this fall and is sponsored by Grandma and Grandpa.



13. Haven Rain Asbury is the 9-year-old daughter of Dawn Buche and John Asbury of Belvidere. Haven will be in 4th grade this fall and is sponsored by ODW Logistics.



14. Harper Beverly Sweeney is the 8-year-old daughter of Tiffany and Joseph Sweeney of Belvidere. Harper will be in 3rd grade this fall and is sponsored by Sweeney Tax.



15. Lila Haddie Banzhaf is the 8-year-old daughter of Kirsten and Bryan Banzhaf of Belvidere. Lila will be in 3rd grade this fall and is sponsored by Element Athletics.



16. Charlotte Lynn Mena is the 7-year-old daughter of Ashley and Nestor Mena of Garden Prairie. Charlotte will be in 2nd grade this fall and is sponsored by Josh Kugler - Taft Insurance.

Little Miss
Boone County
Fair
Contestants
2023

State Announces 3rd Manufacturing Expansion Spurred by New Tax Credit

3 downstate companies have signed contracts to receive tax credits, create and maintain jobs

By Jerry Nowicki & Molly Parker

Gov. JB Pritzker announced another milestone Thursday in his administration's push to expand the state's role as a manufacturing hub in the renewable energy economy.

At a groundbreaking ceremony at a Prysmian Group manufacturing plant in Du Quoin, the administration announced the signing of the state's third contract under a tax incentive program for renewable industries that initially became law in 2021.

Prysmian, which Pritzker described as "the largest cable manufacturer in the world," produces cables and other products used in energy storage and distribution, renewable energy and electric vehicle charging stations. At the Du Quoin plant in southern Illinois, the company makes insulated power distribution cables that transmit energy underground and inside factories. Some of those cables feed power to companies that generate wind and solar energy, said plant manager Erik Perks.

With the help of an estimated \$17.7 million in state tax credits, the Du Quoin site will expand by 100,000 square feet and add 80 new jobs, bringing the workforce to approximately 300.

"This expansion is on a scale of investment that Du Quoin has not seen in a generation," Mayor Josh Downs said at a Thursday news conference. "So today I will take great pride in the fact that this announcement has very likely secured the economic stability of our city for the next 50-plus years."

The Du Quoin plant was built in 1965 and is the largest employer in the town of 5,800 people, according to Downs. Located between Carbondale and Mount Vernon, Du Quoin was historically a thriving coal mining and railroad town, though it has seen steady population losses over the past century, like much of the region. It is best known today for the Du Quoin State Fairgrounds built atop reclaimed mine land and the prestigious horse races that it has brought to town.

Previously known as General Cable, the facility was acquired by Prysmian in 2018. Most workers at the plant are part of the Teamsters Local 50 union, officials noted.

The Italian company has its global headquarters in Milan and North American headquarters in Highland Heights, Kentucky. It plans a near-\$64 million investment at its Du Quoin facility, one of its 28 plants located in North America.

"We had alternatives, but the government, the state helped us ... to make the decision to put the money here," Prysmian CEO Andrea Pirondini said of investing in the Du Quoin plant.

The incentives will come through the Reimagining Energy and Vehicles Act, a tax incentive program that passed the General Assembly nearly unanimously in November 2021.

All three of the contracts the REV Act has yielded thus far have been with downstate Illinois companies. In September 2022, T/CCI Manufacturing in Decatur announced a plan to retool its Macon County plant to manufacture compressors for electric vehicles. Under the contract, the company was expected to create 50 new jobs and maintain 103 positions in order to

receive \$2.2 million in tax incentives.

In May, the state signed a contract with Manner Polymers, providing about \$4.6 million in incentives to the company that planned to build a new factory in Mount Vernon that would create 60 jobs. That company manufactures PVC compounds, including some used in electric vehicles.

The REV Act was initially passed in the wake of the governor's marquee energy grid decarbonization policy, the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act. Its intention was to lure electric vehicle and parts manufacturers to Illinois to help the state reach its goal of putting 1 million EVs on state roads by 2030.

The initial tax credits ranged from 75 percent to 100 percent of income tax withheld for newly created jobs and 25 percent to 50 percent for retained employees, depending on factors such as company location and the number of employees hired. A 10 percent credit for training expenses is also available.

The REV Act has been expanded multiple times since its initial passage to offer incentives to smaller manufacturers, double the length of benefits and increase available credit values for companies in underserved communities.

In February, Pritzker signed a law expanding the EV-focused tax credit to "other products essential to the growth of the renewable energy sector."

"The incentives that we provide now –

new incentives that didn't exist before I came into office – are important in their thinking," Pritzker said of companies' decisions to relocate to or expand in Illinois. "We're competing against other states – Texas and Michigan and Mississippi and all over the country."

Pritzker said his administration often spends "weeks or months" talking to businesses to try to lure them to Illinois. Earlier this month, he led a trade mission to the United Kingdom, where he and 41 other state government and business officials spent much of their time promoting Illinois' electric vehicle industry and its renewable energy initiatives.

"I don't want to give away too much – those are taxpayer dollars, we've got to be careful with them," Pritzker said Thursday. "But at the same time, when you put all those features together, and our transportation system, our ability to ship product all over the world from here, it's quite attractive."


Congressman Foster Introduces Legislation to Bolster Domestic Battery Supply Chain

Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL) announced the introduction of the Critical Materials Processing Technology Testbed Act, legislation that would allow the Department of Energy to create a testbed to pilot and study new, safer materials processing technologies needed to bolster our battery supply chain. This testbed would aim to kick-start a domestic materials processing industry in the United States with a focus on environmental sustainability, energy efficiency, and minimizing resource intensiveness.

"Now more than ever, there's an increased demand to process the critical materials that are needed for computers, electric car batteries, solar panels, and more," said Foster. "Currently, these materials are often processed by foreign industries which lack proper regulations to protect the environment and human health. A testbed managed by the Department of Energy would allow us to trial new technologies to help create a materials processing industry in the United States that protects our workers and the environment."

Foster, Chair of the House Science Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight in the last Congress, discovered that materials processing constitutes a major impediment to strengthening the domestic battery supply chain.

Nathan Noble Attorney at Law
since 2006
Serves primarily in Boone and Winnebago Counties




**Real Estate, Wills, Trusts, Power of Attorneys, Personal Injury,
Estate Administration (including Probate), Traffic, Criminal,
Business Planning, Wrongful Death**

815-547-7700
504 North State St, Belvidere, IL 61008

FIND OUT THE COMMUNITY BANK DIFFERENCE.

- Diverse Checking Accounts
- Helpful Loan Programs
- Secure Digital Banking Technology
- Outstanding Customer Service



THE HARVARD STATE BANK SM
Harvard • Hebron • Oregon • Rockford
Your Friends in Banking Member FDIC

www.webhsb.com

Pritzker Signs Bill Overhauling Mandatory Supervised Release

Bipartisan bill focuses on improving outcomes, reducing recidivism

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

A new law in Illinois aims to give former inmates a better chance to succeed outside of prison and reduce the likelihood that they'll be sent back.

Gov. JB Pritzker on Friday signed Senate Bill 423, a unanimously passed measure that overhauls the state's mandatory supervised release program, formerly known as parole.

"Our current supervision system too often operates unfairly, with rules that make it simply a revolving door back to jail," Pritzker said at a bill signing ceremony in Chicago. "In fact, more than 25 percent of people who are released from prison in Illinois end up back behind bars, not because they're recidivists, but instead for a noncriminal technical violation."

Under Illinois law, every person sentenced to prison for a felony conviction must serve a certain amount of time on mandatory supervised release after completing their prison time. The length of that supervision varies based on the seriousness of the offense, and during that time the offender must comply with certain conditions and make regular contact with their parole officer.

Some of the most common conditions are that they do not possess a firearm, they do not use drugs, they submit to urine tests, and they allow their parole officer to search them and their residence. Failure to comply with conditions of release can result in being sent back to prison.

The new law, however, provides that urine tests can only be ordered if there is reasonable suspicion of illicit drug use and the basis of that suspicion is documented in the Department of Corrections' case management system.

It also provides that as long as the offender is in compliance with all other terms of their release, the Prisoner Review Board "shall," rather than "may," reduce the length of the supervision by 90 days if the offender earns a high school diploma, bachelor's degree, career certificate or vocational technical certificate while on supervised release.

The new law, which will take effect Jan. 1, also provides for remote check-ins with parole officers, standardizes the timeline for officers to review cases and encourages them to recommend early discharge for people who demonstrate success in

their release.

Pritzker was joined at the bill signing ceremony by rap artist and activist Meek Mill, a former inmate and parolee who cofounded the REFORM Alliance, which advocates for criminal justice reform.

"When I was on probation, the system did much more to hold me back than help me succeed," he said in a statement. "And my experience is just a reflection of millions of other stories that go untold. So it's an honor to be a part of making the system work better for families in Illinois and across the country."

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

Enjoy the 2023 Boone County Fair!!



CORRUGATED METALS, INC.
EST. 1987


6550 Revlon Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008
Phone: 815-323-1310 Fax: 815-323-1317
www.corrugated-metals.com

SINCE 1914


Fitzgerald

FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY LTD.


Caring for Families Since 1914



Tom Fitzgerald
Owner/Funeral Director



Riverside Chapel
3910 North Rockton Ave.
(815) 654-2484



Mulford Chapel
1860 South Mulford Rd.
(815) 226-2273

www.fitzgeraldfh.com

BELVIDERE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
"Established 1847"



S850-900 burial spaces • \$950 for a weekday burial

- Pre-Burial Arrangements
- Cremation Burials
- Columbarium Niches
- Memorial Markers
- Affordable Prices
- Park-like Setting

belviderecemetery@comcast.net

Frank Lloyd Wright Pettit Memorial Chapel On Cemetery Grounds

1121 N. Main St. - Belvidere
815-547-7642

EASTERSEALS

Annual 'Life is a Highway' Mason Frickman Memorial Ride

Park & Rec Ride!!

Motorcycles, Cars, SUVs, Trucks, etc.

Family Friendly Fun!!

Music, Silent Auction, Door Prizes, 50/50 Great Food!

Saturday, August 19, 2023

WIN A 65 INCH TV!!!

Hosted By



Kings Acres Self Storage
7180 Rock Valley Parkway
Leves Park, IL 61111
815.627.6583 Phone
kingacresstorage@gmail.com
North of Rockton on Mulford Road

Salamone's Cherry Valley

- Registration: 8:00am-9:00am
Kickstands Up: 9:30am
- Ride starts at Belvidere American Legion 900 W Chrysler Dr, Belvidere
- \$20 per rider includes poker hand, biscuit & gravy breakfast & dinner at Belvidere American Legion
- \$15 per passenger
- \$10 for dinner and entertainment if not attending ride
- Poker Hand: \$75 First Place Prize! 2nd & 3rd place prizes too!
- 5pm Ride ends at Belvidere American Legion, 900 W Chrysler Dr, Belvidere
- DJ, Drawings, Music till 10pm

Information contact:
Mary
815.623.4800 x0
mwalbeaster@eastersealschicago.org
EIN Number: 36-2169153



Easterseals
Serving Chicagoans and Greater Regions
Easterseals Academy
Machesney Park

Foster Statement on Indictment of Donald Trump in January 6 Investigation

Washington, DC - Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL) issued the following statement after the Department of Justice unsealed an indictment against Donald Trump as part of the investigation into January 6, 2021:

“The attack on Congress and the peaceful transfer of power that we witnessed on January 6, 2021, must never be allowed to happen again. In a democracy, nobody – not even a President – is above the law.

“The indictment presents credible evidence that President Trump engaged in a criminal conspiracy to overturn the results of an election he had lost. If true, this strikes to the heart of our American system of government. It will now be up to a jury to weigh that evidence and reach a verdict.

“As I’ve always said, the former President has the right to due process and the presumption of innocence until proven guilty in a court of law. We must respect the judicial process as it unfolds and let the facts speak for themselves.”

State Driver Services Facilities to Require Appointments in More Than 40 Locations

Facilities will operate Monday through Friday across Illinois; 16 locations to have Saturday hours

By Andrew Adams Capitol News Illinois

Drivers who need to renew their license at a secretary of state facility will likely have to make an appointment starting this fall.

Starting Sept. 1, 44 driver services facilities in medium- to large-sized cities around the state will require appointments for driver services – things like renewing a license, updating a license to meet Real ID requirements or taking a driving test. Vehicle services, like title registration, will still be offered on a walk-in basis.

The facilities impacted by the move to appointment-based service are in some of the state’s most high-traffic locations. These include all but one of the locations in Chicago as well as locations in Aurora, Deerfield, Naperville, Waukegan, Champaign, Decatur, Bloomington, Peoria, Rockford Central, and Belvidere.

The change in policy is accompanied by a standardization of hours at driver services facilities. All driver services facilities will operate from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Sixteen locations will offer Saturday morning hours from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

“Our goal is to change the stereotype of dealing with government offices,” Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias said on Thursday, noting that he hopes customers have a “positive experience.”

Appointments can be made by visiting the secretary of state’s website at ilsos.gov or by calling 844-817-4649.

Giannoulias said that the cost of implementing the changes falls within the existing secretary of state’s budget.

“This is sort of the first major step in implementing the rest of our modernization goals,” Giannoulias said.

Giannoulias also encouraged Illinoisans to make use of online services when possible, including driver’s license renewal and ordering license plate stickers. The secretary of state’s office also received more than \$75 million in this year’s budget for its IT modernization efforts,

which have already resulted in an overhaul of the office’s website, ilsos.gov.

“The revamped website is more intuitive and prioritizes our most popular programs and services so customers can find the information they want and need faster and more conveniently,” Giannoulias said in a July 12 news release.

It’s a continuation of several pandemic-driven shifts toward modernization for the secretary of state’s office. That process began under former secretary Jesse White, who held the office for more than two decades before Giannoulias took office in January.

These pandemic-era modernizations included piloting appointment-based service and offering expanded online services for drivers.

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

Illinois Hotels Report Record Revenues for Fiscal Year 2023

Highs come after dramatic drop-off in revenue during pandemic

By Andrew Adams Capitol News Illinois

For hoteliers, business is booming in Illinois.

On Monday Gov. JB Pritzker, the state’s legislative leadership and representatives of the hospitality industry announced that hotels in Illinois saw record revenues in fiscal year 2023, which ended June 30.

Across the state, hotels brought in \$307.8 million, according to figures from the state’s Department of Revenue. That beats fiscal year 2019, the previous record year for hotel income and the last year before the pandemic upended the hospitality industry.

Revenue in 2023 was up 35.8 percent from the prior year and 230.1 percent from fiscal year 2021, when the pandemic was still significantly affecting peoples’ travel habits.

“Tourism means more jobs for hotel and hospitality and recreation workers – good paying jobs with health insurance,” Pritzker said at a Monday news conference in Chicago. “More tourism means millions of new visitors exploring all the amazing things that our state and city have to offer.”

Major events have helped bolster Illinois’ tourism industry in 2023, according to Kristin Richards, the

Continued on Page 15

Roman’s Blacktop Sealing
Driveways & Parking Lots



Art Roman **815-885-3238**
Owner **Insured**

got kidz?
Child Care

Learning Friendly Environment Accredited Staff

Need Not Be Potty Trained Limited Availability

NOW HIRING
 teacher qualified staff
 inquire at 815-547-6900

547-6900
 531 S. Main St.
 Belvidere



CORDRAY BROTHERS, INC.
544-6640
 Call for estimates
 7200 Epworth Rd., Garden Prairie, IL

Sand, Gravel, Excavating
 and
Ready Mix Concrete

MON. - FRI. 7AM - 5PM
 SAT. 7AM - 12PM



WINNEBAGO-BOONE FARM BUREAU

Adventure awaits

FAIR FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY...
 stop in at the Farm Bureau building
 at the Boone County Fair!

Hotels

from page 14

head of the state's Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. These include the sold out Enjoy Illinois 300 NASCAR race in Madison and Taylor Swift's Eras tour.

Swift's fans, who descended on Chicago's Soldier Field for three nights over the first weekend in June, contributed to Chicago seeing the highest weekend hotel occupancy rate in history – an average of 96.8% according to reporting from Bloomberg.

But hotel revenues are only one way to measure tourism's impact. Other metrics have yet to match 2019's records.

The state's tourism office partners with analytics firm Tourism Economics to research visitors' impact on the state's economy. The agency reported to the state in June that Illinois saw 111.3 million visitors who spent \$44.3 billion in calendar year 2022. Calendar year 2019, the highest year on record for both measures, saw 122.8 million visitors who spent a combined \$45.5 billion.

The hotel industry as well has not fully recovered from the pandemic's tourism industry interruptions.

Michael Jacobson, president of the Illinois Hotel and Lodging Association, said that while revenues have returned, staffing levels and occupancy rates overall have not yet reached pre-pandemic levels, although they were trending toward recovery.

"We look forward to returning to our place as one of the most significant economic engines, employers and taxpayers in the state," Jacobson said on Monday.

The state has made some significant investments in tourism in the past few years, including the \$30.3 million "Middle of Everything" ad campaign. The campaign, which launched in the spring of 2022, stars television actress and Illinois native Jane Lynch.

The campaign's first year brought in an additional 2 million visitors and generated \$1 billion in Illinois hotels, restaurants, small businesses, and attractions, according to the state's tourism office.

The campaign recently launched a new set of TV ads this summer that feature the television star.

"Being able to share my passion for all things Illinois comes naturally, and getting to meet and work with so many inspiring people and unique businesses across the state is an honor," Lynch said in a June 23 news release.

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

State Regulators Work to Avoid Federal Clean Air Act Sanctions

Continued noncompliance could result in loss of federal highway funding

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

Illinois faces a deadline next month to either change the way it enforces air pollution emission limits on heavy industries or face federal sanctions that could eventually result in restricted access to billions of dollars in federal highway funding.

But state agencies are working to avoid that as they rush to meet an Aug. 12 deadline imposed by the federal government to put a new regulatory framework in place that will comply with the federal government's current interpretation of the Clean Air Act.

Those rule changes, which come from the Illinois Pollution Control Board, are up for review on Tuesday, July 18, before the General Assembly's Joint Committee on Administrative

Rules, a 12-member group that exercises oversight over the state's administrative rulemaking process.

"At this point, any future course for this rulemaking depends entirely on JCAR's review and decision-making on this proposal," IPCB staff attorney Tim Fox said in a phone message. "The board awaits that review and decision-making at its meeting on Tuesday."

At issue is a policy Illinois has had since the 1970s that allows factories, power plants, and other industries with air pollution emission permits to exceed their emission limits during startups, shutdowns, or malfunctions, or SSM events.

The so-called "SSM exemption" is written into a facility's emission permit and provides the facility's owners a level of immunity from civil lawsuits if they are sued for violating their emission limits.

The policy is based on the idea that no machine works perfectly all the time and there are occasionally unforeseeable events such as power outages or floods that will force a facility to shut down for a period of time and then restart, which can result in short-term excess emissions.

But it's a policy that courts have said since 2008 violates the federal Clean Air Act, and it's one that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has been telling Illinois and other jurisdictions since 2015 that they need to repeal.

Now, Illinois faces an Aug. 12 deadline to repeal the regulations that allow SSM exemptions and submit to the EPA a new state implementation plan, or SIP – a document that spells out the policies and regulations the state will use to implement the Clean Air Act. Otherwise, failure to comply will trigger federal sanctions against the state.

Jack Darin, executive director of the Illinois chapter of the Sierra Club, an environmental group that has been pushing for regulatory changes at both the state and federal level, said in a phone interview that the change is needed to protect public health.

Continued on Page 17

Saturday, August 26th 2016 - 12-6 PM
While Supplies Last

Chicken BBQ!



Capron Lions Club Park
North Street in Capron, IL

* Dinner by Capron Lions & Capron Fire *



1/2 Chicken Meal \$18

Dinner includes:
Beans, Coleslaw, Applesauce, Roll w/Butter, & Reimer Sweet Corn!

Eickman's Processing Co.

Family Owned for Over 70 Years!
M-F 8am - 5:30pm, Sat 8am - Noon

We Process Fair Animals

Custom Beef, Hogs & Lambs

ENJOY THE FAIR!

VISIT OUR RETAIL STORE FOR STEAKS, CHOPS, ROASTS
Variety of Sausages & Brats

3226 S. Pecatonica Rd. Seward, IL 61077

Visit our website at eickmans.com
(815) 247-8451




Creative Flooring
Your Design Center

C&H Design Center

6506 Logan Ave. Belvidere 815-547-8453 www.chbuildersinc.com



Kitchen & Bath Remodeling
"From Start to Finish"

Sales • Service • Installation

CROPP'S

GARAGE DOOR SERVICE

5183 Harlem Rd
Loves Park, IL 61111
815 282-1849

Residential Commercial

Come Out & Support Boone County Fair

David Krieg Auctions

Toys • Household • Antiques • Estate Auctions
Toy Consultant • Farm Toys
Construction Toys • Cars • Trucks
Assisting at the Fur & Feather Auction

Harvard, IL
815-943-5310




OP-ED

Downstate Illinois is Hurting, Yet Few Notice

By *Jim Nowlan*

Downstate Illinois (the 96 counties outside the six metropolitan Chicago counties) is hurting, yet few seem to notice. A bipartisan downstate caucus of lawmakers could establish a dashboard of goals and priorities for their sprawling region and advocate to achieve them.

Downstate stretches 400 miles from north to south and has more than 4 million residents, to Chicago's 2.7 million and about 5.7 million in the suburbs, according to 2020 census data. Yet major media focus on the city. Metro-Chicago folks tend to take weekend breaks in Wisconsin and Michigan; downstate to most is a vague afterthought, at best.

Downstate is much poorer than Chicago and its metropolitan region, so the latter are forced to pay handsomely to beef up services for their country cousin region. You might say the metro Chicago area has a soft spot in its heart for downstate, which I believe it honestly does.

According to a 2018 Southern Illinois University study that cites 2013 figures, downstate received \$1.69 in state spending for every \$1 the region sent to the state in taxes. In contrast, Cook County received 90 cents back for every dollar sent to the state in taxes, while the suburban collar counties received but 53 cents back in state services for every dollar their taxpayers contributed to the state in taxes.

Population, good jobs and corporate headquarters have been fleeing downstate. Most downstate counties lost residents in the past decade. The Caterpillar and Archer Daniels Midland C-suites departed Deerfield and Decatur, respectively, in recent years. Ominously, at least to some, Moline-based John Deere has plastered Chicago's Union Station with ads that tout the tractor-maker's connection to the city, as it recruits top talent to its new tech center in the Loop.

Education achievement in most schools downstate lags that in most suburban schools.

Much of what Illinois state government does is located disproportionately downstate, such as highways, public and private colleges and universities, state parks and our natural resources. Because of understaffing, many of our state parks have become decrepit. I am told that state employee numbers at the iconic New Salem State Historic Site, where Abraham Lincoln became a man, have declined in recent decades, from 23 to five. Ditto for other parks.

Many downstaters no longer travel to Chicago, for fear of its crime. So, it is ironic that cities such as Peoria, Rockford and Champaign have higher rates of gun violence and homicides than Chicago. This is according to a recent study from the University of Illinois at Springfield.

Yet, downstate has some remarkable strengths. Jim Schultz, a successful entrepreneur-investor from Effingham in south-central Illinois, points out that in each of the six Rs critical to economic development — roads, rails, runways, rivers, routers and research — Illinois is arguably among the top three states in the nation. Obviously, as anyone can see on

a map, much of these valued "Rs" are spread across downstate.

And need I mention that last year, downstate Illinois was the No. 1 producer of corn and soybeans among our 50 states?

Downstate was a political powerhouse for most of our state's history, yet has become the weak sister to Chicago-Cook and the collar-county region. The GOP dominates rural and small-town downstate, yet is home to only one-third of all state lawmakers.

In the 1980s, a bipartisan downstate caucus existed under the leadership of the late state Rep. Richard Mautino of Spring Valley until then-House Speaker Mike Madigan squelched it as a threat to his consolidation of power.

At regular meetings of a downstate caucus, there could be cross-fertilization of ideas and concerns between its midsize-city Democratic and small-town GOP lawmakers. Downstate public universities could provide research for the caucus on the region's problems and solutions. The Democratic members of the caucus could educate and advocate within their metro-Chicago Democratic legislative delegation.

If downstate does better, all Illinois benefits.

Jim Nowlan is a former Illinois Republican state legislator, running mate with Gov. Richard Ogilvie in 1972 and campaign manager for moderate Republican U.S. Senate and presidential candidates. He lives in Princeton, Illinois.



Boone County Fair 2023
"Believe In The Future"

"I CHOOSE MUTUAL INSURANCE
 BECAUSE I KNOW we're
 IN THIS TOGETHER."

BMI
 BELVIDERE FARMERS
 MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

Farmers who work with a mutual insurance company have a shared purpose: getting the best coverage and protection available. Our decisions are always based on what's best for you, your farm, and your family. Find out how mutual insurance can work for you.

Belvidere Mutual Insurance Company
815-544-3861

Member of the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies

SHARED PURPOSE. MUTUAL VALUES.™

ROOM FOR RENT: Belvidere: Nice furnished room w/ fridge, near downtown, bus stop, Aldi, Drug & Dollar Stores. No Sec. Deposit. \$102/wk. or \$430/mo.
Call (815) 544-4466

REQUIRED READING FOR YOUR STUDENTS!

★ **POLITICS** ★
THE STARTER KIT

Politics: The Starter Kit includes chapters:

- Understanding Politics
- How Do I Get into Politics?
- How Do I Run for Office?
- The Successful Lawmaker
- The Effective Legislative Staffer
- Practical Guidance for New Agency Directors
- Everyone's a Lobbyist!
- Corruption: I Didn't Plan to Be Unethical
- Is There a Future for You in Politics?

This little book briefly and efficiently covers everything someone looking for a career in politics ought to know before they get in too deep.

"America needs more sharp young people to become involved in politics and government. This book tells readers how - and why it is important."
 -Ray LaHood,
 Member of Congress, 1995-2009

HOW TO SUCCEED IN POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

★ **POLITICS** ★
THE STARTER KIT

JIM NOWLAN

"This brief and incisive work will help all readers - whether or not they have political ambitions --navigate politics and government in their own communities; understand how their state legislatures and agencies function (or don't)."
 -Jeffrey Douglas,
 Director Emeritus of the Library,
 Knox College

\$13.99 softcover • \$3.99 E-book
Available at Amazon & Barnes and Noble

Sanctions

from page 15

“The public health can be subjected to a lot more significant pollution during these events, and that’s why the Clean Air Act requires that facilities have plans in place to deal with that,” he said. “It could be additional pollution controls or other steps to make sure that we’re not putting even more pollution into the air we breathe during these startup, shutdown, and malfunction events. And Illinois rules have been lacking these requirements for over a decade.”

But Donovan Griffith, vice president of government affairs for the Illinois Manufacturers’ Association, said the issue is not that simple, and that removing legal protections against SSM events could dramatically increase the risk of doing business.

“You’re going to have companies that are going to have to make a decision,” he said in a separate interview. “I mean, you can’t plan for a storm to knock out your power. You can’t plan for certain things that happen. They’ll have to make the decision whether or not they’re going to restart their operations and just be out of compliance or not operate at all.”

Years of controversy

Controversy over SSM exemptions goes back as far as the 1970s. But for Illinois, the issue has been percolating for about the last dozen years, spanning the course of three presidential administrations.

In 2011, the national Sierra Club filed a petition with the U.S. EPA asking that it take stronger action to disallow SSM exemptions and affirmative defense provisions. In 2013, the agency announced that it was considering taking action on that petition. In 2015, during the Obama administration, EPA issued an “SIP call” for 36 states and nine additional local jurisdictions, including Illinois, to submit new state implementation plans.

That occurred during the early months of Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner’s administration, which did not immediately respond to the SIP call. According to testimony filed at a public hearing earlier this year, IPCB officials said the agency sought additional guidance from U.S. EPA

about how to establish alternative limits for SSM events, but it did not receive a response before the Obama administration ended in January 2017.

In April 2017, the then-new Trump administration put the SIP call on hold so it could reevaluate the issue. Three years later, in October 2020, EPA issued what it called a nonbinding “guidance memorandum” suggesting that policies such as those in place in Illinois and elsewhere would be permissible in some circumstances.

One month later, however, Democrat Joe Biden defeated Donald Trump for reelection. Soon after he took office, EPA issued a new memorandum withdrawing the Trump administration’s memo and reasserting the policy that SSM exemptions were no longer acceptable.

Looming sanctions

Finally, in January 2022, EPA issued a new SIP call, starting a clock for Illinois and several other state and local jurisdictions to come into compliance or face mandatory sanctions.

If the state does not come into compliance by Aug. 12, EPA will impose what are called “offset sanctions,” meaning any new or significantly modified sources of pollution for which a permit is required will come under significantly stricter emission limits.

And if the state does not comply by Feb. 11, 2024, its access to federal highway funds will be restricted to safety projects, capital programs for public transit and a select few other categories of funding.

Those sanctions would be lifted once the U.S. EPA determines the state has submitted an acceptable new SIP.

Because of the looming deadline, the rule change has been put on a “fast track” schedule, but that has irritated industry officials who say they haven’t had enough time to submit comments or try to negotiate an agreement.

“I think we’ve known since January 2022 that this was coming, which is why there was a lot of communications from the regulated community to the agency about discussing this issue,” Griffith, of the Illinois Manufacturers’ Association, said. “We didn’t hear much from them until November of 2022, when they basically said, ‘here’s our proposal that we plan on filing.’”

The compressed timeline also upset some members of JCAR, which previously discussed the proposed rule change at its June 13 meeting.

“It was Nov. 17 that you reached out and asked for comments. That’s a week before Thanksgiving,” Rep. Curtis Tarver, D-Chicago, told IPCB and IEPA officials during that meeting. “You allowed 10 business days. The 11th, it was due. That’s absolutely – I hope that’s uncommon.”

Jack Jennings, deputy director of the IEPA, explained that the agencies at first tried to get clarification from the U.S. EPA about what would be acceptable, and it wasn’t until later in the year that the agencies learned that they needed to completely repeal the language allowing SSM exemptions.

JCAR and the agencies agreed at the June meeting to extend the rulemaking period for 45 days, during which time they hoped to work with U.S. EPA and industry groups to reach an agreement.

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

BOONE COUNTY LICENSE & TITLE

What WE Can Do For YOU!

Illinois License Plates & Stickers for

- Cars • Trucks • Motorcycles •
- Trailers • Boat Trailers •
- Notary Public • Map Books •



Ask us for details about our over the counter Plates and Sticker service.

- License & Title Services
- Plates, Stickers & Renewals (Get sticker same day)
- Flat Fee for Services
- No Long Lines
- Friendly Helpful Staff
- Fast Convenient Service



Open 6 Days a Week
Monday thru Friday - 9 am to 5 pm
Saturday - 9 am to 1 pm

(815) 544-2075

Located on State Street at the

Journal

419 S. State Street
Belvidere, IL 61008

Operated by
Lyle & Patti Lee

Lee
Auction Service
For all your Auction needs

" See you at the Livestock, fur & feather and wood carving auctions "

Belvidere, IL 61008
p: 815-544-4811
c: 815-988-0249
e: leeauctionman@aol.com
www.leeauctionservice.com

Boone County Livestock Auction
Sponsored by the Boone County Auction Association, NFP, Inc.

Thursday, August 10, 2023
5:00 p.m.
Boone County Fairgrounds
Livestock Show Arena

Selling order: goat wethers, dairy products, dairy steers, swine, beef steers, and lambs with champions selling first in each department

Support 4-H Youth • Quality Meat for Your Freezer

Boone County 4-H members will be selling prize winning steers, pigs, lambs, goat wethers, chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, and rabbits exhibited at the county fair.

Fur & Feather Auction
Saturday, August 12, 2023
3:00 p.m.
Boone County Fairgrounds, Livestock Arena

Selling order: Poultry & Rabbits

For more information, contact the
Boone County Auction Association, NFP, Inc. at (815) 543-1814.

COVID Unemployment Surge Led to \$5.2 Billion in Overpaid Benefits in Illinois – Including Fraud

Long-awaited audit found array of weaknesses at state unemployment agency

By Hannah Meisel Capitol News Illinois

Illinois overpaid unemployment benefits to the tune of \$5.2 billion during the first 18 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, with much of it paid to fraudulent claimants, according to a comprehensive new audit.

Included in that sum was \$6 million paid to 481 dead people and \$40.5 million in unemployment checks written to incarcerated individuals. And, the audit warned, those numbers could be a significant undercount.

The audit, published Wednesday by the state's auditor general, harkens back to the chaotic early weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic, when Illinois Department of Employment Security phone lines and the agency's website couldn't handle the sudden spike of individuals trying to file for unemployment benefits. To respond to the unprecedented demand, state officials scrambled to

contract with outside entities to both increase staff and stand up a new federally funded program for people traditionally ineligible for unemployment insurance.

But it was this rush that created weaknesses that fraudsters and identity thieves would go on to exploit, the audit noted.

"Timely payment of benefits and preventing fraud are competing concepts," the audit said. "Preventing fraud, especially in new programs with evolving guidance and guidelines, likely would require additional processing time and a possible delay in benefit distribution to claimants. Conversely, paying claims quickly, especially when certain crossmatches and controls were suspended, increased IDES' risk of making improper payments."

Before COVID hit, IDES crossmatched active unemployment insurance claimants against five other databases to verify eligibility for benefits. Those included state prison and county jail registries, the Social Security Administration and the State and National Directory of New Hires. However, the crossmatching process takes time and "constricted the processing system severely," the audit said.

So in March 2020, IDES temporarily suspended some of that crossmatching in favor of getting benefits out the door more quickly.

"This allowed IDES to better handle the increase in claims processing traffic; however, this left the unemployment programs more susceptible to fraud," the audit said.

The audit noted that Illinois failed to follow federal recommendations issued in May 2020 to prevent some of the fraud. It wasn't until September 2021 that IDES implemented the use of a multi-state crossmatching tool called the Integrity Data Hub, according to the audit.

Illinois is far from alone in its experience of massive unemployment fraud, though it's difficult to compare the extent of the fraud among states due to a lack of comprehensive federal data.

At an unrelated news conference in southern Illinois on Thursday, Gov. JB Pritzker acknowledged the findings of the audit, but pointed to other large states that saw even bigger COVID-era unemployment fraud, like \$20 billion in California and \$8 billion in New York.

"I think we all would say that we would have preferred if we didn't see that kind of fraud," Pritzker said. "But remember, the moment that this happened in, it was a global emergency. We were trying to get money out the door to people who had lost their jobs because, frankly, people were getting sick and dying. We wanted to make sure they could survive so we could have jobs for them at the end of the pandemic."

Republicans, who have been beating the drum on pandemic-era unemployment fraud

for the better part of three years, took the opportunity to renew their criticism of Pritzker's administration.

"The people who were supposed to serve as stewards of their resources completely failed [Illinoisans], and their ineptitude served to embolden and help criminals to abuse the system and steal benefits," state

Sen. Chapin Rose, R-Mahomet, said in a statement. "I have constituents who were lawfully entitled to benefits that they never received, and then now they have to read about billions that are missing."

PUA uniquely vulnerable

The majority of overpayments stemmed from the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program, which was set up federally to support people who are traditionally ineligible for unemployment benefits, like freelance or "gig" workers.

While overpayments in "regular" unemployment insurance accounted for a little over \$2 billion, overpayments in the PUA program

Blair's FARM & FLEET
 FARM & FLEET OF WOODSTOCK
 11501 ROUTE 14
 WOODSTOCK, IL. 60098-0758
 STORE: 815-338-2549

NEWBURG STORAGE

Unit Sizes Available

- 10 x 10
- 10 x 15
- 10 x 20
- 10 x 25
- 10 x 30

6845 Belford Industrial Dr.
 Belvidere, IL 61008
 (815) 547-4072
24 HOUR ACCESS

HOURS
 M-F 8-5
 Sat. 8-3

(262)724-5554 N4290 Hwy 14 • Darien, WI 53114
 Good Luck to All 4-H & FFA Members
 See You at the Sale!
 Custom Butcher by Appointment

See you at the Fair!

First Baptist Church

Belvidere

Corner of Appleton & Jackson

Serving our community by working at the gates

Celebrating 17 years!

Thank you Boone County for your support!

Now Hiring

Experienced Hair Stylist & Nail Tech
 Contact Teresa Tepp Owner/Stylist

815-547-8881
 126 West Lincoln Ave. Belvidere

Limited Lifetime Guarantee

Stop In For A Free Estimate

Mon-Fri 8-5
 Sat. 9-12

Barnes Auto Body Inc.
 "The Collision Experts"

- COLLISION REPAIR
- I-Car Certified
- Rust Repair
- Complete Paint

740 W. Locust St., Belvidere
815-547-4298

amounted to \$3.2 billion, according to the audit.

“Considering gross benefits associated with regular UI claims were 2.5 times higher than gross benefits associated with PUA claims, it shows the magnitude of fraud experienced in the PUA program,” the audit said.

Identity theft accounted for nearly \$511 million – roughly a quarter – of the \$2 billion in overpayments within Illinois’ regular unemployment benefits system. In contrast, identity theft accounted for the majority of overpayments in the PUA system; \$2.3 billion in PUA benefits were paid out in this manner.

The remainder of overpayments are due to what the audit narrowly defines as “fraud” – overpayments resulting from unemployment recipients filing knowingly false information – and “non-fraud,” which is the result of genuine mistakes. IDES has taken steps to stop or claw back these sorts of overpayments, though there are hardship waivers available.

But recovery of that money is only possible because those overpayments were sent to the true claimants of unemployment insurance, the audit notes. Illinois is out of luck on the \$2.8 billion in overpayments IDES paid out to those using stolen identities.

“Overpayments due to identity theft are not considered recoverable because they cannot be collected from the real owner of the identity/Social Security number,” the audit said.

IDES generally agreed with the recommendations of the audit, but agency spokesperson Rebecca Cisco also directed some of the blame to former President Donald Trump’s administration.

“The audit continues to underscore the challenge brought on when the previous federal administration required each state to implement a poorly designed and brand-new unemployment insurance program on their own in record time with continuously changing federal guidance,” Cisco said in an email. “This is a crucial distinction from the state’s regular unemployment insurance program because the state’s system is designed and integrated with vital crossmatching and identity-proofing capabilities.”

Illinois contracted with management consultant Deloitte to build the technology to stand up its PUA program, as IDES didn’t have the capacity to

build out the program from its existing infrastructure. Deloitte’s “uFACTS” system debuted in May 2020 – two months into the pandemic – but it would be another two months until that system even began interacting with IDES’ “regular” unemployment insurance system, according to the audit.

That was a problem because PUA applicants were supposed to have first been denied traditional unemployment benefits; the siloing of the two systems meant that uFACTS didn’t check with IDES to verify that an applicant had already filed a claim for regular unemployment insurance.

The PUA program officially ended Sept. 4, 2021.

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

Do you have a loved one in a NURSING HOME?

Worried about losing their life savings?

You can still protect much, and maybe all, of their assets for the family.

Call for Free Consultation 217-726-0176

Protecting Families from the DEVASTATING Cost of Nursing Homes for 30 Years!

www.Lighthouse-Financial.com



Enjoy The Fair!

HUNGRY FOR YOUR NEXT MANUFACTURING OPPORTUNITY?

OUR BELVIDERE PLANT IS WAITING FOR YOU!

CAREER OPENINGS:

1. Forklift Driver
2. Production Operator
3. Maintenance Mechanic
4. Controls Technical
5. Ammonia Operator



Check out our Amazing benefits and wages

\$2.00
NIGHT SHIFT
PREMIUM

careers.generalmills.com
(put Belvidere in as location)
or Text **"Genmills"** to **97211**
or Scan QR Code





Farmers Liquid Feed

Dennis Paulson

P.O. Box 688
Darien, Wisconsin 53114

608-295-7500

Killeen's Appliance Service & Sales
All Makes & Models
815-560-2867
Located in Boone & McHenry Counties

RED WING SHOES 216 S. State Street
Marengo, IL 60152

Bobby's Shoe Store

\$ DISCOUNTS GIVEN \$

Store Hours:
Thurs & Fri.....12 - 6
Friday.....9 - 6
Saturday.....9 - 4

Gene Carroccia
(815) 568-8600 Store
(815) 245-0216 Cell
www.bobbysshoe.com
Discounts Available



(above)
Popular country music singer
Tracy Byrd

(left)
The Feudin' Hillbillies will be getting feet stomping in the Grandstand Saturday night

ROOM FOR RENT: Belvidere: Nice furnished room w/ fridge, near downtown, bus stop, Aldi, Drug & Dollar Stores. No Sec. Deposit. \$102/wk. or \$430/mo.
Call (815) 544-4466



MONTESSORI
private academy

The gold standard of
Montessori Education

scan Here!



Enrollment for Pre-k to Grade 6 is open for 2023/2024!



AMERICAN MONTESSORI SOCIETY®
education that transforms lives
Accredited Member School



C77 - 4 miles N. of Belvidere, IL. on Hwy. 76 - 11619 Rt 76 Poplar Grove, IL 61065

The Public is Invited to Walk-In, Drive-In or

FLY IN

51st Annual

Sunday, August 20th 2023

BITES & FLIGHTS FOOD TRUCKS

Firebox/Sips & Sprinkles
Vintage Goose Cafe, Rusty Drum BBQ
7am - 2pm
Coffee, Rolls, Drinks, Sandwiches & Ice Cream

CANTINA TACO, OLIVE BRANCH, ZAE'S
PIZZA FRESCA, LULU'S ROASTED CORN
10am - 2pm

Belvidere Rotary Club
Flour Bomber Bingo
1:00 pm
Pre-Event Ticket Sales Contact:
GieratClaire@Comcast.net



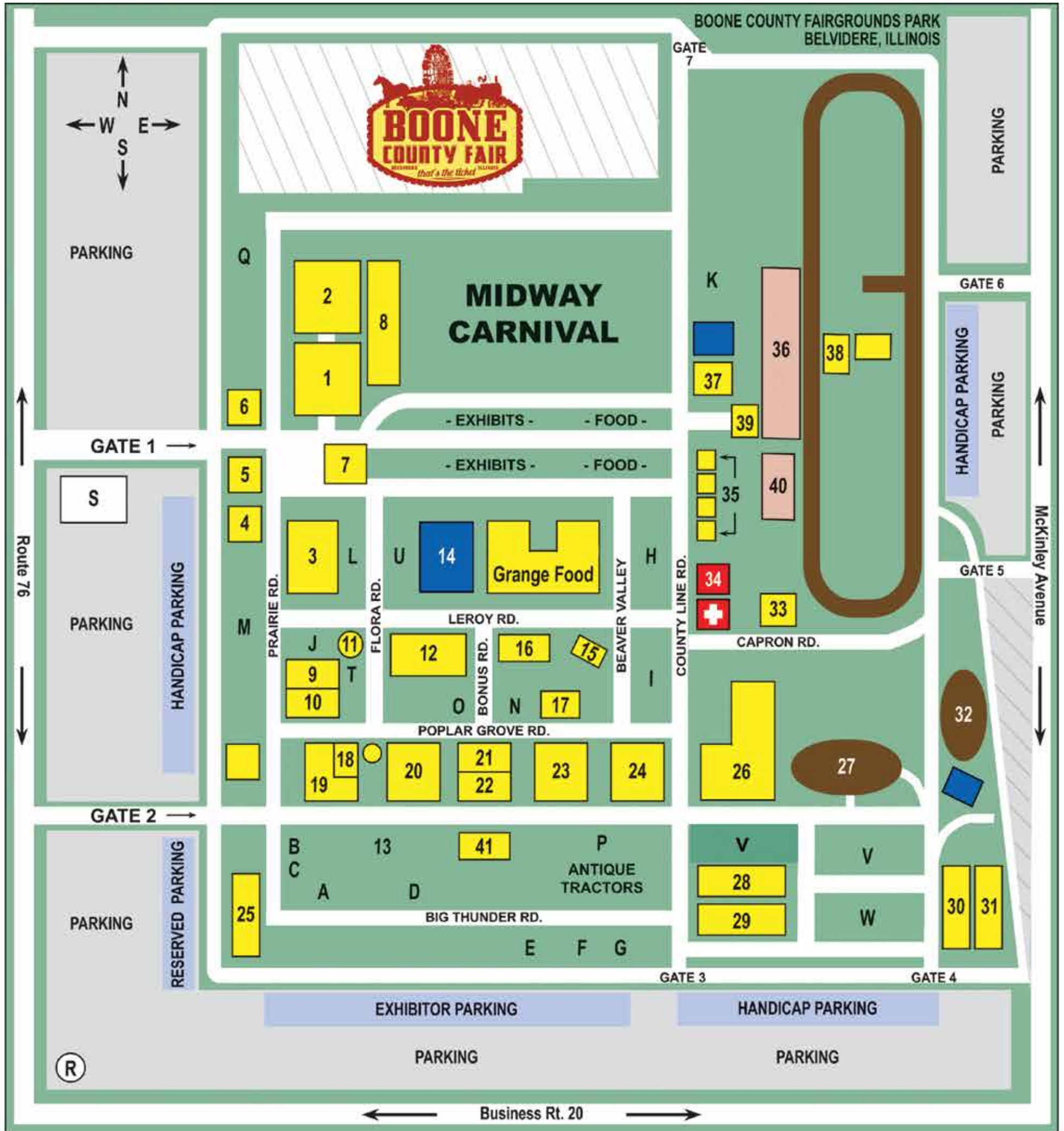
Come See the "JENNY"!

Shuttle To/From Museum
10am - 2pm

**VINTAGE
TRACTOR PULL**

ENGINE SHOP
10 am to 12 pm
OPEN HOUSE

AIRPLANE FLIGHTS
\$40 per person
9 am to 1 pm Weather Permitting



MAP INDEX

- 1. Commercial Exhibit #1
- 2. Commercial Exhibit #2
- 3. Commercial Exhibit #3
- 4. Baked Potatoes
- 5. Main Gate Ticket Office
- 6. Concessions Office
- 7. Ice Cream Stand
- 8. Entertainment Pavilion
- 9. Wee Farm Petting Zoo
- 10. Dairy Show Arena
- 11. Memorial Gazebo
- 12. Non-Livestock Exhibit Hall
- 13. Exhibits
- 14. Main Restrooms
(Others Highlighted in Blue)
- 15. Keen Age Center

- 16. Farm Bureau
- 17. Grange Museum
- 18. Milking Parlor
- 19. Dairy
- 20. Beef
- 21. Livestock Show Arena
- 22. Rabbits
- 23. Sheep
- 24. Swine
- 25. Administration Office
- 26. Horses
- 27. Horse Arena
- 28. Goats
- 29. Poultry
- 30. Ponies
- 31. Ponies
- 32. Pony Arena

- 33. One Room Schoolhouse
- 34. First Aid/County Sheriff
- 35. Food Stands - Donuts, Ice Cream, Sandwiches, Sweet Corn
- 36. Grandstand
- 37. 4-H Food Stand
- 38. Judges Stand
- 39. Grandstand Tickets
- 40. Bleachers
- 41. Cream Puffs
- A. Cincinnati Circus
- B. Zoli's Wood Carving
- C. Glass Blower
- D. Rhinestone Roper
- E. Meat Goats
- F. Pork Chop Revue

- G. Alpacas
- H. Exhibits
- I. Exhibits
- J. Gazebo Park
- K. Kiddie Rides
- L. Exhibits
- M. Exhibits
- N. Exhibits
- O. Exhibits
- P. Exhibits
- Q. Camping
- R. "Babysitter" Sculpture
- S. Community Grange Hall
- T. Mr. D's Magic Show
- U. Exhibits
- V. Camping
- W. Camping