

FREE

Friday • February 12, 2021
Vol. 25, Issue 40 • No. 1288

BOONE COUNTY JOURNAL

LOCAL NEWS, OPINION & HISTORY

Real Journalism for a Real Democracy

 **Subscribe Online**
www.boonecountyjournal.com

Beloit International Film Festival on for 2021

by Charles Herbst

The 16th Annual Beloit International Film Festival will look a little different this year. Taking its cue from the Toronto International Film Festival, BIFF organizers have opted to present an online festival this year.

With the cancellation of the Boone County Fair, Milk Days, indefinite postponement of the Chicago Auto Show and countless other disappointments, it's great to see the show safely go on and offer a break from the humdrum of everyday life.

The Festival has announced its 2021 lineup of about 100 films. Instead of screening them at the usual Downtown Beloit venues, they will be available on demand at the Festival website, www.beloitfilmfest.com. The films can be viewed any time during the festival, which runs from Friday, February 19 through Sunday, February 28.

The number of film festivals has proliferated, and yet Beloit is one of the top 100 festivals worldwide. Fewer than twenty percent of the films submitted to the festival end up making the final cut.

Filmmakers are lavish in their praise for the festival and its hospitality. Several have commented that Beloit audiences are engaged and ask thoughtful questions of them. Too often it seems, film festivals have filmmakers watching each other's films with little other interaction. That's not the case at Beloit, where films often play to a full house, even when additional screenings are offered.

Despite the enthusiastic audiences and popularity, Beloit remains a small, intimate festival held in a small, charming Midwestern city with plenty of restaurants and nightlife, all only 30 minutes away from home. Even the parking is easy.

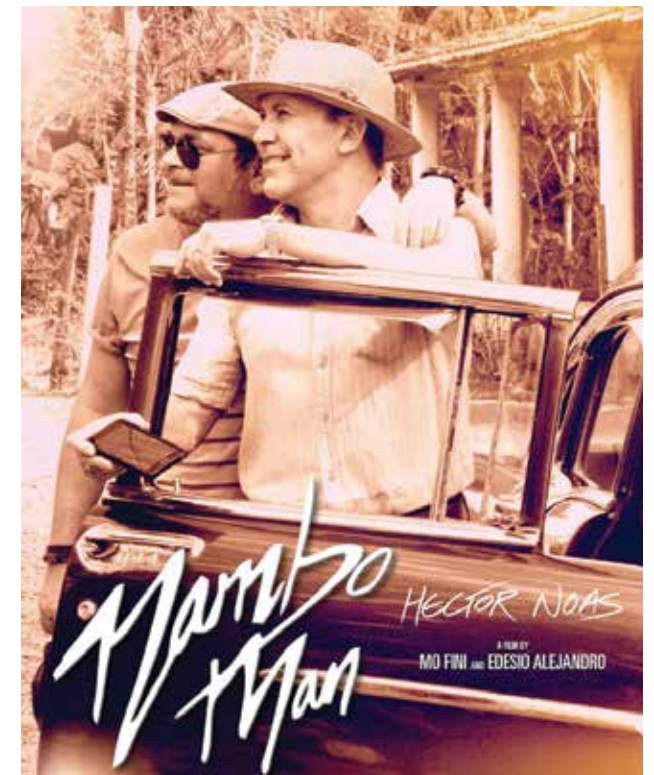
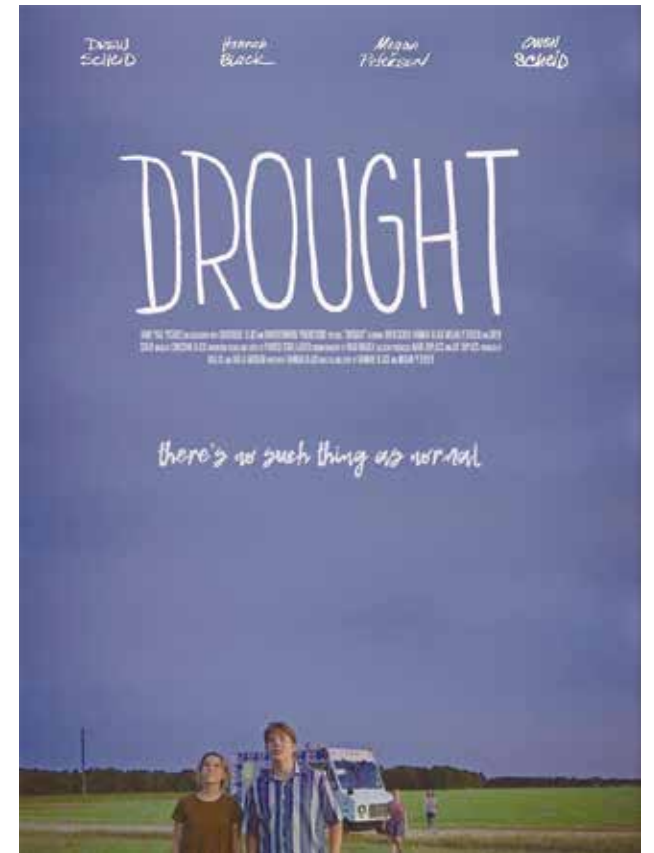
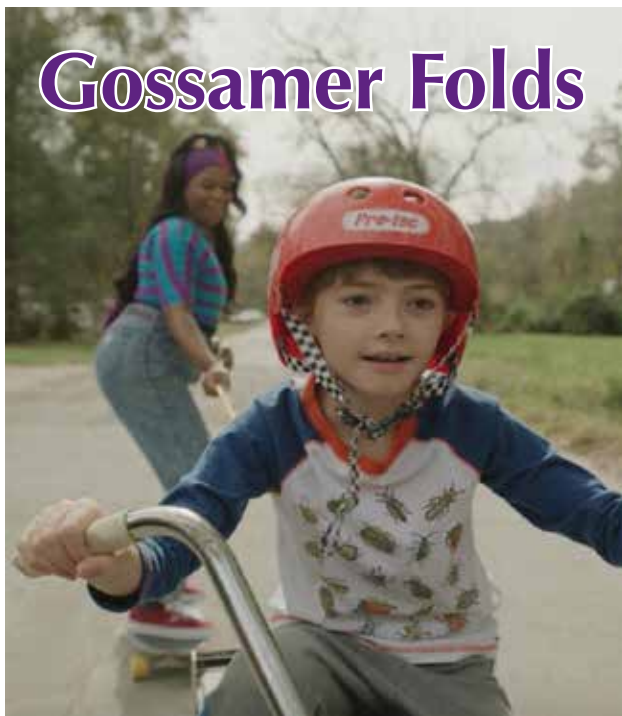
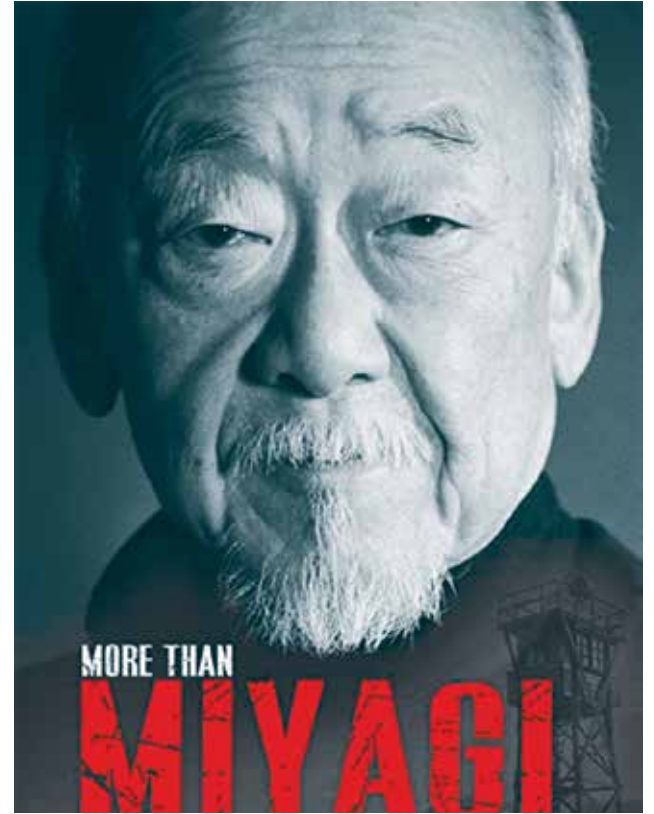
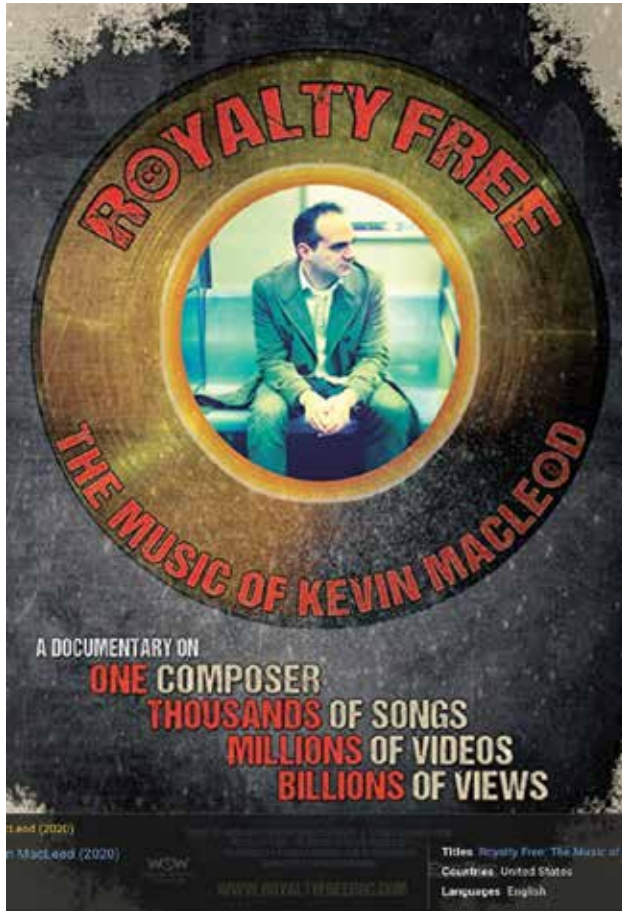
To keep up that collegial Beloit spirit in pandemic times, video conferences with the filmmakers will be available for many films. You can video chat live with the filmmaker and ask questions. You can watch the film at your leisure, but of course you'll want to watch before the filmmaker conference. The full schedule of these meet-the-filmmaker events is published on the website.

How to BIFF 16.

In past years, you bought tickets in advance. This year, instead of advance tickets, you buy tickets when you are ready to see your film. Tickets can be purchased anytime, starting on Friday, February 19. Start by browsing the film index at beloitfilmfest.org. When you choose a film to see, you can head over to Ticket Information. Once there, you'll be prompted to buy a ticket. Each selection is \$10.

Buying your ticket and watching your film should be easy. But if there is a problem, BIFF promises to have plenty of support. There will be a virtual chat help desk, email and phone support. There's also an in-person box office at Irontek, 635 Third Street.

Continued on Page 2



COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

Illinois Tollway Extends Popular Toll Violation Relief Program through June 30, 2021:

The Illinois Tollway is reminding drivers that they have through June 30, 2021 to take advantage of TOLLING 2020 by paying a reduced, \$3.00 fee per toll for passenger vehicles, a savings of 85 percent over the \$20.00 fines previously assessed. Visit www.Illinoistollway.com for more information.

Medicare.gov: As the country begins to distribute COVID-19 vaccines, there's no doubt scammers are already scheming.

Medicare covers the COVID-19 vaccine, so there will be no cost to you. If anyone asks you to share your Medicare Number or pay for access to the vaccine, you can bet it's a scam.

Here's what to know:

- You can't pay to put your name on a list to get the vaccine.
- You can't pay to get early access to a vaccine.
- Don't share your personal or financial information if someone calls, texts, or emails you promising access to the vaccine for a fee.

More Info:

If you come across a COVID-19 vaccine scam, report it to the Federal Trade Commission or call us at 1-800-MEDICARE. And check out CDC.gov for trustworthy information on the COVID-19 vaccine.

Winter Parking Regulations for The Village of Cherry Valley: Winter parking regulations will be in effect for the Village of Cherry Valley, Starting December 29, 2020 at 3 P.M.


Lincoln Presidential Library Joins with State Board of Education for Art Contest.

Continued on Page 4



Burt, Dejay, 28, Belvidere, February 2
Jacobson, Duane "Jake", 84, Belvidere, Feb. 7
Lupo, Jerome "Jerry", 80, Belvidere, February 7





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.



Linda Kay Fowler, 67, of Merrimac, WI, passed away peacefully in the presence of family as she went to be with the Lord on Saturday, February 6, 2021.

Linda was born on February 5, 1954 in Belvidere, IL, daughter of Ralph Gorham and June (Heil) McLean. She graduated from Belvidere High School, Class of 1970. Linda married Patrick Fowler in Rockford, IL on September 29, 2001. He passed away November 28, 2011. Linda worked very hard to take care of her home and was a proud mother of her children. She enjoyed fishing, playing cards and woodworking in her free time. Linda was a member of St. Mary Health of the Sick Parish in Merrimac, WI and St. Rita Catholic Church in Rockford.

Surviving relatives include her children, Cheri (Randy) Wellman, Cyndi (José) Tejada and Julie (Alan) McLain; grandchildren, Alexis, Zack, Megan (Andy), Bradley (Kendra), Scott, Rebecca, Tony, Logan and Micheal; great-grandchildren, Annabelle, Amelia, Charlotte, Adrien and Sean; siblings, Ralph Gorham, Carol Brothers and Cheryl (Paul) Block; numerous nieces and nephews. Linda is predeceased by her parents; husband, Patrick; sister, Joyce Gorham and grandchildren, Travis and David.

A walk-through visitation will be from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at Fitzgerald Funeral Home & Crematory, Mulford Chapel. Celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 11, 2021 at St. Rita Catholic Church, 6254 Valley Knoll Drive, Rockford, IL 61109. Those attending services must wear masks and follow social distancing guidelines. The Funeral Mass may also be viewed via Zoom with ID code: 882-4767-4300 password: 123. Final resting place will be in Calvary Catholic Cemetery, Winnebago, IL. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Linda's name to the Poor Clares of Rockford.

Arrangements entrusted to Fitzgerald Funeral Home & Crematory, 1860 S. Mulford Rd. Rockford, IL 61108. Share online memories and condolences at www.fitzgeraldfh.com

Get instant cash for your **GOLD**



WE PAY HIGHEST PRICES

Belvidere Collectible Coins

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

**WE PAY 10%
MORE THAN ANY
OTHER OFFER!**

Visit us Online at www.goldsilverjewelrycoin.com

Biff

Continued page 1

BIFF Drive-In

One of the great perks of BIFF is the opportunity for a night out on the town. Dinner, a movie, and maybe drinks afterward. That's not completely going away this year. This year you can enjoy some of the BIFF traditions from your car. BIFF is sponsoring five drive-in films this year. And the price—this year all three are free! Bring your own popcorn.

Opening the Drive-In is *Isle of Dogs*, on Friday, February 20 at 6:30PM. An outbreak of dog flu has spread through the city of Megasaki, Japan, and Mayor Kobayashi has demanded all dogs to be sent to Trash Island. On the island, a young boy named Atari sets out to find his lost dog, Spots. The animated film is in English and is rated PG-13.

This year's sing-along film is one of the greatest films of all time, *The Wizard of Oz*. This 1939 musical fantasy is the perfect family picture--Toto, too—and, besides, you already know all the words! *The Wizard of Oz* will be screened on Saturday, February 20 at 6:30PM.


Benny & Joon will be featured Sunday, February 21 at 6:30PM. A mentally ill young woman finds her love in an eccentric man who models himself after Buster Keaton.

This year's silent film is the 1936 comedy *Modern Times*, written, directed and starring Charlie Chaplin as the Little Tramp. *Modern Times* will be screened on Friday, November 26 at 6:30PM.

Commemorating BIFF's 16th anniversary, The First National Bank Classic Film is *Sixteen Candles*, starring Molly Ringwald and directed by John Hughes. Shot mainly in Chicago and Evanston, *Sixteen Candles* will be screened on Saturday, February 27 at 6:30PM.

The drive-in is located at 705 Third Street, which is the north end of the Ironworks Campus adjacent to Stainless Steel Tank & Equipment. Capacity is limited to about 80 vehicles, first-come, first-served. Screening these films is weather dependent and will be rescheduled if necessary.

The Beloit International Film Festival is a great chance to both see and support the work of independent filmmakers with having to travel great distances. It has quickly become an acclaimed, annual tradition in the region. This year, the festival "will make you feel right at home."



time FOR A **change**

LISA HYSER

Now at **changes salon**

1444 North State St., Belvidere
(815)-544-5000

Film Reviews

The 16th Annual Beloit International Film Festival

By Charles Herbst

The festival has about 100 films on offer, and it's often a difficult decision picking which ones to watch. Of the films I've seen, these eight strike me as good picks.

Freeland

Rated PG-13, Directed by Kate McLean and Mario Furloni

Those who survived the sixties and seventies will appreciate the irony of this film. Back then, legalizing pot was a fringe view. Now that weed is legal in Illinois, if not yet in Wisconsin, a new issue has emerged: How does the old guard of long-time growers fit in with the new players in the cannabis trade?

The story takes place in Humboldt County, California, an area well-known and ideally suited for growing marijuana. The scenery and resulting cinematography is beautiful, and a real treat.

Devi (Kristina Fairchild) is silver-haired, old-time marijuana grower who is about to bring in her best-ever crop so it can be transported to Nebraska (where it is still illegal). Growing pot is now legal in California, but as a tightly regulated industry. Harassed by local bureaucrats, Devi tries, but fails to become licensed as a grower. The fines and large investment required to go legal are prohibitive for her. Her Nebraska connection gets wind of her legal troubles and wants no part of her crop. Gradually, Devi's world collapses.

This film leaves you thinking about the cannabis industry and how it should be structured. Does it only belong to young, nimble entrepreneurs or should there be a place at the table for the experienced professionals who took risks and built the business?

The acting in the film is first-rate and Kristina Fairchild has already won best actress accolades at River Run and the Sidewalk Film Festivals. The rest of the cast does not disappoint.

Freeland has won Best Narrative Feature at the Atlanta and Bend Film Festivals and Winner of the New Directors Competition at the Nashville Film Festival as well as several other awards and nominations. It is sure to be in the running here.

Samaritan

United Kingdom. Rated PG-13 Directed by Dustin Curtis Murphy

This dystopic, British narrative film is only twelve minutes long, but tells a story worthy of a full-length feature. Dr. Saeed Ali (Chris Kyriacou) is an immigrant doctor fearing deportation. Prior to living in the city and working at a hospital, he is living off the grid in a woodland. He comes across the body of racist politician, Robert Harrington (Peter Ormond). Dr. Ali treats Harrington and saves his life.

Robert Harrington has a first-class ticket to board Samaritan I, a space station meant to support human life now that Planet Earth has been wasted and is no longer capable of supporting humans. Ungrateful, Harrington tries to leave Ali's cabin and collapses outdoors.

The climate crisis and bigotry directed against Dr. Ali make this apocalyptic film highly topical and relevant to our times. Dustin Curtis Murphy is an award-winning filmmaker with over twenty years' experience in the film industry. Samaritan has already won an Award of Excellence in the drama category at the Southern Shorts Awards, and was a semifinalist at the Academy Award-qualifying Rhode Island International Film Festival.

Samaritan will be shown along with a group of other short films in Short Slot 2.

Royalty Free: The Music of Kevin MacLeod

Rated PG-13, Directed by Ryan Camarda

Green Bay native Kevin MacLeod is one of the most heard composers in the world. Nearly everyone has heard his music but has probably never heard of him.

This documentary tells the story of how MacLeod releases his music for free. All MacLeod asks is that you give credit to his music. If you can't give him credit (such as in a commercial), he will license the music to you for a one-time token payment. It is a strategy that's made him rich and successful. If you have used his free music, he may be the guy you think of when you need paid work.

Free music is a boon for filmmakers and fledgling artists who often can't afford to hire studio musicians or pay a royalty. Many amateur YouTubers and studio filmmakers use his tunes.

MacLeod distributes his music at a website, Incompetech.com. After watching the film, I went over to the website and checked it out. Sure enough, I recognized at least two tunes, one I had heard waiting on hold the previous week. While writing this review, I found myself listening to some of his music online.

The film touches on MacLeod's personal life and discusses the controversy that surrounds MacLeod's distribution model. MacLeod's electronically produced free music is a threat to many studio musicians and their livelihoods. Is this good for the art? Rather dismissively, McLeod

compares his work to what happens to mom-and-pop retailers when Walmart comes to town.

Royalty Free is informative and has a good discussion of the issues and times that the music industry is facing. It is a bit long in spots, but the fascinating subject compensates for the lag.

Drought

Rated PG, Directed by Hannah Black and Megan Petersen

Drought takes place in rural North Carolina in 1993, when the state was experiencing a record dry spell. Estranged older sister Lillian (Megan Petersen) comes by to check on Sam (Hannah Black) and Carl (Owen Scheid), because their Mother Lorraine (Jane McNeill) has been arrested on a marijuana charge and is in jail. Carl is a 17-year-old, autistic young man with a strong interest in meteorology. Carl believes that a storm is imminent and wants to chase it. His sister Sam facilitates that by "borrowing" their Mother Lorraine's ice cream truck for a road trip. Lillian, Sam, Carl, and friend Lewis (Drew Scheid)--who appears not to have much of a family life--ultimately set out together.

Black and Peterson play realistic sisters while doing an out-

standing job of directing this coming-of-age road trip. Family tensions are convincingly portrayed. The cinematography and musical soundtrack are enjoyable. During the trip, the four gradually put aside their differences and become friends. The siblings and Lewis gradually talk out their differences and come to understand each other better.

Drought asks, "What is normal, anyway"?

Drought won the People's Choice Award at the Vail Film Festival.

Gossamer Folds

Rated PG, Directed by Lisa Donato

It's the summer of 1986. Nine-year old Tate (Jackson Robert Scott) moves to the suburbs of Kansas City. Tate, an only child whose constant companion is the dictionary, pronounces the house his parents have just rented "The Amityville Horror." Tate's parents' marriage is breaking up and his father, Billy (Shane West) moves out shortly thereafter.

Next door neighbor Gossamer (Alexendra Grey) is a Black, transgendered, 25-year-old woman, who lives with her retired English teacher, father Edward (Franklin Ojeda Smith). Edward still calls Gossamer "George." Gossamer feels stifled in Kansas City, and dreams of moving to New York.

Gossamer works hard to earn Tate's confidence. Although Tate's parents do not approve of Gossamer and want their son to avoid her, Gossa-

Continued on Page 5



Weddings & Events



Dining on the Terrace



STANCHION PUB HOURS: W-F 11:30 - 8:00 |
 | WEDDINGS+ EVENTS | ARTIST STUDIOS | 4TH FRIDAYS |
 300 W. Front St. Harvard IL | 815-943-4805 | starlinefactory.com

Jeff Carlisle

Running For Mayor

Belvidere is my Hometown


I have a College Degree in electronics and aviation maintenance. My work experience has been in the aerospace industry with AAR at O'Hare as a Project Engineer.

I know what we should be doing in Belvidere
I am asking for your vote in the Feb 23rd Primary

Your current mayor has:

- Increased Several Taxes - (sales & gasoline)
- Turned an Asset into a \$1 million Liability (the Leath building)
- Doesn't understand how to manage the storm sewer problem
- Wants to increase taxes **again** to solve the storm sewer problem
- Has consistently lobbied the council to increase property taxes but failed

Paid for by Jeff Carlisle's campaign fund



Contest Showcases Young Illinois Artists: Illinois children can showcase their artistic talents and consider the importance of art in our lives, thanks to a statewide art contest sponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and the Illinois State Board of Education.

The theme of the contest is “Art Surrounds Us.” Illinois students from kindergarten through high school can let their imaginations run wild to create original works of art reflecting what the theme means to them.

Judging will occur across four levels: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. In each level a winner and three runners-up will be selected, and one piece will be selected as “Best in Show.”

Artwork may be submitted now through Feb. 12. The winners will be announced in conjunction with Illinois Arts Education Week.

Submissions must be 11 inches by 14 inches and two dimensional. They cannot feature copyrighted characters or images. More details are available at bit.ly/ALPLM-ArtContest.

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.

In 2020, eight scholarships totaling \$12,000 were awarded to aviation students in the Northern Illinois area. The information letter and application are on the Museum’s website under the Education.

Online Learning Opportunities from University of Illinois Extension: University of Illinois will be offering webinar learning opportunities from January 26, 2021 through February 9, 2021. For more information, visit extension@illinois.edu

Sock Monkey Making Workshops: Saturday, March 13, 2021. Sessions Begin at 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 2 p.m.

This workshop, facilitated in a small group setting, provides a skilled seamstress giving instruction and assistance as needed to make your handmade sock doll. The session groups are limited in size to accommodate for safe social distancing practices. The workshops are held in the Main Museum Center at Midway Village Museum.

Each group is provided with a set of supplies, and a choice of six colors for your cuddly friend. The colors are pink, blue, yellow, red, brown, and green and are on a first come, first served basis. Basic hand sewing skills are encouraged, but not required and the workshop is recommended for ages 10+.

Registration deadline is 4 pm Thursday, March 11 or until the program is

filled. Register online at www.midwayvillage.com or call 815-397-9112. If you have questions about the workshop, please contact Caitlin Treece, Museum Educator, at 815-397-9112, ext. 106 or educator@midwayvillage.com.

The museum is required to follow State of Illinois mandates regarding COVID-19 at the time of the workshop and masks are required on the museum campus by all visitors and staff. The

Turfgrass, Ornamentals Pesticide Applicator Certification Open Online:

Illinois pesticide applicators needing to complete the turfgrass and ornamentals category certifications can now access the online training courses to prepare for the exams. University of Illinois Extension is offering each course for \$25, with unlimited access to course material during a 30-day window.

The course topics cover integrated pest management, weed pests, insect pests, plant diseases, and application equipment and calibration. Short videos are followed by knowledge-check questions to help determine an applicator’s readiness to be successful during the exam.

To register or view a list of additional training courses, visit Illinois PSEP’s Training and Testing. If you will need an accommodation in order to participate, please email uie-psep@illinois.edu. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your access needs.

Appearing Live Online for Dekalb Public Library Concert: Barb Sorensen presents: “Farm Art Concert” February 13, 2021 at 2:00 P.M. Preregistration is required on the Library website to access the concert. Read more about the concert at <https://tinyurl.com/bsfarmart>

Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden Announces New Participation In “Museums for All” Initiative: Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden is excited to announce that the organization has joined the Museums for All program beginning in 2021. Museums For All is a national cooperative initiative between the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Association of Children’s Museums (ACM) that encourages individuals of all backgrounds to visit museums regularly and build lifelong museum habits by offering free or reduced admission to participating museums.

For more information about Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden’s implementation of Museums For All admission for EBT card-carrying individuals, visit www.klehm.org/museums-for-all/.

Proposed House Rules Add Speaker Term Limits, Remote Committee Meetings

House Rules Committee meets Wednesday to vote on proposal

by Sarah Mansur Capitol News Illinois

When Emanuel “Chris” Welch was elected House Speaker last month, he stated his intention to revise the rules that govern committees and the procedures for conducting business in the Illinois House of Representatives, including those pertaining to the introduction of new bills.

“We’re being sincere in taking a quick, hard examination on these rules,” Welch, D-Hillside, said in an interview with Capitol News Illinois this month, suggesting his willingness to amend the rules, unlike his predecessor, former Speaker Michael Madigan.

Proposed changes to the House rules, which were posted online Monday, will come before the Rules Committee for a vote when the committee convenes in the Capitol on Wednesday morning.

Capitol News Illinois compiled some of the significant amendments made to the House Rules below.

Leader term limits

Madigan earned the distinction as the longest serving House speaker in any state legislature in the country. Madigan’s more than four decade-long tenure as speaker was due in part to the fact that the House rules did not place any limit on the number of terms a speaker could serve.

Under the new proposed rules, no member would be allowed serve as speaker or leader of the minority party for more than five General Assemblies. Since each General Assembly spans a two-year period, any future

House Speaker or Minority Leader would be limited to a 10-year term.

The new proposed rules would allow for Madigan to serve another decade because the rules exclude a member’s years of service as speaker that occurred before the current General Assembly. The term limits for speaker and minority leader can be lifted by a vote of 71 members.

Remote legislating

The proposed rules would allow for House committees or task forces to meet remotely by video technology, “in the case of pestilence or public danger.” Remote committees are currently allowed in the Senate, but the House failed to pass a measure during the lame duck session in January that would have permitted it for substantive action in the full chamber.

Under the new proposed rules, action taken by members remotely during committee or task force meetings will “have the same legal effect as if the member were physically present when the action is taken.”

The technology used for remote meetings must be adequate to at least identify members who are participating, allow for the public — including the media — to hear and view each member and witness participating, and allow for witnesses to testify.

Special investigating committee

House rules permit members to create a “special investigative committee” that could lead to disciplinary actions against a House member who is the subject of the committee’s investigation.

Most recently, Republicans launched a special committee investigation into Madigan after federal prosecutors revealed that utility giant Commonwealth Edison admitted its executives were bribing associates of Madigan in order to ensure legislation favorable to the company.

In that case, Minority Leader Jim Durkin, R-Western Springs, initiated the petition that created a special investigating committee against Madigan.

After the committee was formed, Madigan recused himself and allowed Rep. Greg Harris, D-Chicago, to select the Democratic members of the committee. Ultimately, Welch, who chaired the committee, and the two other Democrats on the committee voted to end the committee’s work without disciplining Madigan.

The proposed rules would formalize the speaker’s recusal from a special investigating committee if the speaker is the subject of the investigation, as Madigan was.

They require the speaker or minority leader — if that person is a petitioner or subject of the petition — to designate the highest ranking member of their caucus to perform the duties and powers of speaker or minority leader with respect to the special investigative committee.

Under the proposed rules, the chairperson of the special investigative committee can establish procedural rules as long as they don’t conflict with the general House rules. Those procedural rules would then be filed with the House clerk and provided to each committee member and the petitioner.

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



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

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

Sales Service

815-608-1173 815-282-4002

Films*Continued from page 3*

mer and Tate become chums. A babysitting emergency forces Tate's Mother, Frannie (Sprague Grayden) to ask Edward and Gossamer to watch Tate while Frannie is at work.

The central theme of this film is the heart-warming friendship between Tate and Gossamer. Tate has no concept of Gossamer as anything but a woman and bears no stereotypes or prejudices. Everyone in the film has a personal struggle and together, Edward, Gossamer, Frannie and Tate all work through them.

We Left As Brothers*Rated PG-13, Directed by Evan Mulgrave*

Fifty years later, six veterans return to Vietnam. Each had fought the war in a different place. As individuals, the group of returning veterans felt that they had not been able to talk about their experiences for years or even decades after their service. Each of them wanted to tell their stories and what it felt like to return to those spots fifty years later.

The veterans found a changed Vietnam, one that had moved on and did not harbor a malice to them or other Americans. In many cases, the returning Americans found Vietnamese who welcomed them to their country. Several of the people they met had wartime experiences or had learned of the war from the experience of family members.

This documentary shows how Vietnam has evolved into a modern nation and is an interesting epilogue for those of the Vietnam War Era. It also offers an interesting perspective and explanation for subsequent generations of the process of coming to grips with the Vietnam experience in an objective and reasoned way.

More Than Miyagi*Rated PG-13, Directed by Kevin Derek*

Actor Pat Morita had a diverse, interesting career, and this feature-length documentary does a great job of covering both the highs and the lows.

Morita had spinal tuberculosis as a child and was not expected to ever be able to walk. He spent much of his early life in hospitals and, when released, joined his family in a Japanese internment camp in Arizona. After the war, the family returned to the Bay Area. Morita worked several other jobs before trying stand-up comedy full time. He became acquainted with Red Foxx, who gave him a role in *Sanford and Son*, which ultimately led to playing Arnold, owner of Arnold's Diner in the television show *Happy Days*.

His most famous role was that of Mr. Miyagi, the patient karate teacher who taught Daniel (Ralph Macchio) to defend himself against bullies in the 1984 film *The Karate Kid*. Initially, producer Jerry Weintraub did not want to cast Morita, looking for a more "serious" actor. For his role in *The Karate Kid*, Morita was nominated for an Oscar as Best Supporting Actor. Morita went on to make several more films in the *Karate Kid* franchise and had a long filmography of other television and motion picture credits.

More Than Miyagi tells an interesting story and describes Morita's personal struggles as well as his successes. Beyond the many film excerpts, more than a dozen actors who worked with Morita contribute their perspective to the narrative. The film is well-paced, good storytelling, and is enjoyable to watch.

Mambo Man*Cuba. Spanish with Subtitles. Rated G, Directed by Edesio Alejandro and Mo Fini*

A Cuban farmer and music promoter, JC (Hector Noas) decides to invest in a deal that's too good to be true, with predictable consequences. While the storyline is a bit thin, the film is believable, well-acted and well-produced.

What makes this film special is cinematography illustrating not the usual threadbare scenes of Havana, but the lush beauty of Eastern Cuba. It presents a realistic view and the struggles of ev-

eryday life. JC entertains foreign tourists at his farm in style and has outstanding musicians in attendance. A road trip provides additional sights and scenery.

A special treat is the soundtrack. Many live performances in this film feature the same legendary Cuban musicians who appeared in the hit film *Buena Vista Social Club*.

Mambo Man has won numerous awards including Best Picture at the Ciudad de Mexico International Film Festival, Continental Film Festival, and Florence Film Awards; Best Original Song at the Hollywood Gold Awards; and Best Cinematography at the Anatolia Film Festival.

Be sure to enjoy this one with some good rum.

OP-ED

Welch's Ascension Provides Golden Opportunity to Change House Rules for the Better

by Roger Eddy

Very seldom does any one individual have the type of golden opportunity that recently elected Illinois House Speaker Chris Welch has been presented.

The story is stale now as to how the longest serving speaker in the history of the United States, Michael Madigan, lost his grip on the gavel here in Illinois. Madigan has been a member of the Illinois House since 1971, and for all but two years since 1983, the 78-year-old was speaker of the Illinois House. In 1995-96, Republican Lee Daniels managed to wrestle the gavel away.

It was during those two years of GOP control that the House adopted rules which provided the speaker with immeasurable power. In fact, House rules passed during the two years that Madigan was not speaker started the slide to what has become almost one-person rule. It was a slippery slope resulting in democracy being replaced with autocratic rule.

During the time I was a member of the Illinois House, I watched as these rules stymied attempts by legislators of both parties from moving proposals forward. Currently, House rules provide the speaker with the authority to assign a majority of committee seats to members of the majority party. Committee members then serve at the pleasure of the speaker and can be removed or substituted at any time.

The most critical committee a legislator can be assigned to is the Rules Committee. When a bill is filed by a representative, the legislative proposal goes to the Rules Committee for consideration. This committee either assigns the proposal to another standing committee, or it remains in Rules Committee. There is no other real avenue for the bill to move forward. A representative can move to discharge a bill from Rules Committee. However, the vote for the discharge motion to pass requires unanimous consent.

That is a high hurdle since the speaker is also a House member and can simply vote "no." Amendments can be filed to each bill as the proposed legislation moves through the process. However, amendments are also initially assigned to the Rules Committee. Because the speaker assigns a majority of members to the Rules Committee, this allows for absolute control.

So far, Chris Welch has talked like someone who is open to changing some House rules. I hope so. All too often when all is said and done, there is more said than done. This opportunity is critical and too rare for mere lip service.

Changing the rule regarding discharging proposals from Rules Committee would be a good start. I am not suggesting that every bill should be sent to the House floor for consideration. There are thousands of bills filed every year and there is no way all of these proposals could be heard. However, a rule could be adopted allowing for any measure that has enough co-sponsors to be discharged to either the House floor or standing committee. If a majority of the House members (60) co-sponsored a bill, it would go to the House floor. The proposal would be released to a standing committee if a reasonable number of House members (40) co-sponsored the proposal.

How about a rule change that requires the final version of the Illinois budget to be on display for at least 72 hours? I was a school superintendent for 17 years and our local school district's budget was required to be on display for 30 days. Further, any proposal, in a final form should be held for at least 24 hours before a final vote. Amendments that are hundreds of pages long are filed on bills and dumped on the desk (laptop) of lawmakers to vote on without proper time to study the final version. Even worse is that citizens represented by the lawmaker do not have time to contact their elected officials to weigh in. Unintended consequences could be avoided if more time were taken to study final versions.

These are just two examples of potential changes. There are many more rule changes which would turn Illinois around and restore confidence in our state government. You might want to let Speaker Welch know your thoughts. Contact information is located at www.ilga.gov under House members. Let's not miss this golden opportunity.

Roger Eddy is a retired member of the Illinois House and served on the Special Investigative Committee on the impeachment of Rod Blagojevich. He served the 109th District as a Republican from 2003 to 2012. Recently, he authored a book highlighting the impeachment of Blagojevich. The book, "A Front Row Seat - The Impeachment of Rod Blagojevich," is available from Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

File your tax return with confidence.

Looking for someone with experience that you can trust?



It can be hard to find the right person. Someone who understands your needs and can deliver.

I've worked with hundreds of families and closely-held businesses, including farms. I understand your situation. I've practiced tax law for over 25 years. I have an advanced tax law degree. I've worked for a big four accounting firm, been on the staff of a major tax publisher and served as the tax research director for a major consulting company.

My overhead is low, and my rates are competitive and reasonable. Most of all, returns are prepared in the privacy of an attorney's office, with the confidentiality that only an attorney can provide. No fishbowl atmosphere, flimsy partitions, overheard conversations or prying eyes. Hours are strictly by appointment, so you won't be kept waiting.

If this sounds like what you need, please call me for an appointment.



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

Belvidere and Rockford • 815 484 9482 • taxviking.com

LEGAL NOTICES

Public Notice:

Early Voting for the February 23, 2021 Consolidated Primary Election will begin on Thursday, January 14, 2021 and end February 22, 2021. This Primary Election is City of Belvidere Mayor, City of Belvidere Clerk, Alderperson in Wards 2 and 3 and Belvidere Township Trustees. There are no Democratic candidates running for this office, so this will be a Republican Primary only. Early Voting for Boone County residents will be conducted at the Boone County Clerk's Office, 1212 Logan Ave, Suite 103, Belvidere, IL 61008. The office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30AM to 5:00PM. The office will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 18, 2021 and again on February 15, 2021 in observance of President's Day. The office will also be open on Saturday, February 20, 2021 from 9:00AM to 12:00PM

For more information about Early Voting please contact the Boone County Clerk's Office at 815-544-3103.

Julie A. Bliss
Boone County Clerk & Recorder
Published in the Boone County Journal Jan 1 thru Feb 19, 2021

**REPUBLICAN SPECIMEN BALLOT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
CONSOLIDATED PRIMARY ELECTION
FEBRUARY 23, 2021**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS SPECIMEN BALLOT IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE OFFICES AND CANDIDATES TO BE VOTED IN THE CONSOLIDATED PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD IN BOONE COUNTY ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021.

Julie A. Bliss

JULIE A. BLISS, COUNTY CLERK
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

CITY OF BELVIDERE
FOR MAYOR
(VOTE FOR ONE)
<input type="radio"/> MIKE CHAMBERLAIN
<input type="radio"/> JEFFREY S. CARLISLE
FOR CITY CLERK
(VOTE FOR ONE)
<input type="radio"/> SARAH TURNIPSEED
<input type="radio"/> JOANNE (JOSIE) RILEY
FOR ALDERMAN WARD TWO
(VOTE FOR ONE)
<input type="radio"/> NATALIE MULHALL
<input type="radio"/> DANIEL N. AREVALO
FOR ALDERMAN WARD THREE
(VOTE FOR ONE)
<input type="radio"/> SHERYL PRATHER
<input type="radio"/> DANIEL HULINA
BELVIDERE TOWNSHIP
FOR TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE
(VOTE FOR FOUR)
<input type="radio"/> KATHY L. GROVER
<input type="radio"/> JIM CULVEY
<input type="radio"/> BERNARD O'MALLEY
<input type="radio"/> RICHARD H. NELSON
<input type="radio"/> ROBERT E. TURNER

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF BOONE - BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS
NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC DBA MR. COOPER; Plaintiff,
vs. 20 ch 24
VICTORIA VETTER AKA VICTORIA S. VETTER; Defendants,
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Thursday, March 4, 2021, at the hour of 12:15 p.m. inside the front entrance of the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

Commencing in the highway and thirteen rods South of the Northeast Quarter of Section Number Ten in Township No. Forty-five North, Range Number Four East of the Third Principal Meridian and running thence as follows, to-wit; West in a direct line twenty rods; thence South four rods; thence East Twenty rods; thence North four rods to the place beginning, situated in Boone County, Illinois.

Commonly known as 120 North Wooster Street, Capron, IL 61012. P.I.N. 04-10-226-008.

The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act.

Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds.

The property will NOT be open for inspection.
For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Manley Deas Kochalski, LLC, One East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60601. (614) 220-5611. 20-004264 F2

INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
intercountyjudicialsales.com
13163027
Published in Boone County Journal 1/29, 2/5, 2/12

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF BOONE - IN PROBATE
In the Matter of the Estate of THEO L. HILDEBRAND, Deceased.
No. 2021-P-2

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION-WILL AND CLAIMS

NOTICE is given of the death of Theo L. Hildebrand on December 7, 2020. Letters of Office were issued on January 11, 2021, to Julie Anderson, who is the legal representative of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Attorney Charles G. Popp, P.C., 215 South State Street, Belvidere, Illinois.

Claims against the estate may be filed on or before September 1, 2021, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by 755 ILCS 5/18-3, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk--Probate Division at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, 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/her attorney within ten days after it has been filed.
Published in Boone County Journal 1/29, 2/5, 2/12

**NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO SELL VILLAGE OF POPLAR GROVE,
ILLINOIS OWNED REAL ESTATE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village of Poplar Grove, Illinois ("Village") proposes and intends to sell the following Village owned real estate, commonly known as 100 East Street, Poplar Grove, IL with PIN 04-19-153-011:

A PORTION OF LOT 1 IN EDENFRUIT, A SUBDIVISION OF A PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 19, TOWNSHIP 45 NORTH, RANGE 4 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 2001R02233 ON MARCH 14TH, 2001 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY ILLINOIS, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 1, THENCE N 00° 07' 47" E, ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID LOT 1, 43.95 FEET; THENCE DEPARTING SAID WEST LINE, S 89° 24' 04" E, PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT 1, 97.71 FEET; THENCE S 00° 07' 47" W, PARALLEL WITH SAID WEST LINE, 43.95 FEET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT 1; THENCE N 89° 24' 04" W ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE, 97.71 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, SITUATED IN THE VILLAGE OF POPLAR GROVE, BOONE COUNTY, STATE OF ILLINOIS.;

The Village is hereby accepting sealed written bids for the purchase of the above-listed property. All bids should contain the name of the bidder and the bid price for the property. All bids should be placed and sealed in an envelope addressed to: Village of Poplar Grove, Attn: Village Clerk, 200 N. Hill Street, Poplar Grove, IL 61065. The front of the envelope should also include a reference to which property the particular bid is regarding.

All properties are being sold in "AS IS/WHERE IS" condition with payment by the successful bidder due in full at the time of closing. Any title insurance desired by successful bidder shall be at successful bidder's expense. The successful bidder shall enter into a real estate contract with the Village setting forth all the terms of the sale of the real estate.

The Village will open all bids during the regularly scheduled Village Board meeting held on March 17, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall, 200 N. Hill Street, Poplar Grove, IL 61065. In order to be considered, a bid must be received by the Village by no later than 4:00 p.m. on March 17, 2021. Any bid which is not received by the Village by said deadline shall not be considered by the Village.

The Village may accept the high bid or any other bid determined to be in the best interest of the Village. The Village may also reject any and all bids. Any questions regarding submittal of bids should be directed to the Village Clerk, 815-765-3201.

/s/ Karri Anderberg, Village Clerk
Published in The Boone County Journal Feb 12, 19, 26

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

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
In The Interest of: Amir Price, minor
No. 18-JA-11

William Price/ To whom it may concern/All unknown natural Fathers
ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Take notice that on September 7, 2018, 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 Amir Price, minor; and that in the County Courthouse in Belvidere, Illinois, at 2:30 P.M. central daylight time on 3/25/2021 & 6/17/2021; or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an adjudicatory 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: January 25, 2021,
Linda J. Anderson, Circuit Clerk
Published in The Boone County Journal; February 5, 12, 19 - C

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

In The Interest of: Rowan Larson, minor No. 21-JA-02
Dylan Ruckert/ To whom it may concern/All unknown natural Fathers
ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Take notice that on January 7, 2021, 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 Rowan Larson, minor; and that in the County Courthouse in Belvidere, Illinois, at 2:30 P.M. central daylight time on 3/11/2021 & 4/22/2021; or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an adjudicatory 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 2, 2021, Linda J. Anderson, Circuit Clerk
Published in The Boone County Journal; February 12, 19, 26 - C

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

DATE: February 10, 2021
PROJECT: tennis court renovations rebid for Belvidere CUSD #100
locations: Belvidere High School
1500 East avenue
Belvidere, Illinois 61008
Belvidere South Middle School
919 E. 6th Street
Belvidere, Illinois 61008
Belvidere Central Middle School
8787 Beloit road
Belvidere, Illinois 61008
OWNER: Belvidere Community Unit School District #100
1201 5th Avenue
Belvidere, Illinois 61008
ARCHITECT: OLLMANN ERNEST MARTIN
ARCHITECTS
200 SOUTH STATE STREET
BELVIDERE, Illinois 61008
Tel: 815/ 544-7790

SCOPE: separate Bids for EACH SCHOOL LOCATION INCLUDING ALL WORK INDICATED FOR THAT LOCATION. bidders may submit bids for one or more school locations. contracts may be awarded for one or more school locations.

DATE DUE: Sealed bids will be received UNTIL 10:00 am CDT on Friday, February 26, 2021 at belvidere CUSD #100 office at 1201 5th avenue, belvidere, illinois and will be publicly opened and read aloud at that time.

PRE-BID MEETINGS: PROSPECTIVE general Contractors AND SUBCONTRACTORS ARE invited to ATTEND a pre-bid meeting held at 9:00 a.M. CDT, Friday, February 19, 2020 beginning AT belvidere central middle high school tennis courts, and proceeding, in order, to belvidere south middle school and Belvidere high school. thirty (30) MINUTES WILL BE SPENT AT EACH SCHOOL.

SITE INSPECTION: all PROSPECTIVE general Contractors ARE required to INSPECT the existing conditions at the project site, prior to submitting a bid. Prospective general contractors and subcontractors will have an opportunity to inspect the sites at the time of the pre-bid meeting. Owner's contact for scheduling additional site visits will be given at the pre-bid meeting. All questions are to be processed through the Architect for possible inclusion in addenda.

ACCESS TO BIDDING: Bidding Documents are on file for reference at the

DOCUMENTS: following locations:
office of the owner Belvidere, IL
Office of the Architect Belvidere, IL
NIBCA Rockford, IL

Bidding Documents may be secured from THE OFFICE OF:
DG PRINTING OF ROCKFORD, LLC
728 n. PROSPECT STREET, SUITE 109
Rockford, Illinois 61107
PH: 815-961-0000
EMAIL: print@dgdprinting.com
WEBSITE: www.dgdplanroom.com

BIDDING DOCUMENTS: Prospective General Contractors may receive a PDF copy of the bidding documents from the Printer. Bidders should be aware the Printer may charge a fee to download and/or provide PDFs on CD. PDF files are made available to bidders for the purpose of making reproductions pursuant to Specification Section 000114 "Ownership and Use of Instruments of Service". Bidders may purchase hard copies of the bidding documents directly from the printer at the printer's standard charge FOR handling and printing.

BID FORM: Bids shall be submitted in hard copy in duplicate on forms issued by Architect.

BID SECURITY: Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of at least 5% of the total amount of the base bid and all additive alternate bids. This may be in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or bid bond, payable to the Owner as a guarantee that, should the bidder be awarded the Work, the bidder will enter into a contract with the Owner and will furnish the proper performance and payment bond within the time limit set by the Owner. Bid securities will be returned to all other bidders when the successful bidder files a proper performance and payment bond and the contract is executed by the Owner. If the successful bidder fails to file such contract and performance and payment bond, the amount of his bid security shall be forfeited to the Owner as liquidated damages.

PAYMENT BONDS: Performance and performance and payment bonds will be required.

WAGE RULES: each craft, type of worker and mechanic needed to execute the contract shall be paid the prevailing wage rate for the locality in which the work is performed, in accordance with all federal laws and laws of the state as well as local ordinances and regulations applicable to the work hereunder and having force of law.

TAXES: Belvidere Community School District #100 is a tax exempt entity.

RIGHTS RESERVED BY OWNER: THE OWNER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO WAIVE any irregularities and/ OR REJECT ANY or all bids when, in the opinion of the Owner, such action will serve the best interests of the Owner.

WITHDRAWAL OF BIDS: No bid may be withdrawn for a PERIOD of 60 days after the OPENING OF BIDS WITHOUT WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE OWNER.

BY THE ORDER OF Belvidere Community Unit School District #100 Board.
Published in The Boone County Journal Feb 12, 2021

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF BOONE - IN PROBATE
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF TROY K. RISK, Deceased
PROBATE No. 2021-P-7**

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of TROY K RISK, of Belvidere, Illinois. Letters of office were issued on February 1, 2021, to KYLIE RISK, Administrator, who is the legal representative of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Attorney CHERYL RUSSELL-SMITH, Law Office of Cheryl Russell-Smith, 519 South Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk-Probate Division at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, IL 61008, or with the legal

representatives, or both, on or before August 12, 2021, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by 755 ILCS 5/18-3, whichever date is later.

Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Attorney for the Estate, within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

KYLIE RISK, Administrator
Cheryl Russell-Smith, Attorney for Estate, 519 South Main Street, Belvidere, IL 61008 (815) 544-0911
Published in the Boone County Journal 02/12, 19, 26

FORECLOSURES

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

Reverse Mortgage Funding, LLC, Plaintiff,
Vs. 19 CH 85
Walter F. Gorham, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Jason Gorham, Unknown Heirs And Legatees of Walter F. Gorham, Donald Gorham, Douglas Gorham, Regina Gorham, Kirsten Gyorkos, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Monika Olmstead, Janice Ziebka, Defendants.

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU: UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF WALTER F. GORHAM UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

That this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit:

A LOT OF LOAN FRONTING 4 RODS WIDE ON THE SOUTHERLY SIDE OF MADISON STREET AND RUNNING BACK ABOUT 8 RODS AND 5 FEET; BEING A PART OF LOT 6 IN ASSESSOR'S ADDITION TO BELVIDERE AS PLATTED AND RECORDED IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF SAID BOONE COUNTY IN BOOK 33 OF DEEDS, ON PAGE 551, IN THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 3, EAST OF THE 3RD P.M., BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING ON THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF EAST MADISON STREET AS EXTENDED FROM THE ORIGINAL TOWN OF BELVIDERE, 4 RODS NORTHEASTERLY FROM THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 6 IN SAID ASSESSOR'S ADDITION AND RUNNING THENCE ON SAID MADISON STREET LINE NORTHEASTERLY 4 RODS; THENCE PARALLEL WITH SAID WESTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 6 IN SAID ASSESSOR'S ADDITION SOUTHEASTERLY ABOUT 8 RODS AND 5 FEET TO A POINT MIDWAY BETWEEN SAID LINE OF MADISON STREET AND THE NORTHERLY LINE OF HURLBUT AVENUE EXTENDED FROM WHAT WAS FORMERLY CALLED EAST STREET IN CERTAIN ADDITIONS TO BELVIDERE; THENCE PARALLEL WITH SAID LINE OF MADISON STREET AND MIDWAY BETWEEN SAID STREET LINES SOUTHWESTERLY 4 RODS; THENCE NORTHWESTERLY DIRECTLY TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, SITUATED IN THE CITY OF BELVIDERE, IN BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, WITH ALL ALLEY RIGHTS APPERTAINING FROM THE REAR OF SAID LOT AND SUBJECT TO ALL ALLEY RIGHTS ACROSS THE REAR FIVE FEET OF SAID LOT NOW EXISTING IN FAVOR OF ADJOINING OWNERS OR LOTS, OR THE PUBLIC.

ALL SITUATED IN BOONE COUNTY IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS. COMMONLY KNOWN AS 811 E. MADISON ST, BELVIDERE, IL 61008

PIN # 05-25-153-007
and which said Mortgage was made by:
WALTER F. GORHAM, A SINGLE PERSON, the Mortgagee(s), to Challenge Financial Investors Corp DBA CFIC Home Mortgage as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of BOONE County, IL, as Document No. 2007R10277; and for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as provided by law and that the said suit is now pending.

NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Clerk of this Court, on or before March 8, 2021, A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. 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 [HYPERLINK "http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp"](http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp) www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp.

Potestivo & Associates, P.C.
223 W Jackson Blvd., Suite 610
Chicago, IL 60606

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act you are advised that this law firm is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Our File No.: 310137
I3163644
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 5, 12, 19/2021

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

SPECIALIZED LOAN SERVICING LLC, Plaintiff,
-v.- 19 CH 74
BRUCE BIANCALANA AKA BRUCE J. BIANCALANA AS TRUSTEE OF THE DENI M. BIANCALANA AKA DENI BIANCALANA LIVING TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, 2013, UNKNOWN BENEFICIARIES OF THE DENI M. BIANCALANA AKA DENI BIANCALANA LIVING TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, 2013, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on November 19, 2019, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on March 9, 2021, 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:

PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (1/4) OF SECTION NINE (9), TOWNSHIP FORTY-THREE (43) NORTH, RANGE THREE (3) EAST OF THE THIRD (3RD) PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (1/4) OF SAID SECTION; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 03 MINUTES 38 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE EAST LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (1/4) OF SAID SECTION, 610.76 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 15 MINUTES 50 SECONDS WEST, PARALLEL WITH THE NORTH LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (1/4) OF SAID SECTION, 377.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 03 MINUTES 38 SECONDS WEST, PARALLEL WITH THE EAST LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (1/4) OF SAID SECTION, 610.76 FEET TO THE NORTH LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 15 MINUTES 50 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (1/4) OF SAID SECTION, 377.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS

Commonly known as 2349 GRAHAM ROAD, BELVIDERE, IL 61008
Property Index No. 07-09-100-008

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.
The judgment amount was \$166,202.11.

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 admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, or a 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 and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). In accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(h-1) and (h-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the property, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subsections (g)(1) and (g)(4) of section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act.

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 department, Diaz Anselmo Lindberg, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 1771 W. Diehl Road, Suite 120, NAPERVILLE, IL, 60563 (630) 453-6960 For bidding instructions, visit www.anselmolindberg.com. Please refer to file number F19040241.

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.

Diaz Anselmo Lindberg, LLC
1771 W. Diehl Road, Suite 120
NAPERVILLE IL, 60563
630-453-6960

E-Mail: ilpleadings@dallegal.com
Attorney File No. F19040241
Attorney ARDC No. 3126232
Case Number: 19 CH 74
TJSC#: 41-135

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 5, 12,19

REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF BOONE - BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS
NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC DBA MR. COOPER; Plaintiff,
vs. 20 ch 24
VICTORIA VETTER AKA VICTORIA S. VETTER; Defendants,
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Thursday, March 4, 2021, at the hour of 12:15 p.m. inside the front entrance of the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

Commonly known as 120 North Wooster Street, Capron, IL 61012.
P.I.N. 04-10-226-008.

The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act.

Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds.

The property will NOT be open for inspection.
For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Manley Deas Kochalski, LLC, One East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60601. (614) 220-5611. 20-004264 F2

INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
intercountyjudicialsales.com
I3163027
Published in Boone County Journal 1/29, 2/5, 2/12

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
SPECIALIZED LOAN SERVICING LLC, Plaintiff,
-v.- 19 CH 74
BRUCE BIANCALANA AKA BRUCE J. BIANCALANA AS TRUSTEE OF THE DENI M. BIANCALANA AKA DENI BIANCALANA LIVING TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, 2013, UNKNOWN BENEFICIARIES OF THE DENI M. BIANCALANA AKA DENI BIANCALANA LIVING TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, 2013, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on November 19, 2019, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on March 9, 2021, 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 2349 GRAHAM ROAD, BELVIDERE, IL 61008
Property Index No. 07-09-100-008

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.
The judgment amount was \$166,202.11.

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 admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, or a 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 and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). In accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(h-1) and (h-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the property, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subsections (g)(1) and (g)(4) of section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act.

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 department, Diaz Anselmo Lindberg, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 1771 W. Diehl Road, Suite 120, NAPERVILLE, IL, 60563 (630) 453-6960 For bidding instructions, visit www.anselmolindberg.com. Please refer to file number F19040241.

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.

Diaz Anselmo Lindberg, LLC
1771 W. Diehl Road, Suite 120
NAPERVILLE IL, 60563
630-453-6960

E-Mail: ilpleadings@dallegal.com
Attorney File No. F19040241
Attorney ARDC No. 3126232
Case Number: 19 CH 74
TJSC#: 41-135

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 5, 12,19

Interested in
Boone County?

Don't Miss the News

**The Boone County
Journal**

ONLINE \$12.99 A YEAR

Includes Searchable Archive
www.boonecountyjournal.com

ASSUMED NAMES

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE
This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a contracting engineering service design business in said County and State under the name of
A 2 Z Contract Engineering at the following post office address: 1104 Barberrry 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: Antonio Achim, 1104 Barberrry Lane, Belvidere, IL 61008; Antoniu Achim, 1104 Barberrry Lane, Belvidere, IL 61008; phone #224-678-8349
Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 12th day of January, A.D. 2021
Julie Stapler, County Clerk
Published in Boone County Journal January 15, 22, 29

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE
This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a general labor and tree removal business in said County and State under the name of
Tree Hugger Services at the following post office address: 121 Scrivins Road, Kingston, IL 60145 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: Michael Madeen, 121 Scrivins Road, Kingston, IL 60145; phone #815-520-5538.
Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 22nd day of January, A.D. 2021
Julie Stapler, County Clerk
Published in Boone County Journal January 29, February 5, 12

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE
This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a media production business in said County and State under the name of Exposure Video
at the following post office address: 611 Pearl Street Apt. 1, 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: Zachary Lynde, 611 Pearl Street Apt. 1, Belvidere, IL 61008; phone #815) 988-9104.
Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 28th day of January, A.D. 2021
Julie Stapler, County Clerk
Published in Boone County Journal January 29, February 5, 12

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE
This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a asphalt maintenance business in said County and State under the name of Demilio's Sealcoating at the following post office address: 8916 Illinois Route 76, 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: Emilio Carranza, 8916 Illinois Route 76, Belvidere, IL 61008; phone #815-793-7315.
Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 8th day of February, A.D. 2021
Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk
Published in Boone County Journal February 12, 19, 26

Illinois House Adopts New Rules on Partisan Lines

GOP lawmakers argue changes don't go far enough

by Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

The Illinois House adopted new rules on Wednesday that Democrats say are intended to make the legislative process more transparent, but Republicans argue they don't go far enough in reforming how the General Assembly operates.

The new rules represent one of the first attempts by newly-elected House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch to break from the practices and traditions of his predecessor, former Speaker Michael Madigan. Madigan's opponents claimed he exercised vast authority to decide which bills would be assigned to committees, which ones would come to the floor for a vote, and which ones would not.

"These new house rules really do represent a historical turning point in rules development and adoption in the House of Representatives," House Majority Leader Greg Harris, D-Chicago, said while explaining the new rules.

Harris said the rules are also "just a first step in reforming ways of the past and injecting more transparency and accountability, while ensuring our chamber operates effectively and fairly."

One of the most significant changes from the Madigan era is a new rule that limits any individual to serving no more than five biennial sessions, or 10 years, in either the office of speaker or minority leader. Madigan served in that role for all but two years from 1983 until this January.

Another major change allows legislative committees to meet and take votes remotely "in the case of pestilence or public danger." The inability to meet virtually has been a handicap for the House since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, which virtually shut down the 2020 regular session as well as the fall veto session.

House leaders have said they plan to limit most legislative activity to remote committee meetings at least through the end of February, and they don't plan on the full House coming back into session to vote on bills until sometime in March or April.

Other changes are more technical in nature, but still important to the legislative process, including rules that apply to the Rules Committee itself. That's a committee, usually made up of top legislative leaders, where all bills and resolutions go first and then get referred to other committees.

It has also been a committee where, in the opinion of some, good legislation would go to die because the committee had the option of sitting on bills and not referring them to any other committee, thus ensuring they would never receive a hearing or come up for a vote.

Under the new rules, in odd-numbered years, the Rules Committee will be required to refer all House bills it receives to a substantive committee before the deadline for committees to act on bills, as long as the bill was filed in a timely fashion. Exceptions exist if the principal sponsor asks for it to be held for some reason.

"Once again, the members of the 102nd General Assembly are making it clear that this does mark the end of business as usual," Rep. Lindsey LaPointe, D-Chicago, said during debate on the rules. "These new rules have been developed through a fair and transparent process that has brought in good ideas from both sides of the aisle."

Republicans, however, argued that the change would make little difference because individual committee chairs could still stifle legislation, either by never calling a hearing on a bill or by referring it to a subcommittee, which would be under no obligation to ever meet.

They also argued that the rule applies only to bills and not to proposed constitutional

amendments such as the so-called "Fair Maps" amendment, which has support from members of both parties in its effort to overhaul the way Illinois redraws legislative and congressional district lines every 10 years.

Republicans had also pushed for other changes such as requiring public notices for which bills would be considered in committees or on the House floor each day, something that in many cases isn't decided until the last minute.

"We've had too many instances, the latest being in lame duck session, where significant bills were brought forward for debate at the 11th hour," Rep. Mark Batinick, R-Plainfield, said during debate. "As lawmakers we need adequate time to read bills in final form and time to determine our position on each issue like we did with these rules, which was really a nice process."

Harris responded to those criticisms by saying that members of both parties have used the rules in recent years to get around the normal posting requirements. But he also said Democrats would be willing to consider additional changes if the two sides can come to an agreement.

"I stand with the speaker in saying we look forward to working with you in the next several months on addressing some of these items, and if we all agree that there are some problems to fix and we come to a consensus, then let's fix them," Harris said.

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.

Committee Questions IDES Director, Staff Over Unemployment Handling

Fraud, delays among top issues addressed by Sarah Mansur Capitol News Illinois

Representatives of the Illinois Department of Employment Security on Wednesday testified before the Senate Labor Committee about fraudulent claims, continued delays in responding to unemployment applicants and a multibillion dollar deficit in the fund that pays out benefits.

Acting Illinois Department of Employment Security Director Kristin Richards and members of the department's staff fielded questions about the backlog that individuals face when they contact the agency with questions about their claims.

While the agency has seen fewer traditional unemployment claims, it has continued to see individuals file roughly 700,000 to 800,000 claims per month since August through the pandemic unemployment programs created through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act and other federal programs. Those include the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program, the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation program, and the Extended Benefits program.

IDES has put in place a callback system to reduce wait times for callers and a web form online for people to submit questions, but Richards said individuals still wait between one to two weeks for a callback from the agency, depending on the subject of the call.

"But I need to stress that if an individual has, for example, reached out to us about the status of their adjudication or appeal it could take four to six weeks because it's working its way through the process and we need to connect with the right professional to help them. We realize that is less than ideal for individuals dying for an answer from IDES," she said.

Richards said IDES is working to address those delays by training contractual staff members and adding full-time employees to the agency. The agency has roughly 1,200 employees, Richards said, including about 750 contractual staff.

She said the agency has stopped slightly more than 1 million identity theft claims, including through the traditional unemployment system and the PUA system, but the agency doesn't know the specific amount of money that has been paid out in fraudulent claims.

Some of the new unemployment programs created during the pandemic, especially the PUA program, left unemployment systems vulnerable, Richards said.

"That new program had no employer wage base to balance off of. There was no second step, as a check and balance. Until wage verification documents were required, we saw that imposters were getting in," she said.

Overpayment of benefits

Richards also announced during the virtual committee meeting that the department will begin to send out waivers next week to individuals who had received an overpayment of benefits under the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, a federally funded program providing unemployment benefits to gig workers and others not traditionally eligible for them.

By law, claimants who were overpaid benefits must repay the money they were not due under unemployment laws. The waiver authority provided in federal law allows the state to waive the repayment in certain circumstances if the overpayment was not the fault of the claimant.

The overpayment waivers are available through the federal Continued Assistance for Unemployed Workers Act, or CAA, which was signed into law in December.

"If the waiver request is successful, we need to return those dollars that were recuperated to the claimant," she said, adding the department has not yet developed a mechanism to return the money.

She said the agency is working on creating a questionnaire and request form for those eligible for a waiver, and the agency would consider those requests on a case-by-case basis.

IDES Manager of Unemployment Insurance Programs Justin Brissette said overpayment is not uncommon, but the number of new claims has made it more prevalent.

Richards said one of the issues that resulted in some overpayments was individuals inadvertently providing wrong wage information, such as listing their net income rather than gross income.

Trust Fund

The committee also discussed the deficit in the Illinois Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund — which funds unemployment payments — and is projected to have a negative balance possibly exceeding \$8 billion in the next two years, according to a presentation from the department.

Sen. Jason Barickman, R-Bloomington, raised questions about the impact of fraudulent claims on the trust fund's deficit.

"We all will have to work on a solution to the trust fund. I think everyone recognizes that," Barickman said. "There was a tremendous presentation today on the amount of fraud that exists. There was a tremendous presentation on the negative balance that is going to exist in the trust fund and I have no data in front of me on how to tie those two together. Shouldn't we have that data, as lawmakers, so that we can understand what the financial impact has been on our trust fund?"

In response, Richards said she did not have that information but would work on getting it to lawmakers. Pressed further, Richards said she couldn't provide a timeframe on when that information would be provided.

"I hear you loud and clear," she said. "We need to come up with the numbers and provide that to the committee."