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The Promise of 1910

by David Larson

Last week's photo featured a Belvidere blacksmith in 1910, A.J. Humphrey. This week's photo is Belvidere's Southside business district around 1910 at South State Street and Logan Avenue looking to the north. Today we view the world as one of persistent change, and it is in most ways. When we take a close look at this 110 year-old photograph, we see evidence of a world in rapid change from a world that had changed very little since the birth of Christ into the world we recognize today as being modern with automobiles, electricity, telephone, mass transit, and paved streets. This photo reflects the old world changing with the new technologies of the evolving, scientific culture.

We see two women crossing a paved street which only a decade earlier would have been a street of mud, horse droppings, and puddles to dodge. In 1910, the Constitution of the United States was being challenged to include an equal right of women to vote. These young women were no doubt very much aware of the movement. Lawsuits had been filed, and the Supreme Court had deliberated the question as early as the 1870's. It was a right that was ignored until 1920 with the passage of the 19th Amendment to clarify and codify the matter. In the 1840's, a woman's suffrage movement in the United States began to develop strength, but it took 80 years for it to be understood by a majority of the "powers that be." (Some things never change!)

Mass transit in Belvidere played a bigger role than today. For those without a carriage at the ready, hopping a streetcar was very useful if one needed to get to the north side and back quickly in 1910. The riders could jump off and on to reach

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High Court: Petition Circulators Confined to Gathering Signatures for One Party

Cannot serve one party in primary then an independent in general election

by Sarah Mansur Capitol News Illinois

An Illinois Supreme Court decision Wednesday clarified that the state election code prohibits a person from collecting signatures for both a party candidate in a consolidated primary and an independent candidate in the consolidated general election that follows.

The court interpreted the section of the election code that is referred to as the prohibition on "dual circulators."

This section states that "no person shall circulate or certify petitions for candidates of more than one political party, or for an independent candidate or candidates in addition to one political party, to be voted upon at the next primary or general election, or for such candidates and parties with respect to the same political subdivision at the next consolidated election."

The question about "dual circulators" was brought before the state's highest court by Adonis Elam Sr., an independent candidate for village board trustee in the village of Riverdale in south suburban Cook County.

Elam appealed to the Supreme Court after the village of Riverdale's electoral board and the Cook County Circuit Court found that Elam's name should be removed from the ballot because multiple signatures on his nominating petition were invalid.

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Municipal Leaders Decry Proposed Cuts to Local Budgets

Pritzker's budget would cut local government funding by 10%

by Raymon Troncoso Capitol News Illinois

Municipal leaders are pushing back on a proposal by Gov. JB Pritzker that would further reduce state funds given to local governments each year.

Several municipal groups held a virtual news conference Tuesday to outline their concerns with the governor's suggestion, representing over 200 municipalities in the Chicago-Metro area. Elmhurst Mayor Steve Morley, who serves as vice president for the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference, acted as a moderator for the event.

Morley said local governments cannot afford cuts to the share of state income taxes directed to municipalities, known as the Local Government Distributive Fund, or LGDF, in light of the disastrous effects of the coronavirus pandemic on city revenues.

"We'd like to address really two issues as it relates to LGDF. One is, we want to protect against further cuts," he said. "The other thing that we want to talk about is not only halting any further reduction in the distribution of funds that rightly belong to the municipalities, but we actually want to discuss how we restore the distribution of these funds to the original levels that were agreed upon over 50 years ago."

According to Morley, when Illinois first adopted its flat income tax in 1969, it was agreed that 10 percent of the revenue generated from

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The Promise *Continued from page 1*

their destination at anytime along the route from Warren Avenue to the North Side. Streetcars and the trains are gone today because they are obsolete. Foot traffic today in Belvidere's business district is not even a tenth of what it used to be, as shown by this random street scene. A major reason is that the privately-owned shops are gone.

Why would someone want to take a train from Belvidere to Union Station in Chicago today when it would just go to one place, once a day and require an overnight stay to get the return train? Until a better alternative presents itself, the automobile, gas powered or electrified, remains the best way to commute to Chicago despite tolls, parking and transportation costs.

In 1910, Belvidere was filled with shops of all kinds owned and operated by local businessmen. The second story of these still-recognizable buildings was used as office space and only occasionally as living quarters. Usually anyone living upstairs was the building owner, whose business was located on the ground-floor. To be in business--to be the proprietor of your own business--was an opportunity to advance in life.

It was also an affirmation of being a part of a community of progress.

Electricity and telephone were well established by 1910 in Belvidere. Automobiles were not. Perhaps the most challenging idea in looking at this photo is to imagine a streetscape of people going about their business primarily by horse and carriage. The horse must have been a special part of the lives of these people. The temper of the horse appears to be as calm as the people strolling the street. Perhaps the family horse was as much a pet as a work animal, which might explain the resistance, if an economic reason doesn't, to upgrading from horse to automobile in those early years. When "Bessie" when on to greener pastures, everyone bought a car.

In 1910, Belvidere was contemplating expanding educational opportunities for its children beyond the 8th grade. By 1916, a new school merging the North- and South Side schools into a high school much like the ones we have today was built on Pearl Street. As a result, in the last 100 years, Belvidere has produced many research scientists, university and medical school professors, doctors, lawyers, architects, very-successful businessmen as well as individuals capable of making everything happen in between.

In Belvidere's first 75 years, this section of the prairie in Northern Illinois was built into a community that kept up with the world around it. It did not stagnate into a complacent, assured mediocrity that left the world behind - "backward." Many different languages were spoken in Belvidere in 1910: German, Swedish and Norwegian alongside of the established English, yet everything seemed to work. This part of the American experience continues yet today. The spirit has changed and the digital world of today has made the balance of life both much more challenging and much easier. Today's world is smaller and infinitely more complex. In 1910, a pandemic was 8 years ahead and no vaccine would be available. Today a large portion of our society does not believe in science and will not take a lifesaving vaccine because of a political belief. But we are learning.

OP-ED

Why Michael Madigan Hasn't Yet Been Indicted

by *Jim Nowlan*

Friends ask: "Why hasn't Mike Madigan been indicted yet? After all, he has been under investigation for what must be a couple of years now."

My answer: It's because the federal prosecutor is not confident he can prove that the former Illinois House speaker personally did anything illegal.

I define public corruption as receiving unearned personal gain at taxpayer expense. There are obviously illegal forms of corruption — as well as "legal corruption." In the latter, there is political gain but not provable personal gain.

For example, several decades ago, there was passionate debate in Springfield over Illinois ratification of the U.S. Equal Rights Amendment (an effort which then failed narrowly in Illinois). As the debate raged, in the state Capitol and within earshot of others, a woman baldly offered a legislator \$500 or so if he would vote for the ERA Amendment. That is clearly an act of public corruption, and she was convicted for same, as I recall.

Similarly, Chicago Alderman Ed Burke has apparently been caught on a telephone wiretap saying he was holding up a needed city license until a small-time restaurant owner agreed to sign up with Burke's law firm for property tax appeal work. Again, if shown to be so in court, that represents seeking personal gain in return for releasing a license he controlled.

But, if no one gains personally, and there is never a communication between an official and a possible bribee about a quid pro quo, then where is the illegality?

Mike Madigan has been legend for decades in Springfield for never putting his fingerprints, or voice prints, on anything. He doesn't use email or the phone; instead, he winks and nods, say some insiders, and you can't indict a guy for winking.

Nor has he apparently received any personal gain from governmental transactions. He hasn't had to, because he has made his millions heading a law firm that does property tax appeal work in Chicago — most big building owners sign up to be represented by Madigan.

This is a hallowed scam, you might say, in which assessors, some of whom have been handmaidens of Madigan, jack up city building assessments. Then a property tax law firm like Madigan's (there are half a dozen, all deeply connected to Chicago Dem politicians) goes in and appeals for the property owner clients.

And voilà, the assessment is reduced to about where it should be. Everybody wins, you might say: Property owner gets a tax reduction, and an elected official/private attorney like Madigan "earns" a big fee outside government. All perfectly legal corruption.

(Note: Years ago, when I headed a
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--In Our Opinion--

Should You Be Vaccinated Against Covid-19?

Three months ago, this newspaper called for a wartime effort against Covid-19. It's been gratifying to watch the National Guard and medical professionals carry out the mission with great alacrity. About a fourth of Americans have been fully vaccinated, and at least 40 percent have limited protection from receiving an initial dose. The urgent prosecution of this effort reaffirms our faith in America and what's possible.

Locally, Boone County has consistently shown greater test positivity rates for Covid-19 than either Rockford or Chicago. Republican elevation of superstition over science (as well as misguided loyalty to a vanquished, discredited leader) continues to sicken and kill both the innocent and the foolish. The Boone County Covid-19 positivity rate remains double that of Chicago, the evil place that local State Representative Joe Sosnowski wants to kick out of Illinois.

Ignoring Covid-19 hasn't been an effective strategy in Boone County or elsewhere.

Still, many Boone Countians choose to play with fire. While the local incidence of Covid-19 continued to rise daily, a recent political gathering at a Belvidere restaurant was attended by over 50 people and yet only 2 were masked. The meeting was full of hugging, touching and other body contact. Even the waitstaff eschewed masks.

Enabled by the lily-livered lack of enforcement by local government, the owners of several local greasy spoons have consistently refused to comply with state health orders. Selfish, narcissistic commercial interests have been allowed to super-

sede the health of county residents. Thousands of Boone Countians have been sickened and dozens have died.

Why do we even bother to have a local health department? Because--after all--"our kind" doesn't get the cooties, dontcha know?

The justifications and mythology used by those who "don't wanna" wash their hands or refuse to wear a mask in public are legion: Physicians and hospitals falsify death certificates to increase their income. It's "just the flu." "It's a fake, Democrat hoax." "It's all going to disappear like magic." And, of course, Covid-19 can be cured by ingesting disinfectants.

As it has done throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, the Texas Medical Association continues to stress the importance of wearing masks, practicing social distancing, washing hands frequently, and receiving a vaccine when eligible as the most effective ways to stop the disease. We support their mission.

Ask your doctor.

The vaccination is free. What do you have to lose?

That being said, we don't think you should take medical advice from the *Boone County Journal*, Kim Kardashian, Paris Hilton, Tucker Carlson, the Facebook, Donald J. Trump, or any other celebrities.

Ask your personal physician if a vaccination is right for you. If you don't trust your medical providers on this matter, why would you seek advice from them regarding other health questions?

OP-ED

Continued from page 2

statewide business organization, I had a property tax executive tell me: "Jim, my company owns properties all over America, and Chicago is absolutely the only place in the nation that we have to hire an attorney to handle our property taxes!")

But, has Madigan done anything actually illegal? I don't know, and I am guessing the U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Illinois doesn't know either — or worries he can't prove in court — that Madigan has done so.

To paraphrase an old saw about grand juries and their proclivity to indict: A criminal trial jury today would convict a ham sandwich if it wore a Re-elect Mike Madigan T-shirt. But, would such a conviction stand up on appeal today, in light of recent US Supreme Court decisions that circumscribe the definition of what constitutes illegal public corruption?

Which gets us to the

politics of US attorneys in Chicago. They have a greater than 95 percent conviction rate over the years in public corruption cases. Many top elected officials, like our late Governor Jim Thompson, got their jumpstart in politics as corruption-busting US attorneys, who put away lots of "bad guys." Thus, a US attorney hates to lose in court; it's not only embarrassing, but it dulls the luster on his or her future career.

For the past couple of years, the US attorney's phalanx of lawyers has been squeezing Madigan associates about what the speaker might have said, might have done.

In that regard, I have a good friend who was "measured for a striped suit" (he did time) as part of the conviction of former Illinois Governor George Ryan.

Friend said this about the grilling by prosecutors of politicians close to someone they are after: "They are brutal. They threaten to send you off to the slammer and throw away the key. They



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threaten your wife, your family. They scare you so bad you could understand if a person admitted to something that wasn't even true, if it would get the feds off his back."

So, will Madigan be indicted? I don't know. If he is, you can bet the US attorney is confident he can convince a jury — and higher courts on appeal — that Mike Madigan is guilty of illegal corruption.

For many years, Jim Nowlan was a senior fellow and political science professor at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. He has worked for three unindicted governors and published a weekly newspaper in central Illinois.

Petitions *Continued page 1*

The signatures and petitions were invalidated based on the finding that Elam violated the election code because three people who circulated his petitions for the consolidated general election had previously circulated petitions for a Democratic candidate in the consolidated primary.

Both Elam and the Democratic candidate were to appear on the ballot for the municipal consolidated general election.

This section that prohibits “dual circulators” applied to Elam, the electoral board and circuit court decided, rendering his petitions invalid because he lacked the minimum number of signatures after the signatures collected by the three people were removed.

On April 1, the Supreme Court agreed with the electoral board and circuit court, keeping Elam’s name off the ballot for the April 6 consolidated election.

The Illinois Supreme Court’s opinion issued Wednesday explained the reasoning for its April 1 decision.

The court’s unanimous opinion addresses a split in two separate appellate courts that reached different interpretations on the issue of “dual circulators.”

In a 2013 court case, the Fourth District Appellate Court ruled that the section of the election code that addresses “dual circulators” does not prohibit a person from circulating a petition for a political party in a consolidated primary election and then circulating a petition for an independent candidate in a consolidated general election.

In another 2013 case, the First District Appellate Court interpreted this section of the election code to prohibit a situation where a person circulated petitions for a party candidate in the consolidated primary and an independent in the consolidated general.

The Supreme Court justices ruled that applying the Fourth District’s interpretation would essentially nullify the section’s prohibition on circulating petitions for both an established party candidate and an independent candidate because independents cannot run in the primary.

The justices also found that the Fourth District’s decision “would create an unfair advantage for established political parties and candidates running with established political parties whereby a political party, via its circulator, either tries to nominate an independent candidate whom it believes will siphon votes from a candidate of an opposing political party or tries to raid the other party’s primary by nominating a partisan opponent who will be easier to defeat in the general election.”

They agreed with the First District’s interpretation, and overruled the decision from the Fourth District.

The intent of the General Assembly’s prohibition on “dual circulators” is clear in situations where a circulator collects signatures for both a party candidate in the primary and independent candidate in the general, where both candidates will face off in the general election, the justices wrote in the 11-page opinion.

The “dual circulators” prohibition of the election code “clearly prohibits situations such as this, as it would undoubtedly cause voter confusion,” the opinion states.

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Budget *continued from page 1*

the income tax would be redistributed by state government back to municipalities.

This was the case until 2011, when Democratic former Gov. Pat Quinn reduced the LGDF share of income tax revenue, while also raising Illinois personal income tax from 3 to 5 percent, and its corporate tax rate from 4.8 to 7 percent in an attempt to balance the state’s budget.

Illinois currently has a 4.95 percent income tax rate and a 7 percent corporate tax rate, and the LGDF contribution has fallen to 6.06 percent of

state income revenue.

In 2020, Pritzker pushed an amendment to the Illinois Constitution that would have allowed for the state’s income tax to be graduated rather than flat.

According to the Illinois Department of Revenue, accompanying legislation passed by the General Assembly would have kept taxes the same or lower for the vast majority of Illinoisans while raising personal income taxes for those earning over \$250,000 annually. The top rate would have been 7.95 percent on those earning more than \$1 million.

The state Department of Revenue projections estimated the tax increase would affect about 3 percent of Illinoisans.

Following a lopsided defeat for the amendment in November, Pritzker promised to not raise the flat tax, but suggested “painful cuts” would be necessary to balance the state’s budget.

The governor’s February proposal included one such cut, another 10 percent reduction to the \$1.2 billion LGDF in order to make up for a \$152 million shortfall in the projected 2022 Fiscal Year budget caused by the failure of the graduated tax.

“The residents of Illinois, I think, spoke out overwhelmingly against additional taxes,” Morley said. “Now this is just another option, another way to go about taxing the residents of our municipalities and the state of Illinois when they’ve already told us that they’re taxed enough.”

Morley said that almost 10 percent of Elmhurst’s budget comes from the LGDF, and that further cuts means less money for roads, fire departments and law enforcement.

Vernard Alsberry Jr., village president of Hazel Crest, also spoke at the news conference as a representative of the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association.

“The coronavirus pandemic and economic crisis has increased inequities and hardships faced by communities throughout the state, but nowhere is that more true than the south suburbs. Our already vulnerable region is struggling to recover,” Alsberry said. “LGDF funding is a financial lifeline to our communities.”

Many of the mayors and municipal leaders described unfunded mandates such as pensions, mandatory trainings and equipment for police departments as an unfair drain on municipalities

being asked to do more while being given less each year.

“Gov. Pritzker proposed a balanced budget that is a responsible plan and makes the vital investments in agencies on the front lines of the pandemic response like public health, healthcare and family services and employment security,” a spokesperson for Pritzker said in an email Tuesday. “The Governor looks forward to working with the General Assembly to pass a balanced budget that lifts up working families who have suffered amid this pandemic and that continues to rebuild our economy.”

Despite the rate reduction in LGDF, the governor’s office said the actual amount received by municipalities will be made up by “closing corporate tax loopholes” to the tune of \$228 million, which will offset the \$152 million diverted from the LGDF.

The governor’s office also noted that Illinois municipalities are also set to receive \$5.2 billion in federal COVID-19 relief support following the passage of President Joe Biden’s American Rescue Plan.

Bill Change Would Allow Voters to Lift Rent Control Bans Locally

Amendment would allow for referendums exempting municipalities from statewide ban

by Tim Kirsininkas Capitol News Illinois

A new amendment to House Bill 116, which advanced out of committee earlier this spring, would allow municipalities to vote on rent control measures through referendum.

HB116 as originally introduced would have lifted the state’s blanket ban on local rent control measures, which has been in place since 1997. The new amendment instead would give that power to voters and municipal governments to consider rent control measures on a community-by-community basis.

The bill’s sponsor, Rep. Will Guzzardi,

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D-Chicago, said he chose to introduce the amendment as a compromise after hearing from constituents and colleagues in the house.

“We’ve gotten great support for (this bill) in the chamber, but we also heard some concerns from some colleagues about lifting this ban statewide,” Guzzardi said Wednesday.

“There were some members who spoke to me and said well you know, the people in our community really think that this ban is important, and voters in my district don’t want to be exempted from the ban,” he added.

Guzzardi said in a Wednesday Housing Committee hearing that the new amendment would lay out a process to allow local voters to introduce a ballot measure for rent control, from the petition process to placing a referendum on the ballot.

Under the act, if voters of a municipality pass a rent control referendum, the municipality would be considered exempt from the state’s blanket ban on rent control policies, allowing the local government to set caps on rent prices.

“If a community can get the signatures to get a petition on the ballot and pass a referendum, and its locally elected officials can pass an ordinance to govern rent increases in their community, boy, it doesn’t seem like we should be standing in that community’s way,” Guzzardi said Wednesday.

Opponents of the legislation, including Greg St. Aubin of the Illinois Realtors Association, called the bill “a very destructive policy” that would discourage investment in new housing developments and create an atmosphere of uncertainty for developers and landlords around the state.

“Our view is that whether you lift the ban in its entirety, or you go with this model, we believe that it is sending a tacit message from the state to local governments that (rent control) is a legitimate, viable, and perhaps even worthwhile policy, and we disagree with that,” St. Aubin said.

Republican opponents on the committee raised concerns that the bill still goes too far in opening the door to regulating rental costs for landlords who need to set prices in order to adequately maintain their rental properties, and that the legislation could allow for a wide range of rules on rent across the state.

Rep. Andrew Chesney, R-Freeport, said the bill would be an overreach on regulating landlords.

“Theoretically, a vote, a referendum and a city council could completely obliterate whatever business they have. So, I mean, doesn’t that seem like a complete government takeover of a private business?” Chesney said.

“There’s no protection to the actual owners that gives them any certainty of what the city councils would even be able to do,” he added.

Guzzardi responded that the bill is intended to give more flexibility and power to local municipalities to decide for themselves if rent control is an approach they would like to consider, and that the bill would play no part in determining a statewide policy on rent control.

“We are offering the marvelous and much beloved protection of democracy,” Guzzardi said. “Right now, communities have no voice in this manner.”

Rep. Delia Ramirez, D-Chicago, agreed that the legislation as amended would provide a fair balance across the state to leave a preemption on rent control in place while simultaneously providing municipalities the ability to decide for themselves if they wish to initiate rent control.

“I think that this bill really gives us an opportunity to leave it to the voters to decide where they stand, and then go back to the local authorities (when they) decide they want to entertain the conversation,” Ramirez said.

The bill as amended passed the Housing Committee by a 14-8 vote Wednesday.

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State Unemployment Falls to 7.1% in March

Coronavirus positivity rate remains roughly level near 4%

by Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

The statewide unemployment rate in Illinois fell three-tenths of a percentage point in March, to 7.1 percent, as the daily count of new COVID-19 cases and the case positivity rate appeared to be leveling.

The Illinois Department of Employment Security said Thursday that preliminary numbers show employers added 32,200 nonfarm jobs during the month, with the biggest gains showing up in the leisure and hospitality sector, which took the biggest hit during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other industries posting gains included construction, and business and professional services. The information sector, which includes the media, financial activities and government employment, all posted modest job losses.

“Today’s data is a positive step in the right direction in restoring the workforce a year after the COVID-19 pandemic devastated state and national economies and left thousands jobless,” Deputy Gov. Dan Hynes said in a statement. “While there is still more work to recover from the effects of this virus, the Pritzker administration remains fully committed to supporting claimants and dislocated workers and getting our economy back on track.”

The preliminary estimates reflect activity the week of Friday, March 12. The preliminary jobs numbers for February that were released last month were revised upwards to reflect the addition of 37,300 jobs that month, although the estimated unemployment rate in February was unchanged, at 7.4 percent.

IDES also reported Thursday that first-time unemployment claims rose during the week that ended April 10 to 18,986, a 17 percent increase from the prior week. But that also reflected an 87 percent decline from the same week a year ago, when 140,787 workers filed initial claims.

The U.S. Department of Labor reported that 238,016 were receiving continuing unemployment benefits during the week that ended April 3, down 3.4 percent from the week before.

Meanwhile, data from the Illinois Department of Public Health showed signs that the recent surge of COVID-19 cases may be leveling.

IDPH said Thursday that 3,581 new confirmed and probable cases of the disease had been reported over the previous 24 hours. That number has hovered between 3,000 and 4,000 each day for about the last 10 days. The case positivity rate – new cases as a percent of tests performed – held steady from the previous day at 4.2 percent.

IDES also reported Thursday that 40 virus-related deaths had occurred over the previous 24 hours, bringing the statewide total since the pandemic began to 21,609.

As of late Wednesday night, 2,043 Illinoisans were reported hospitalized with the disease, including 468 patients in intensive care units and 190 patients on ventilators.

Also as of Wednesday night, more than 7.6 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines had been administered. The seven-day rolling average of doses administered daily stood at 129,317.

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Pritzker Announces \$1.6 Billion in Federal Funding for Early Childhood Services

Pandemic emergency child care grant program extended

by Grace Barbic Capitol News Illinois

Gov. JB Pritzker announced Friday that \$1.6 billion in federal funding will be allocated toward early childhood education and child care providers in Illinois.

The funds will be provided through the American Rescue Plan passed by Congress in March, Pritzker announced at a news conference in Aurora on Friday, and will include \$140 million in direct grants for child care providers to be dispersed over the next three weeks.

This announcement comes as the Illinois Commission on Equitable Early Childhood Education and Care Funding – which Pritzker created in 2019 – released its Ready Illinois report earlier this month with recommendations for an overhaul of early childhood funding in the state.

Pritzker referred to the funding commission’s report as a roadmap for the future of the state’s early childhood system.

“[A system] that will truly protect and nurture low income children, children in rural communities, children of color, and children with disabilities,” Pritzker said. “One that will make it much easier for parents to navigate getting assistance, simpler for early childhood programs to get funding and more responsive to local needs in the community.”

In an effort to strengthen and centralize child care, home visiting and early intervention services, Pritzker also announced a new division of early childhood in the Department of Human Services.

IDHS Secretary Grace Hou said the new division will officially launch on July 1, but transition work will begin immediately.

“With a new division focused entirely on early childhood, we will continue to support and stabilize families, educators and providers through the rest of the pandemic and beyond,” Hou said. “As we work to build back better our system of early childhood, we will also be able to take steps toward the vision described in the commission’s report.”

Also based on recommendations from the funding commission’s report, Pritzker announced a network of early childhood planning councils that will launch statewide over the next 18 months, along with the creation of an Early Childhood Transformation Team in partnership with Northern Illinois University.

The planning councils will work with the various community stakeholders to ensure the

Continued on Page 8

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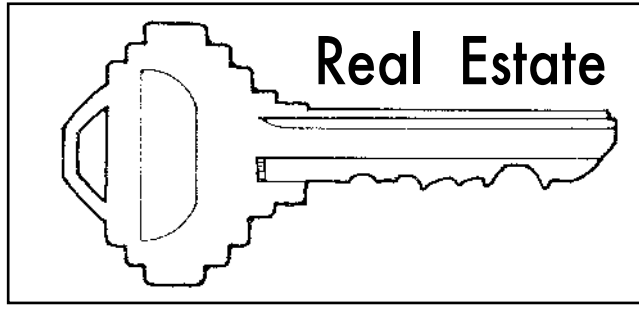
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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF BOONE - BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS
COMMUNITY LOAN SERVICING LLC; Plaintiff,
vs. 20 CH 43
JUAN S. MUNOZ; JOANNA MUNOZ; SABINO MUNOZ; SAN
JUANA MUNOZ; PORTFOLIO RECOVERY ASSOCIATES, LLC; UN-
KNOWN OWNERS AND NON RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants,
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Fore-
closure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Cor-
poration will on Thursday, May 13, 2021, at the hour of 12:15 p.m. in the
office of 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 3044 East 6th Street, Belvidere, IL 61008.
The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence.
If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest commu-
nity, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assess-
ments 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 Law Clerk at Plaintiff's Attorney, The Wirbicki
Law Group, 33 West Monroe Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603. (312) 360-
9455.

INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
intercountyjudicialsales.com
I3166646
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Apr 9, 16, 23, 2021.

LEGAL NOTICES

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, Perryion King, James Coach/ 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 2:00/2:30 P.M. central
daylight time on 05/27/21 & 06/24/21; 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: April 1, 2021 Linda J. Anderson, Circuit Clerk
Published in *The Boone County Journal*; April 09, 16, 23 C.

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

Jaqueline Garcia, Plaintiff Case No. 21-OP-08
Jose Luis Hernandez, Defendant

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE MATTER OF NOTICE TO JOSE LUIS HERNANDEZ
Take notice that a Petition for **ORDER OF PROTECTION** was filed in
the Circuit Court of Boone County, Belvidere, Illinois on March 24, 2021.
This matter has been set for hearing on April 30, 2021 at 2:15p.m.
In Courtroom 4 of the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main Street,
Belvidere, IL 61008.
DATE: 04/05/2021
Linda J. Anderson
Published in *The Boone County Journal* 04/ 09, 16, 23 -C

Legals Notice
The following amount must be paid no later than 5 p.m. May 1, 2021.
FULL payment of CASH or MONEY ORDER ONLY, accepted at :
Danndi Storage
13537 IL Rte. 76
Poplar Grove, IL 61065

Or the contents of the below listed units, located at 13511 Harvest
Way, Poplar Grove, IL., will be sold at auction or otherwise disposed of
on or any day after May 2, 2021.

Janice Njos C/O Nancy Njos - Unit #41 - Amount due 860.00 plus
advertising
Tyler Spring - Unit #42 - Amount due \$629.00 plus advertising
Published in *The Boone County Journal* April 16, 23

STATE OF ILLINOIS
CIRCUIT COURT BOONE COUNTY
PUBLICATION NOTICE OF COURT DATE FOR REQUEST FOR
NAME CHANGE (MINOR CHILDREN)
Case No.2021-MR-40

REQUEST OF: ROXANA NIED to change name of minor children:
Current Name of Minor Children OLIVIA ALEXA STOICA & NOELLE
GRACE STOICA; Proposed New Name of Minor Children OLIVIA
ALEXA NIED & NOELLE GRACE NIED. Court Date information:
May 25, 2021, at 9:30am, Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main St.,
Belvidere, IL 61008 Courtroom #3
Published in the Boone County Journal 04/ 16, 23, 30

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF BOONE - BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS
COMMUNITY LOAN SERVICING LLC; Plaintiff,
vs. 20 CH 43
JUAN S. MUNOZ; JOANNA MUNOZ; SABINO MUNOZ; SAN
JUANA MUNOZ; PORTFOLIO RECOVERY ASSOCIATES, LLC; UN-
KNOWN OWNERS AND NON RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants,
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Fore-
closure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Cor-
poration will on Thursday, May 13, 2021, at the hour of 12:15 p.m. in the
office of inside the front entrance of the, Boone County Courthouse, 601
North Main Street., Belvidere, Illinois 61008, sell to the highest bidder for
cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

LOT ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-ONE (161) AS DESIGNATED UPON
THE FINAL PLAT OF SUBDIVISION OF FARMINGTON FIELDS
EAST UNIT TWO, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE EAST
HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP
44 NORTH, RANGE 4 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDI-
AN IN BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AS RECORDED SEPTEMBER
27, 2006 AS DOCUMENT NO. 2006R10644 IN PLAT FILE ENVELOPE
358-A IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, IN THE
STATE OF ILLINOIS. P.I.N. 06-31-431-006.

Commonly known as 3044 East 6th Street, Belvidere, IL 61008.
The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence.
If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest commu-
nity, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assess-
ments 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 Law Clerk at Plaintiff's Attorney, The Wirbicki
Law Group, 33 West Monroe Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603. (312) 360-
9455.

INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
intercountyjudicialsales.com
I3166646
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Apr 9, 16, 23, 2021.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF BOONE

In the Matter of the Estate of JOHN CURTIS LUNDGREN, DECEASED
CASE NO. 2021-P-23

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION-WILL AND CLAIMS
NOTICE is given of the death of **John Curtis Lundgren**. Letters of
Office were issued on **March 31, 2021** to **Nicholas P. Bizzoni Sr.**, Poplar
Grove, Illinois who is the legal representative of the estate. The attorney
for the estate is **Attorney Charles T. Sewell**, 215 South State Street,
Belvidere, Illinois.

Claims against the estate may be filed on or before September 10, 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
attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Dated: April 9, 2021
/ss/ Nicholas P. Bizzoni Sr.
Nicholas P. Bizzoni Sr., Independent Executor
Charles T. Sewell, L.L.C. for Estate
Attorney at Law
215 South State Street
Belvidere, IL 61008
Phone: 815-544-3118
Email: charlestsl@aol.com
Published in *The Boone County Journal* April 9, 16, 23

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

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
In The Interest of: Bailey Lefever, minor
No. 21-JA-09

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

Take notice that on February 12, 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 Bailey Lefever, minor;
and that in the County Courthouse in Belvidere, Illinois, at 2:30 P.M.
central daylight time on 05/13/21; 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: March 31, 2021 Linda J. Anderson, Circuit Clerk
Published in *The Boone County Journal*: April 09, 16, 23 C.

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

PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF GORDON W. TAYLOR,
Deceased CASE NO. 2021 P 26

CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE is given of the death of GORDON W. TAYLOR, who died
on March 22, 2021. Letters of Office were issued on April 13, 2021 to
GRAHAM G. TAYLOR, 951 S. Natalie Ln., Anaheim, CA 92808, who
is the Executor of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Douglas R.
Henry, of Barrick, Switzer, Long, Balsley & Van Evera, LLP, 6833 Stalter
Drive, Rockford, Illinois 61108.

Claims against the Estate may be filed on or before October 16, 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 Section 18-3 of the Illinois
Probate Act, 1975 as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not
filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred.

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

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

Dated: April 13, 2021
/s/ Graham G. Taylor, Executor
DOUGLAS R. HENRY - #6229426
BARRICK, SWITZER, LONG,
BALSLEY & VAN EVERA, LLP
6833 Stalter Drive
Rockford, IL 61108
(815) 962-6611
dhenry@bslv.com
Published in *The Boone County Journal* April 16, 23, 30

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BELVIDERE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the City of Belvidere Planning and
Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 11,
2021 at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chamber, Belvidere City Hall, 401
Whitney Boulevard, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 upon the following:

Application of Casey's Retail Company DBA Casey's General Store
#3598, PO Box 3001, One SE Convience Blvd, Ankeny, IA 50021 on
behalf of the property owner, Casey's Retail Company, PO Box 3001,
One SE Convience Blvd, Ankeny, IA 50021 for a special use to permit
indoor commercial entertainment. Specifically, video gaming at 425
Beloit Road, Belvidere, IL 61008 (Belvidere Zoning Ordinance Sections
150.105(C)(4)(B)(2) Indoor Commercial Entertainment and 150.904
Special Use Review and Approval Procedures) in the PB, Planned
District on 5.66 acres. The subject property is legally described as:

Lot Eight (8) as designated upon Plat Two (2) of Big Thunder,
being a part of the Southwest Quarter (1/4) of Section 23,
Township 44 North, Range 3 East of the Third Principal
Meridian, according to the Plat thereof recorded August 29,
1996 as Document number 96-6091 in envelope 169-B in the
Recorder's Office of Boone County; situated in the County of
Boone and the State of Illinois. PIN: 05-23-301-011

All persons interested in the petitions may attend and be heard at the
stated time and place.

Carl Gnewuch, Chairman,
Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission
Published in *The Boone County Journal* April 23, 2021

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BELVIDERE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the City of Belvidere Planning and
Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 11,
2021 at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chamber, Belvidere City Hall, 401
Whitney Boulevard, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 upon the following:

Application of The City of Belvidere, 401 Whitney Boulevard,
Belvidere, IL 61008 for a text amendment to the City of Belvidere
Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 150 as amended) pertaining to Sections
150.105(D) Institutional District, 150.204(C) Institutional Land
Uses, Table 150.405(C) Permitted Intrusions into Required Yards,
Section 150.1005 Signs Exempt from Regulation Under this Section
and Appendix C: Land Use Summary Chart and Section 150.902
Amendment of Zoning Regulations (Text Amendments). Specifically,
the amendments are in regards to setbacks for institutional land uses,
permitted institutional land uses, wheelchair ramps and flag poles. The
proposed text amendments are available for review at the Belvidere
Community Development Department Office, 401 Whitney Boulevard
during regular business hours.

All persons interested in the petitions may attend and be heard at the
stated time and place.

Carl Gnewuch, Chairman,
Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission
Published in *The Boone County Journal* April 23, 2021

Official Notice of Bid

Bids are now being accepted by the Boone County Conservation
District for the purchase of salvage rights to one building and fencing
materials. Instructions, specifications, and bid forms may be viewed and
obtained at 603 N Appleton Rd., Belvidere IL 61008, Monday-Friday
8:00am-noon and 1pm-4:30pm. Bids will be accepted until 9am on Fri-
day, May 14th, 2021. Bid opening will commence at 9 am Friday, May
14th, 2021. The BCCD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all
bids.
Published in *The Boone County Journal* April 23, 2021

Election of Directors for Boone County Soil and Water will be held at
211 N. Appleton Rd. Belvidere, IL 61008 May 5, 2021 from 8:00 AM to
12:00 PM (noon)
Published in *The Boone County Journal* April 23, 2021

Belvidere Township Park District
Special Meeting Notice

April 26th, 2021 5:30PM
Baltic Mill Annex
920 West Lincoln Ave.IL 61008
Agenda:
I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Unfinished Business
a. Revise existing time sensitive motion or approve new motion
regarding potential discipline of Executive staff for failure to meet
reasonable demands of Board of Commissioners
VI. Action Taken out of Executive Session
VII. Adjournment
Published in *The Boone County Journal* April 23, 2021

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 Carpentry business in said County and State under the name
of Greenfields Carpentry at the following post office address: 927 W.
Boone Street, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all
persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective
residence address of each, are as follows: Richard Burns II, 927 W.
Boone Street, Belvidere, IL 61008; phone #815-566-0219.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 9th day of
April, A.D. 2021
Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk
Published in Boone County Journal April 16,23,30

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact
a Landscaping business in said County and State under the name of Odi's
Landscaping at the following post office address: 6991 Cora Lee Dr.,
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: Odilon Rivera, 6991 Cora Lee Dr., Belvidere, IL
61008; phone #(815) 323-0666.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 14th day of
April, A.D. 2021
Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk
Published in Boone County Journal April 16, 23, 30 C.

COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

Boone County is looking to fill a number of vacant board positions. Position information and length of term can be located at: https://cms8.revize.com/revize/booneil/government/county_board/appointments.php

Commissioners of the Housing Authority	
Term Expires	Length of Term
January 1, 2025	(5) Year Term
January 1, 2023	(5) Year Term

Fire Protection District #3	
1st Monday, May 2021	Remainder of Term

Regional Planning Commission	
December 31, 2023	Remainder of Term
December 31, 2021	Remainder of Term

Boone County Ethics Commission	
June 30, 2021	Remainder of Term

Boone County Zoning Board of Appeals	
June 1, 2021	Remainder of Term

Building Board of Appeal	
June 1, 2024	(5)Year Term
June 1, 2025	(5) Year Term

Capron Cemetery Association	
February 1, 2027	(6) Year Term

Boone County Conservation District	
June 30, 2023	Remainder of Term

Capron Rescue Squad	
2nd Monday, December 2022	Remainder of Term

Belvidere Cemetery Association	
May 3, 2027	(6) Year Term

Fire Protection District #1	
1st Monday, May 2024	(3) Year Term

Fire Protection District #5	
1st Monday, May 2024	(3) Year Term

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

LAURENT HOUSE OPENS TOUR SEASON: Frank Lloyd Wright's Laurent House opens its 8th tour season Saturday, April 10, 2021.

Tours are scheduled on Saturdays and Sundays from April through November and on Fridays from May through October. All tours follow COVID restrictions of distancing and masks.

The Laurent House partners with Anderson Japanese Gardens in offering tours Wednesdays and Fridays. Other specialty tours include holiday events in December and Twilight Tours in summer, depending on COVID restrictions in Winnebago County. Private group tours are available at any time.

All tours are by reservation and can be made online at <https://www.Laurenthouse.com/tours/book-a-tour> or by calling 815/877-2952

WINNEBAGO COUNTY CASA Program to Host Heritage Run: Rockford's oldest 10k is back for the 37th year! Winnebago County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program will host the Heritage Run on Sunday, April 25, 2021 at Midway Village. To comply with Covid safety procedures, rolling starts will begin at 7:30 A.M. and there will be no registration on race day. Everyone who registers by April 18th will receive

a commemorative race shirt.

For further information, or to register, please contact the CASA office at 815-319-6880 or visit WinnebagoCountyCASA.org.

City Nature Challenge Unites Rockford-Area with Global Efforts

Locals to Participate in Community Science Challenge: The City Nature Challenge is an international collaboration between cities to document wildlife using the website and app iNaturalist. Wildlife observations are collected between April 30-May 3. It is an opportunity for residents of all ages and backgrounds to participate in citizen science and help scientists track biodiversity data, all while maintaining physical distancing protocols. This year, 22 events are scheduled between the 14 partner organizations.

Participation is easy! Anyone in Winnebago, Boone, DeKalb, Ogle, and Stephenson counties can participate in the Rock River Valley City Nature Challenge. First, locals must make an iNaturalist account on the website or the free app available for all phone types. After creating an account, locals simply go outside and start taking pictures of plant and animal observations between April 30-May 3. An iNaturalist Scavenger Hunt available on the website adds to the challenge. From May 4-9, the observations will be identified.

To learn more about the Rock River Valley City Nature Challenge, and register for one or more of the 22 events scheduled, please visit <https://www.seversondells.com/city-nature-challenge>

Winnebago/Boone County Genealogical Society – Regular Meeting

Saturday, May 1, 2021 at 1:30 P.M.
Norwegian immigration to the US did not gain much momentum until the mid-1800s. Dana Kelly from the Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library will give an overview of the resources available at NAGC and discuss some strategies for researching Norwegian ancestors.

This is a ZOOM event.
Please email wbcgensociety@gmail.com to get your ZOOM link BEFORE NOON on the day of the event. Your sign in information will be emailed to you a few days before the event.

For more information, call Diane at (815) 543-2287.

28th Annual Stateline Toy Collection Club and Marengo FFA Toy Show:

Sunday May 2, 2021 from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Located at Marengo Community High School. Admission is \$3.00 with children 10 and under are free. For more information call Bill 815-226-9010. Proceeds will be for needy children and Marengo FFA Agriculture Programs.

Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 1414 Pancake Breakfast

Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 1414 will be holding a pancake breakfast on May 9, 2021 from 7 A.M. to Noon at the EAA Hangar just North of the Poplar Grove Airport, at 5175 Orth Road. The event will include our popular pancake breakfast (\$7 for adults, \$4 for kids) as well as Young Eagle airplane rides (FREE) for kids ages 8 through 17 (weather permitting).

Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden Presents Go Public Gardens Days 2021:

Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden is excited to announce the organization will celebrate the spring season with Go Public Gardens Days, a week of garden-themed events as part of an initiative established by the American Public Gardens Association to enhance public gardens throughout the United States. Go Public Gardens Days will begin Friday, May 7 and run through Friday, May 14 during regular business hours of 9 A.M. – 4 P.M. at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden, 2715 S. Main St, Rockford, IL 61102, and will showcase nature's beauty during the spring season.

More information about the events taking place the week of Go Public Gardens Days can be found on Klehm's website: <http://klehm.org/go-public-gardens-days/>.

Tour of Duty: World War I Re-enactment

Weekend:

Saturday, May 22 and Sunday, May 23
Session Times: 9:15 A.M. 9:30 A.M. 9:45 A.M. 1:30 P.M. 1:45 P.M. 2 P.M.

Go on your own tour of duty as a visitor to this new immersive experience depicting 1914-1918. Visitors will be guided in small groups through history displays including authentic and replica vehicles, artifact exhibits, and presentations by more than 100 World War I re-enactors.

Visitors must follow social distancing protocols in place at the time of this special event. Everyone visiting the museum campus must wear a mask. Light refreshments and snacks will be available for purchase. \$14 Adult, \$8 Children (ages 3-17), Infants (ages 0-2) are Free, Museum Members are Free.

Members may call the museum and talk to a Front Desk representative to reserve your ticket(s) or email store@midwayvillage.com with your name and ticket quantity.

As this is a timed special event it is important to arrive on time. Wear walking shoes for the tour and dress for the weather. This is a rain or shine event. Parking is free. The museum is taking advance reservation for this timed re-enactment and limited reservations are available. Call 815-397-9112 for more information.

2021 Rockford Midtown Market:

June 3, 2021 through September 30, 2021. Open from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. Held in the Rockford Public School District 205 Administration parking lot. Go to www.Rockfordmidtownmarket.com for more information.



A Public Notice is an important tool in assuring an informed citizenry; a conduit of information from the government to the public. Notices are mandated by legislatures to make sure there is a public window into the activities of governments, officers of the court and others holding a public trust. Among the most common types of public notices are: hearings, government budgets, notices of contract bids, foreclosures, probate notices, adoptions, and dissolution of marriages, name changes and assumed business names. There are four key elements to a public notice:

Independent: A public notice is published in a forum independent of the government, typically in a local newspaper.

Archivable: A public notice is archived in a secure and publicly available format.

Accessible: A public notice is capable of being accessed by all segments of society.

Verifiable: The public and the source of the notice can verify the notice was published, usually by an affidavit provided by the publisher.

Enabling an informed citizenry through newspaper public notices helped America to develop participatory democracy where it counts: where money is spent, policy is made and futures charted. Public notices by government and private parties are so tightly woven into the American fabric that many citizens may take them for granted. Located in easily found sections of the newspapers, public notices reach out to interested readers, leading them to opportunities. Voices are expressed on taxation, communities are formed around planned public improvements, and assets are saved from loss to unworthy creditors – all as a result of public notices.

Public Notice Network

Children*Continued from page 5*

unique needs of different areas of the state are met through early childhood services, while the transformation team is intended to help move the commission and council recommendations forward.

Pritzker said implementing all of the commission's recommendations will be an enormous task.

"What the commission proposes represents a seismic shift from the status quo for how early childhood in this state should go," Pritzker said.

"These are changes that will be a sustained effort, and they will require significant resources, but a journey of 1,000 miles begins with a single step," he added. "Today we are taking not just one of those steps but a few of them forward on that journey to kick off this work."

Aside from the investments in early childhood education, Pritzker said he also hopes to advance his mission to provide affordable child care in the state.

When the pandemic first shuttered many of the state's businesses, the Pritzker administration created an emergency pandemic child care grant program which dedicated \$290 million to 5,000 child care centers and homes in 95 counties in the state. That was funded through federal COVID-19 relief dollars as well.

"This allowed them to stay afloat through a truly challenging year and that funding offered support far beyond the national standard, families in need of child care were able to lower their out of pocket cost," Pritzker said. "The program has been so successful that we will use the first of these new American Rescue Plan dollars to provide another round of funding to it."

Of the \$1.6 billion in federal funding the state received for early childhood services in the most recent relief package, \$140 million will go to child care providers through this grant program. These funds can be used to pay rent or maintain staff, supplies and training.

Sen. Linda Holmes, D-Aurora, also spoke at the news conference about the importance of investing in child care. She said it is the foundation of economic recovery from the pandemic.

"Parents may not have access to affordable child care options, which makes returning to their jobs very difficult or nearly impossible," Holmes said. "This is the next vital part of the foundation to get people back to work and able to stimulate the economy."

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.

State Board of Elections Head to Resign in June

Resignation comes after reported online extortion attempt

by Sarah Mansur Capitol News Illinois

The executive director of the Illinois State Board of Elections, who was placed on leave after being the subject of an extortion scheme online, will resign effective June 30, according to an agency news release.

Steve Sandvoss made the announcement about his resignation at an elections board meeting Tuesday morning.

Sandvoss has been on leave since April 5 following a personal online extortion attempt that he reported to the Illinois State Police. The ISP denied a freedom of information act request by Capitol News Illinois seeking details of the reported incident.

The board has not released details about the online extortion attempt, other than that an agency internal investigation by its chief information security officer "revealed that no SBE data or systems had been compromised in the incident," according to Tuesday's news release.

Matt Dietrich, ISBE spokesperson, said that internal investigation is completed.

The board has approved Bernadette Matthews to serve as interim executive director until a permanent replacement is named.

Matthews previously served as assistant executive director of the agency, a role she has held since 2017, according to her LinkedIn page. Before that, she was the agency's deputy general counsel for nine years.

Sandvoss, 55, joined the Illinois State Board of Elections in 1988.

He became executive director in January 2015 after serving as the agency's general counsel starting in 2004.

GOP Puts New Twist on Redistricting Plan

Leaders Look to Overcome Constitutional objections to independent commission

by Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

Illinois Republicans have added a new twist to their call for an independent redistricting commission in hopes of overcoming Democrats' claims that their plan would likely be found unconstitutional.

The new twist, discussed Wednesday during a Statehouse news conference, would be to allow two different commissions – the one they are proposing in legislation, and the one mandated after a certain point under the Illinois Constitution – to work side-by-side to come up with new legislative and congressional district maps.

"The constitution has a commission that exists. It can't be changed, it is what it is," said Rep. Ryan Spain, R-Peoria. "So how do we feed the correct information into that constitutional redistricting commission? ... We recommend the use of Senate Bill 1325 as the best way to gather input because there are still legislators that are included on the constitutional commission."

Republicans introduced SB 1325 in February. Its language is substantially similar to that of a proposed constitutional amendment that Democratic Sen. Julie Morrison, D-Lake Forest, introduced in 2019 with a bipartisan group of 37 cosponsors – more than the three-fifths majority needed for passage.

It calls for establishing a 16-member redistricting commission appointed by the chief justice of the Illinois Supreme Court and the next most senior justice from the other party. The commission would be made up of seven Democrats, seven Republicans and two independents and would "reflect the ethnic, gender, and racial demographics of Illinois."

Since its introduction, though, Democrats have argued that such a plan cannot be adopted through legislation, but only through a constitutional amendment.

That's because the Illinois Constitution, as it

currently reads, already spells out a procedure for redistricting. It says lawmakers have until June 30 to approve maps, and if they fail to meet that deadline, the responsibility goes to an eight-member commission, divided evenly between Democrats and Republicans, with some members who are legislators and some who are not.

Because the Republican plan is different from what's provided in the constitution, Democrats argue, it would almost certainly be overturned by the Illinois Supreme Court.

"Republicans know that this bill is nothing but a smokescreen," Sen. Rachele Crowe, D-Glen Carbon, said during a recent redistricting hearing. "A bill cannot trump the constitution. There's no ifs ands or buts about that. A bill cannot trump the constitution."

Asked to respond to that during Wednesday's news conference, Spain and other House Republicans, for the first time, argued that two commissions could work simultaneously, with the one created under legislation providing information and guidance to the one mandated under the constitution.

"I think that we're at a critical point in which changing the constitution is just not going to happen at this point, because the Democrats will not allow that question to be placed on the ballot," said House Minority Leader Jim Durkin, of Western Springs. "And so we are looking for any way to be able to find an alternative."

At issue in this year's redistricting process is not just who draws the maps, but what population data will be used in the process.

Due to the pandemic, as well as a number of natural disasters last year, the U.S. Census Bureau will be late producing the detailed, neighborhood-level data needed for legislative redistricting. The Census Bureau has said it will have that data in an old, "legacy" format by the end of August, but it won't be available in a more user-friendly format until late September.

Since the Illinois Constitution requires lawmakers to complete the task by June 30, Democrats have suggested using alternative data sources, including the American Community Survey, which Republicans argue is not intended to be used for redistricting purposes.

"Look, ACS data is a very small sample of the entire state, number one," said Rep. Tim Butler, R-Springfield. "It is a snapshot over several years, and it does not accurately reflect the communities in our state. It is good data to use for a variety of things, but even the Census Bureau themselves says that ACS data should not be used for redistricting."

Democrats, meanwhile, have said they are considering all possible sources of population data, not just the ACS. But they have also said it is their intent to complete the redistricting process before the June 30 deadline.

Durkin, however said Republicans will consider filing a legal challenge to any maps that are based on anything other than official census data.

"We are discussing that possibility," he said. "And if that is the way that the Democrats are going to draw the districts, that is an option that we're considering, absolutely."



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