

McHenry County News

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THURSDAY, JULY 1, 2021

Annual Heritage Days happening July 11

The McHenry County Historical Society & Museum will host its 34th annual Heritage Fair from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, July 11, at the museum, 6422 Main St.

This year's theme is, "Local History: It's Only Natural."

Highlights include children's activities, Garden Glitz plant sale, strolling magicians, a "baby" white elephant sale, silent auction, bake sale and a pie-baking contest. This year's contest features three categories: Fruit, berry and mixed fruit/other. No cream pies, please. Interested bakers can register their pies between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. the day of the Heritage Fair in the West Harmony School, located on the museum grounds. The entry fee is \$2. Ribbons will be awarded to the winners in each category, plus a special award for the grand champion. Pies will be sold by the slice immediately following the judging at the Heritage Fair's bake sale. The grand champion will receive a trophy and his/her name engraved on a permanent trophy at the museum.



The annual Heritage Days will take place Sunday, July 11, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the McHenry County Historical Society Museum, 6422 Main St., Union. COURTESY PHOTO McHenry County News

MCHS also is collaborating
See HERITAGE, Page 5

Innocence Project helps free Jennifer McMullan

By Sarah Mansur
 CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

A woman found guilty of a McHenry County murder had her conviction vacated last week after serving 19 years of her 27-year sentence and maintaining her innocence throughout her imprisonment.

With the help of the lawyers from the Illinois Innocence Project, Jennifer McMullan was released from prison June 16 as a result of a plea agreement entered in McHenry County court.

McHenry County State's Attorney Patrick Kenneally's plea deal to grant McMullan's release and vacate her murder conviction depended on if she agreed to plead guilty to an armed robbery charge in the case.

Stephanie Kamel, one of McMullan's attorneys at IIP, said her client faced an extremely difficult decision of whether to accept a plea to a lesser charge or remain

wrongfully imprisoned for years to come.

"Driving her decision was her father, whose health is deteriorating rapidly due to Alzheimer's disease," Kamel said in a news release. "While we would like to have seen Jennifer's conviction vacated with no plea agreement required, we are glad she is finally free and reunited with her family after an almost 20-year absence."

McMullan was one of four people—along with Kenneth Smith, David Collett and Justin Houghtaling—who were arrested for carrying out the attempted robbery and fatal shooting of Raul Briseno at a McHenry restaurant in March 2001.

McMullan's release comes less than two months after a federal appeals court released Smith from prison and vacated his murder conviction, overruling prior Illinois state courts' decisions in his case.

The convictions of McMullan and Smith were based on Houghtaling's confession to police days after the murder. Houghtaling, who confessed in exchange for a lesser sentence, later recanted his confession.

He initially claimed that he and Smith robbed the restaurant while McMullan and Collett waited in the getaway car.

Houghtaling pleaded guilty to murder and was sentenced to 20 years in exchange for testifying against the others. Collett also pleaded guilty and was sentenced to five years.

After McMullan and Smith were found guilty at trial, their appeals focused on an alternate group of suspects—known as the DeCicco group—who confessed to the murder on multiple occasions but also later recanted.

Smith's first conviction was overturned on appeal, resulting in a second trial in 2008 where he was found guilty but

his conviction at the second trial was also overturned.

He was convicted again at his third trial in 2012 and sentenced to 67 years in prison, but the conviction was yet again tossed out on appeal. The federal appeals court's decision in April was a result of Smith's appeal of his third conviction.

Attorneys for Smith and McMullan argued that the police overlooked credible confessions from members of the DeCicco group that contained details about the crime that police withheld from the public.

Specifically, the police withheld the fact that Briseno suffered a head wound consistent with being hit with a gun, and that Briseno had yelled to a passing car to call the police after he chased the two masked robbers from the restaurant.

The federal appeals court's opinion admonished the Illi-

nois court for being "not just wrong, but unreasonable," in upholding Smith's conviction, despite Houghtaling's recanted confession that was "riddled with holes" and evidence corroborating the DeCicco group's confessions.

Based on the totality of the evidence presented at Smith's trial—the DeCicco group's confessions along with weakness of the other evidence—no rational jury could have found Smith guilty, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit found in its 33-page opinion.

"Houghtaling's inconsistencies take on a special significance in light of the DeCicco evidence—evidence that builds a narrative largely free from the holes that fill Houghtaling's confession. With such a serious possibility of a third party's guilt ... we are convinced as an objective matter that no rational trier of fact could have found

Smith guilty beyond a reasonable doubt," according to the opinion issued April 29.

Kenneally said in a statement that he disagrees with the opinion that overrules the decisions of three separate McHenry County juries.

"We are increasingly distressed at the recent trend of remote judges, years and decades later, elevating their own judgments of selectively considered evidence and witness credibility over those of ordinary citizens to reach preferred case outcomes," Kenneally said in the statement.

The 7th Circuit Court of Appeals' decision that no rational jury could convict Smith forecloses the immediate possibility for Kenneally to put Smith on trial for a fourth time.

Kenneally said his office is reviewing its legal options and determining whether to appeal the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

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Fire calls

The Belvidere Fire Dept. responded to 111 calls June 16 to June 27.
Wednesday, June 16
BFD responded to 3 medical calls and the following fire/rescue calls.
Roosevelt St./Ruby St. -

power line down
3800 block of Eastwood Lane - assist invalid
400 block of Southtowne Dr. - sprinkler activation, no fire
1200 block of N. Appleton Road - unauthorized burning

1500 block of Garfield Ave. - outside equipment fire
500 block of E. Perry St. - HazMat release investigation
1700 block of Birch Ave. - assist invalid
Thursday, June 17
BFD responded to 6 med-

ical calls and the following fire/rescue calls.
200 block of W. Chrysler Dr. - motor vehicle accident
Friday, June 18
BFD responded to 3 medical calls and the following fire/rescue calls.
100 block of W. 2nd St. - building fire
200 block of Fox Lane - good intent call
Saturday, June 19
BFD responded to 3 medical calls and the following fire/rescue calls.
200 block of W. Marshall St. - public service
1100 block of Nettie St. - fire alarm
Pearl Street Road/Flora - cover assignment, standby, m
18575 Burr Oak Rd. / Capron 571 Cover assignment
2500 block of Pearl St. - passenger vehicle fire
Sunday, June 20
BFD responded to 9 med-

ical calls and the following fire/rescue calls.
2300 block of Sunrise Dr. - assist invalid
1300 block of Iles Ave. - attempted burning, illegal
200 block of N. State St. - call cancelled en route
900 block of W. Perry St. - power line down
Monday, June 21
BFD responded to 7 medical calls and the following fire/rescue calls.
400 block of Franklin St. - rescue
500 block of W. Lincoln Ave. - person in distress
3800 block of Eastwood Lane - assist invalid
1200 block of Oakley St. - assist invalid
Tuesday, June 22
BFD responded to 3 medical calls and the following fire/rescue calls.
2100 block of Tobyne Dr. - call cancelled en route

1000 block of W. 6th St. - police matter
N. State St./Fairgrounds Road - motor vehicle accident
Wednesday, June 23
BFD responded to 6 medical calls and the following fire/rescue calls.
US Route 20/Genoa Road - motor vehicle accident
Warren Ave./Church St. - power line down
Thursday, June 24
BFD responded to 7 medical calls and the following fire/rescue calls.
400 block of W. Perry St. - call cancelled en route
East Ave./Glenwood Dr. - motor vehicle accident
Friday, June 25
BFD responded to 6 medical calls and the following fire/rescue calls.
Park Ave./Micloe - call cancelled en route

Death notices

May 19
Denise Malczyk, 65
May 21
Karen Moore, 68
May 22
Helen Wille, 86
May 24
William Schultz, 85; Tammy Webb, 42
May 27
Robert Grimes, 95
May 29
David Jepson, 89
May 31
Mary Russell, 87
June 4
Ann Wennmacher, 89;

James Sparks, 52; James Trevathan, 69
June 5
Johnathan D. Stuckey, 36; Benjamin Fettes, 24; Phillip Bush, 57; Gerald Fast, 86
June 8
Thomas Graves, 64
June 9
Marty Matzelle, 76
June 11
Verna Heimlich, 89; Herbert Walberg, 78
June 13
Guenter Boers, 86
June 14
Nancy Kehoe, 79; Marsha

Mai, 80;
June 15
Lynne Hanson, 78; Rita Porter, 71
June 18
Michael Vaughan, 69
June 20
Debra Tenore, 66
June 21
Harriet Day, 91; Brian Oldham, 54
June 22
Peter Dougherty, 60
June 23
Catherine Bowser, 64; Lois Dixon, 65

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See FIRE CALLS, Page 4

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE TWENTY-SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT MC HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
QUICKEN LOANS, LLC Plaintiff,
-v.-
RICHARD W. DUNCUM et al Defendant

21CH000035
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on May 18, 2021, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on July 23, 2021, at the NLT Title L.L.C., 390 Congress Parkway, Suite D, Crystal Lake, IL, 60014, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

SESSION, 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, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876
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.
CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100
BURR RIDGE IL, 60527
630-794-5300
E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com
Attorney File No. 14-20-02853
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002
Case Number: 21CH000035
TJSC#: 41-921
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Case # 21CH000035
I3170667
(Published in the McHenry County News June 17, 24 & July 1, 2021) 398315

TION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE"
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 22ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT MCHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Trustee for Structured Asset Securities Corporation Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2007-BC1; Plaintiff,
vs.
Daniel M. Rossi; Teresa Rossi a/k/a Teresa A. Rossi; Unknown Owners and Non Record Claimants; Defendants.
Case No. 21 CH 72
Judge Suzanne Mangiamela
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you:
-Teresa Rossi a/k/a Teresa A. Rossi that Plaintiff has commenced this case in the Circuit Court of McHenry County against you and other defendants, for foreclosure of a certain Mortgage lien recorded against the premises described as follows:
LOT 540 IN HIGH HILL FARMS UNIT NO. 8, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 32, TOWNSHIP 43 NORTH, RANGE 8, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED JUNE 13, 1989 AS DOCUMENT 89R18477, IN MCHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
C/K/A: 700 Fairfield Lane, Algonquin, IL 60102
PIN: 19-32-227-008
said Mortgage was given by Daniel M. Rossi and Teresa Rossi a/k/a Teresa A. Rossi, Mortgagor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., acting solely as nominee for BNC Mortgage, Inc., Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of McHenry County, Illinois, as Document No. 2006R0087772.
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 <https://efile.illinois-courts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinois-courts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.
UNLESS YOU file your appearance or otherwise file your answer in this case in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of McHenry County, McHenry County Courthouse, 2200 North Seminary Avenue, Woodstock IL 60098 on or before August 2, 2021, A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED FOR IN THE PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT.
The Wirbicki Law Group LLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
33 W. Monroe St., Suite 1540
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: 312-360-9455
W20-0683
pleadings.il@wirbickilaw.com
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The Wirbicki Law Group LLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
33 W. Monroe St., Suite 1540
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: 312-360-9455
W20-0683
pleadings.il@wirbickilaw.com
I3171294
(Published in the McHenry County News July 1, 8 & 15, 2021) 398962

#200 being entitled: "A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH BOONE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #200, BOARD OF EDUCATION, BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS ASCERTAINING THE PREVAILING RATE OF WAGES FOR LABORERS, WORKMEN AND MECHANICS EMPLOYED ON PUBLIC WORKS OF SAID SCHOOL DISTRICT", a regular meeting held on the 22nd of June 2021, the resolution being a part of the official minutes of said school.
Dated: This 22rd day of June, 2021.
Ed Mulholland
President,
Board of Education
Brian Haselhorst
Secretary,
Board of Education
(Published in the Belvidere Republican July 1, 2021) 398942

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LOT 4 IN BLOCK 5 IN HOLIDAY HILLS UNIT NO. 1, A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 17, ALSO A PART OF FRACTIONAL SECTION 18, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED MAY 10, 1955 AS DOCUMENT NO, 292377, IN BOOK 12 OF PLATS, PAGE 24, IN MCHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
Commonly known as 2408 HYDE PARK AVE, HOLIDAY HILLS, IL 60051
Property Index No. 15-18-277-004
The real estate is improved with a single family residence.
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 frac-

tion 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, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POS-

SESSION, 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.
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UNLESS YOU file your appearance or otherwise file your answer in this case in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of McHenry County, McHenry County Courthouse, 2200 North Seminary Avenue, Woodstock IL 60098 on or before August 2, 2021, A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED FOR IN THE PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT.
The Wirbicki Law Group LLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
33 W. Monroe St., Suite 1540
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: 312-360-9455
W20-0683
pleadings.il@wirbickilaw.com
I3171294
(Published in the McHenry County News July 1, 8 & 15, 2021) 398962

#200 being entitled: "A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH BOONE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #200, BOARD OF EDUCATION, BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS ASCERTAINING THE PREVAILING RATE OF WAGES FOR LABORERS, WORKMEN AND MECHANICS EMPLOYED ON PUBLIC WORKS OF SAID SCHOOL DISTRICT", a regular meeting held on the 22nd of June 2021, the resolution being a part of the official minutes of said school.
Dated: This 22rd day of June, 2021.
Ed Mulholland
President,
Board of Education
Brian Haselhorst
Secretary,
Board of Education
(Published in the Belvidere Republican July 1, 2021) 398942

21CH000035
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on May 18, 2021, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on July 23, 2021, at the NLT Title L.L.C., 390 Congress Parkway, Suite D, Crystal Lake, IL, 60014, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

LOT 4 IN BLOCK 5 IN HOLIDAY HILLS UNIT NO. 1, A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 17, ALSO A PART OF FRACTIONAL SECTION 18, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED MAY 10, 1955 AS DOCUMENT NO, 292377, IN BOOK 12 OF PLATS, PAGE 24, IN MCHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
Commonly known as 2408 HYDE PARK AVE, HOLIDAY HILLS, IL 60051
Property Index No. 15-18-277-004
The real estate is improved with a single family residence.
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 frac-

tion 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, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POS-

SESSION, 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, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876
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.
CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100
BURR RIDGE IL, 60527
630-794-5300
E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com
Attorney File No. 14-20-02853
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002
Case Number: 21CH000035
TJSC#: 41-921
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Case # 21CH000035
I3170667
(Published in the McHenry County News June 17, 24 & July 1, 2021) 398315

ment No. 2006R0087772.
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 <https://efile.illinois-courts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinois-courts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.
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NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Case # 21CH000035

Entertainment venue denied at 9194 Poplar Grove Road for now

By Bob Balgemann
REPORTER

A requested special use permit that would allow a combination outdoor event venue and indoor gathering space on 5 acres, at 9194 Poplar Grove Road, has been denied by the Boone County Board. But a revised proposal may return at some point in the future, for additional consideration.

The request was well on its way to being rejected by the board. But before the eventual 10-1 vote for denial, with one absent, board Chairman Karl Johnson put in a pitch for the concept and said it was too bad the applicant, Jose Ojeda, was not at the June 17 meeting to discuss possible changes to what he had in mind.

"I think the safety issues are real," the chairman began. "I'm disappointed that Mr. Ojeda is not here, because I wanted to present some things to him, for his project, that might help address some of those issues."

"It's a struggle with me. I agree with Mr. (board member Freddy) De La Trinidad that this is his (Ojeda) property and he should be able to have this kind of venue. If they're done right, they're an amazing addition to the community."

County Planner Izzy Mandujano added to what might be a measure of hope for the future of the project.

"I did talk to Mr. Ojeda and he was agreeable to coming back at some point to talk about these issues," she said. "I think for now he's going to go back to the drawing board either with us or with the other (county) departments. So there might be an opportunity to review a brand new plan in the future."

Then came the 10-1 vote for denial, with De La Trinidad alone in support of the venue as currently proposed, and with one absent.

The beginning of the board meeting, during public comments, was filled with concerns about the impact the Ojeda special use would have on the immediate area. The 5 acres in question are close to the intersection of Poplar Grove and Squaw Prairie roads, which for years has been the subject of discussions before the board on it being a dangerous location.

Eight residents spoke against approval, including Pamela Gustafson, who has lobbied for many years in sup-

port of improvements to that intersection, to make it safer for motorists. This time she simply said this was not an appropriate location for such a project.

"Traffic has increased in the northern part of the county," Toria Funderburg said. "Poplar Grove Road, with a speed limit of 55 mph, is rated as the third busiest road in Boone County, with 5,500 vehicles passing in a 24-hour period."

"The proposed use of the property for an entertainment area would change the fabric of the neighborhood from a quiet, agricultural area to a commercial mix. I do not believe this would be a benefit to current property owners. It's the location on Poplar Grove Road that I'm most concerned about."

Nearby 30-year resident Al Hyser provided some statistics to support his belief that the intersection of Poplar Grove and Squaw Prairie roads "is arguably one of the most dangerous in Boone County."

Between 2016 and 2020, there were 34 accidents at that location, with one known fatality, he said. He added that the posted 55 mph speed limit is rarely observed.

"I know that because my property backs up to Poplar Grove Road," he added.

Concerning law enforcement protection, he said the county sheriff's office is understaffed with four deputies usually on duty at any particular time. "They are responsible for covering a 288-square-mile area," he said. "Having venues mixing alcohol in today's unpredictable society just adds another burden on an already undermanned sheriff's department."

Discussion

After Mandujano provided background on the request and the previous recommendations, which were split 2-2 between approval and denial, board member Dave Wiltse said he thought the weight of evidence presented was against the project.

"In the findings of fact, the applicant has testified to the need for this project, but I don't see any demonstration in the record for that," he said.

Here were some of his points:

- "There is no discussion of the effect of traffic on Poplar Grove Road," he began. "I myself almost lost my step-daughter one and a half

years ago to an accident at Poplar Grove and Woodstock roads. So, perhaps, as a parent I am more familiar than some. But anybody who drives that road knows how busy it is."

- "The staff report says conditions are in place to mitigate traffic concerns, but I don't see those conditions," he said. "Other than parking, perhaps." He added that conditions went from parking to outdoor lighting to setback requirements and noise, but nothing about traffic, "which I think is a significant concern. The fact is the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) did reject the findings of fact that are in the staff report. And there are concerns among ZBA members about traffic. They (ZBA members) did not support the special use application."

- "One that I find most telling ... talks about benefits of the special use outweighing any potential, adverse impacts of the special use," he continued. "I don't see anything that outweighs the potential public detriment of this kind of location."

Varied views

Support for the request came from board member De La Trinidad, who said he trusted the county planner and her facts.

"It seems that no one points out that Timber Pointe Golf Club is on (nearby) Woodstock Road that hosts parties and weddings, sells alcohol, live music on Thursdays, and no one seems to bat an eye on that," he said. "But we want to give Mr. Ojeda a hard time, when he wants to have live music on Saturdays. I just don't see the arguments for the safety issue. If there was a safety issue, then we would be wanting to shut them (golf club) down."

Board member Ryan Curry said the golf club can't be compared with an entertainment center.

"There's no comparison in traffic," he said. "If this (proposed venue) was out in the middle of nowhere, with a safer road, I wouldn't probably be so against it."

Another board member, Steve Schabacker, said he agreed with the other board members. As a former member of the ZBA for a couple of years, he said, "We do a lot of research, that's what the function of that board is, and to advise this board. I dis-

See DENIED, Page 4



ANNE EICKSTADT PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Volunteer Daisy Avila reads a scary story to entertain families visiting the Campfire event at the Ida Public Library.

Campfire stories at Ida Public Library

By Anne Eickstadt
EDITOR

The Ida Public Library is hosting Campfire events on Mondays every two weeks this summer. The first was a Campfire Story event in the field/empty lot next to the library's parking lot.

Two fire pits were set aflame by the newest library employee, Jacob Costa, an Eagle Scout. Monday, June 14, was his first day on the job

at the library.

"I have lit many fires," he said. "I have stomped out lots of fires."

Several families with small children came out with lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy the scary stories that volunteers read for them. Library Director Mindy Long, History Librarian Sandi Omiotek, Jacob Costa, Daisy Avila and Sahir Mazunder volunteered to read one or more stories

aloud for the audience.

A bit of excitement happened later in the evening when a spark escaped from one of the fire pits and set the grass on fire. Every adult with a bottle of water or cup of fluid promptly poured it on the burning grass and Costa stomped out what was left of the blaze. The fire was out before anyone could reach the garden hose the library had on hand.

Heritage Days still draws crowds despite weather

A cloudy, rainy Saturday morning slowed the Heritage Days celebration but rain couldn't stop Belvidere residents and visitors who came out to enjoy all the events Belvidere had ready. Only a few people came out early in the morning but by noon State Street was filling up and everyone had a wonderful time. The parade route on Sunday was lined with joyful crowds. Below: Mayor Morris and his granddaughter Emersyne, age 8, Paint on State under a canopy.

ANNE EICKSTADT PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing



Above: Water Rescue Team member Adrian Trujillo of the Belvidere Fire Department handled the jet ski to wrangle the Duck Race from the Main Street Bridge to the State Street Bridge.



BPD kicks off Independence Day campaign for safe and sober driving

Belvidere Police Department announced its plans for July Fourth traffic enforcement with a focus on impaired and unbuckled drivers. The safety campaign will run now through July 6 to encompass three weekends leading up to and following the Independence Day holiday, one of the deadliest times on Illinois roads.

"We want all our residents and visitors to have an enjoyable and safe holiday," said Chief Woody. "Remember—if you are going to drink or use other impairing substances, don't drive. We will be stepping up patrols to keep impaired drivers off the road and ensure everyone makes

it home from their celebrations."

Belvidere Police Department will join the Illinois State Police and more than 200 local police and sheriff's departments for the increased statewide enforcement effort.

To keep your Fourth of July celebrations safe, plan ahead by designating a sober Driver, not driving distracted and always wearing your seatbelt. Other important tips include:

- Give your designated driver your keys before you go out.
- If you are drunk or impaired by marijuana or other drugs, call a taxi, take mass transit, or call a family member to get you home safely.

- Use your favorite ride-share service such as Uber or Lyft or use public transportation.

- If you see a drunk driver, pull over safely and call 911.

Make sure everyone in your vehicle wears their seat belt. It is the best defense against an impaired driver.

The "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" and "Click It or Ticket" campaign is fully funded by federal traffic safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation. The campaign runs concurrently with a media campaign reminding motorists that impaired driving has "Life or Death" consequences.

GUN SHOW

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City addresses parking problems along Willowbrook Drive

By Bob Balgemann
REPORTER

Occasionally, cities are required to address problems with speeding and parking. Most recently, the city was approached about parking difficulties along Willowbrook Drive, between Chrysler Drive and Oakwood Drive, where vehicles park on both sides of the street. The problem was raised by residents of that area and forwarded to the Ward 1 alderman, Clayton Stevens, who in turn asked that it be referred to the appropriate committee for discussion. Stevens reported during the June 14 Committee of the Whole meeting that he had visited the area in question found this: "When vehicles park on both sides of the street, only one vehicle can drive down the street. This is a large problem

when children are waiting for, and getting on, the school bus. The residents would like to see one side of the street made into not (for) parking." His suggested solution was posting the south side of the street with "No Parking" signs, which would allow parking only on the north side, nearest to the condominiums. "There's a lot of room over there for those people to park at because they normally walk through the back yard to reach their vehicles," he said. Of having vehicles parking on both sides of Willowbrook, he said, "I'm sure this creates one (huge) problem in the winter, when our plows go through there." Mayor Clint Morris said he, too, had driven to that area, saw the same problem and also received complaints.

But Alderman Dan Snow said he wondered if designating one side of that area of Willowbrook for "no parking," would cause the city to be revisiting other, similar situations around town. Alderman Matt Fleury wondered if the city was regulated in any way when it came to saying "parking" or "no parking." "Are there any guidelines we have to follow?" he asked. "No," Public Works Director Brent Anderson replied. "Parking zones are at the city's sole discretion," he said. "Typically, we make 'no parking' on the side of the street with fire hydrants on it. I'll do a quick review of the (Willowbrook) area and see which one will have the most parking stalls." For purposes of discussion,

Snow offered a motion to put up "No Parking" signs on the south side of Willowbrook, where fire hydrants are located. Alderman Tom Porter provided the necessary second. Then Snow asked if the lack of parking along that stretch of Willowbrook was because there weren't enough spaces for the condos, or because people didn't want to use parking provided for owners of the condos? The response was inaudible. Alderman Wendy Frank asked how many parking spaces would be eliminated by not allowing parking on that part of Willowbrook. "To be determined," Anderson responded. "Do we know if this property owner has any other property where he could expand the parking?" Porter asked.

Alderman Natalie Mulhall said there were 14 parking spaces for six condominiums at that location. The committee voted unanimously to prohibit parking on the south side of Willowbrook Dr., between Chrysler Drive

and Oakwood Drive, where fire hydrants are located. Ordinance 534H, concurring with the recommendation, was read into the record at the June 21 city council meeting. Second reading and final action is due at the July 6 council meeting.

• Fire calls (Continued from page 2)

1800 block of Maple Ave. - assist invalid
400 block of W. Lincoln Ave. - assist invalid
Saturday, June 26
BFD responded to 9 medical calls and the following fire/rescue calls.
300 block of W. Locust St. - no incident found on arrival
N. State St./N. Appleton Road - motor vehicle accident
1100 block of Nettie St. - defective elevator

200 block of Gail Ct. - call cancelled en route
Sunday, June 27
BFD responded to 5 medical calls and the following fire/rescue calls.
4th St./Pearl St. - call cancelled en route
600 block of W. Lincoln Ave. - public service
700 block of East Ave. - Rescue
700 block of S. Main St. - good intent call

• Denied (Continued from page 3)

agree with the findings of fact but I do agree with the Zoning Board of Appeals not to approve Special Use 2021." De La Trinidad said that he thought the ZBA panicked. "That vote (for denial) came because of a lot of pushback," he said. "The ZBA has been wrong lots of times; I think they are wrong in this one." "In my opinion, they do not panic," Schabacker countered. "They do the research." Board member Rodney Riley called it a public safety issue. "I love the idea of having a venue of this type, but don't think this is the right location for it." Prior to the board meeting a recommendation for approval of the special use request

came from the Planning and Zoning Commission, 3-0, on May 18. Staff also recommended approval, with conditions. Recommendations for denial came from ZBA, 3-0, on May 25, and from the Committee of the Whole - administration - in an 11-1 vote on June 3. **Closed meeting**
The meeting wrapped up with board members adjourning into executive session to discuss the sale of property. Upon reconvening, the board voted 11-0 to instruct staff to proceed as directed during the closed meeting. Details will become available to the public at a later date, when the proposed sale appears before the county board for a vote.

Library corner

Leo Tolstoy once said, "True life is lived when tiny changes occur." At Ida Public Library, many tiny changes have happened over the past month (some big ones too). We have quite a few new staff members, replacing others who took positions elsewhere. We have added a team of volunteers who are busy dusting, moving furniture, and planting flowers. The library computers are finally open to full capacity. We had to replace several monitors and add a couple of computers that quit working, but we now have 10 adult computers and five children's computers avail-

able. One adult computer has a large screen monitor for visually impaired patrons and will soon have a large font keyboard. Patrons may use the computers for one hour with one additional hour renewal available. In the upstairs stacks, we moved the audio books so they are in one walk-through. DVD's have been moved and arranged in a more user-friendly area. Spanish non-fiction has been moved from the back corner of the library to the area by the fax machine. Spanish fiction has been moved to the fiction area by Westerns. Graphic Novels have been moved by

the DVD's. Young adult materials have been moved upstairs to the area by the windows on the non-fiction side. A new tutoring area has been created in the back corner where Spanish materials were located. The Friends book sale carts are back upstairs by the circulation desk and the drinking fountains are open on both floors. In the children's department, cartloads of new books are being processed and added. Check out all the new "Dog Man" series and award-winning picture books. Children's DVDs have been moved to the old Young Adult area. Spanish language

books now occupy the old DVD area. The children's circulation desk is now open for checkouts. We will continue to make small changes to brighten up the entire library and make it a happy, welcoming place for every patron. If you haven't been inside for a while, do stop in and take a stroll around. We encourage you to visit, take a look at the new materials, chat with the staff, or pop in for a moment to make suggestions to our new director. And, if you don't know who Leo Tolstoy was, be sure to ask for enlightenment at the circulation desks. See you soon at the library!

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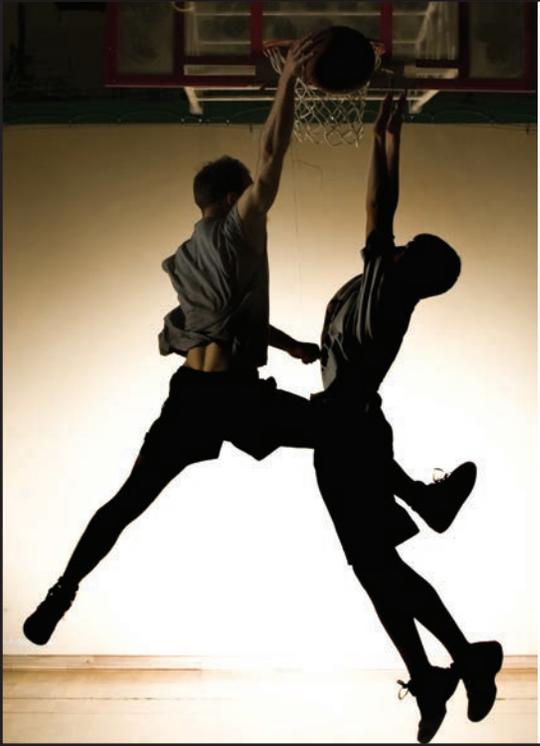
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SPORTS PHYSICALS FOR PECATONICA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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A portion of the Sports Physical Form must be completed and signed by a parent BEFORE the exam. If a parent does not accompany the student, a Consent for Medical Care Form must be signed and brought with the student. **IHSA exam forms and FHN Consent for Sports Physical forms can be found at www.fhn.org/areasportsphysicals. Masks are required.**

Sports Physical Cost: \$20

Please make checks payable to FHN. Cash or Check only. Debit/Credit cards not accepted. FHN donates all proceeds from the sports physicals to the school.

McHenry County Sheriff's report

The following arrests in McHenry County were reported by the McHenry County Sheriff's Department. Suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

June 15
Antonio A. Perez-Huerta, 48, Elkhorn, WI, was cited for aggravated DUI 4;

June 16
Matthew G. Morris, 39, Wonder Lake, was cited for aggravated DUI 3+, agg DUI/

suspended or revoked driver's license for DUI;

Todd E. Landen, 37, Chicago, was cited for criminal damage to government property <\$500;

Connor R. Freise, 27, McHenry, was cited for receive/possess/sell stolen vehicle, burglary, unlawful possession of a credit/debit card and theft/unauthorized control <\$300;

June 17
Darryl J. Parks, 62, Romeo-

ville, was cited for aggravated DUI 4;

Travis J. Dodaro, 21, Marenago, was cited for 2 counts of possession of a firearm with FOID expired/no elig, illegal possession of ammunition/FOID, and unlawful possession of a firearm/delq <21;

Kelly A. Tafel, 44, Wonder Lake, was cited for 2 counts of forgery issue/deliver document, and 2 counts of identity theft <\$300;

Vincent G. Romano, 32,

Woodstock, was cited for 3 counts of possession of a controlled substance, and 2 counts of man/del controlled substances;

Juan J. Catalan, 26, Westmont, was cited for domestic battery/bodily harm;

June 18
Aurtoinesha T. Sams, 21, Milwaukee, was cited for possession of a controlled substance;

Kathryn T. Lazansky, 58, McHenry, was cited for 2

counts of possession of a controlled substance;

James Cornelius, 25, Woodstock, was cited for armed violence/category I, delivery/manufacture cannabis over 30 gm, possession of a firearm with defaced serial number, unlawful possession of a firearm without a FOID, unlawful possession of firearm ammunition without a FOID, cannabis control act-over 100 gms and not more than 500 gms;

Isaiah R. Dunn Vigo Gomes,

26, Woodstock, was cited for armed violence category I, delivery of 1-15 gr cocaine/analog, possession of a firearm with defaced serial number, delivery/manufacture cannabis over 30 gm, felon possess/use weapon/firearm, possession of a controlled substance, 2 counts of illegal possession of ammunition, cannabis control act over 100 gms not more than 500 gms, and felon in possession/use of weapon/firearm.

Woodstock Police report

The Woodstock Police department reported the following arrests and citations. Persons charged with domestic battery and juveniles 17 or younger are not named.

An arrest does not constitute a conviction, and suspects are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

June 11
1:16 p.m., 1200 block of

South Eastwood Drive: Ethan A. Rico, 18, of Huntley, was arrested for no valid driver's license and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

6:22 p.m., 1100 block of Jewett Street: Adon M. Castaneda, 37, of Woodstock, was arrested for driving while license revoked.

June 13
1:39 a.m., 200 block of

North Benton Street: Justin J. Rieke, 26, of Wonder Lake, was arrested for WOW (FTA-McHenry County).

June 14
9:10 p.m., 3700 block of Doty Road: Bradley J. Lamkin, 26, no address given, was arrested for assault.

June 17
6:27 p.m., 500 block of Washington Street: Olivero C.

Carbajal, 63, of Woodstock, was arrested for driving while license suspended and improper lane usage.

6:39 p.m., South Eastwood Drive at McConnell Road: Michael W. King, 36, of Huntley, was arrested for driving while license suspended, uninsured, driver required to wear seat belt.

June 19
11:58 a.m., 300 block of Lincoln Avenue: Julio C. Enriquez, 34, of Woodstock, was arrested for theft.

6:38 p.m., Greenley Street at Lake Avenue: Tanner B. Heidtke, 22, no address given, was arrested for WOW (retail

theft-McHenry County).

June 20
12:37 a.m., West South Street: Nicholas T. Opie, 25, of Marengo, was arrested for DUI and illegal lane usage.

8:58 p.m., 100 block of Van Buren Street: a 25-year-old Woodstock man was arrested on two counts of domestic battery.

June 21
12:31 a.m., 100 block of South Jefferson Street: Victor L. Mena, 33, of Woodstock, was arrested for WOW (FTA-McHenry County).

10:14 a.m., South Eastwood Drive at McConnell Road: Diego A. Valencia-Gar-

cia, 34, of Cary, was arrested for driving while license suspended.

June 22
11:28 a.m., 500 block of Washington Street: Calvin B. Thomas, 30, no address given, was arrested for retail theft.

June 23
11:42 p.m., 700 block of Tara Drive: Sean E. Devinger, 21, of Woodstock, was arrested for DUI, uninsured and improper lane usage.

June 24
5:10 p.m., 1200 block of Lake Avenue: David L. Gehrke, 44, no address given, was arrested for WOW (FTA-McHenry County).

Huntley Police report

All individuals listed as arrested or charged with a crime in this press release are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

June 16
11200 Hanover Avenue: An Illinois Department of Employment Security fraud was reported.

Pineway Street: Theft was reported.

June 17
13200 block of Illinois Route 47: A theft of gasoline was reported.

11500 block of Algonquin Road: An identity theft was reported. The victim had personal information used to ob-

tain an out of state loan.

June 18
11700 block of Niagara Lane: A telephone harassment was reported.

8900 block of Sawyer Street: A fraud was reported, where an unknown person attempted to gain access to personal finances from out of state.

12400 block of Elliot Lane: An Illinois Department of Employment Security fraud was reported.

10700 block of Nantucket Lane: A payment was made to a fraudulent "Roomster" app account where the listed

1200 block of Mill Street. Criminal defacement of park

district property was reported.

June 21
Dundee Road/Ruth Road: Phylis A. Termini, 46, of Elgin, was arrested for expired driver's license, operation of an uninsured motor vehicle and display of expired registration.

12300 block of Illinois Route 47: Counterfeit bills were passed at a business.

June 22
10900 block of Illinois Route 47: Counterfeit bills were passed at a business.

10600 Golden Gate Avenue: An Illinois Department of Employment Security fraud was reported.

Heritage (Continued from front page)

with Illinois Humanities to present Dennis Stroughmatt, an accomplished fiddler from downstate Albion, Ill., at 2:30 p.m. "Illinois Creoles, French Canadians, and Louisiana Cajuns:

A Continental Story" takes the audience on a journey of discovery, during which they will hear the history of their arrival to what was considered New France—which stretched from the St. Lawrence River to New Orleans. Hear the French dialects they still speak and the unique music they still perform.

The day also features free admission to the museum, food vendors, and infor-

mation booths manned by McHenry County Conservation District and the Land Conservancy—each celebrating landmark anniversaries this year.

The celebrated antique car show also returns! Parking in front of the museum is reserved for classic cars. Visitors can park on side streets or the lot south of the tracks.

For additional information, visit www.gothistory.org or call 815-923-2267.



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DEADLINES

News.....Friday noon
Display Advertising.....Friday noon
Legal Notices.....Friday 4:30 p.m.
Classifieds.....Monday noon

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Rock Valley Publishing

Back in the saddle

Intern returns to Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau

By Ann Marie Cain, FBCM MANAGER, WINNEBAGO-BOONE FARM BUREAU

This week we would like to re-introduce the other addition to our staff, Chloe Gustafson. Chloe returned mid-May. She is working with the Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau as our 2021 AITC Summer Intern. The Farm Bureau is excited to continue to support our local youth.

Hello. I am Chloe Gustafson. My stomping grounds are in Belvidere, Illinois, where I got my start in the agriculture industry. In my younger years, I had the desire to learn more about agriculture, which led me

to join 4-H and FFA. During my FFA years, I gained a stronger connection and passion for the agriculture industry. This also led to my passion for the sheep industry that started while showing and raising sheep, judging livestock, and participating in skill-a-thon events.

From there, I became passionate about agriculture education. I began my college career at Black Hawk College East Campus, graduating as an Ag transfer student in the spring of 2020. While at Black Hawk, I had the fantastic opportunity to participate in the Growing Agriculture Science Teachers

Grant. This grant allowed me to shadow and be a part of Kewanee High School's agriculture department during my freshman and sophomore years of college.

This hands-on experience expanded my passion for agriculture education and allowed me to share what is most important to me with younger generations of students. This fall, I will be completing my degree in agriculture education at Iowa State University as a senior.

I am a strong believer that the agriculture industry is one of the most important industries, which is why I

find it very important to keep agriculture in our classrooms at all learning levels. One of the many amazing things that the Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau provides is Agriculture in the Classroom. The Ag in the Classroom program provides in-school field trips to local schools and provides, hands-on lessons on a variety of agriculture topics to various grade levels.

This summer, I am honored to be provided with the opportunity of being back with the Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau as one of their 2021 summer education interns. I will be spending much of my time this summer working

with Diane Cleland, WBFB Ag literacy coordinator. While working alongside Diane, I have been able to share my true passion for education and agriculture at many educational events through the Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau. We partnered with the Boone County Extension Office to provide a weeklong program through the Belvidere YMCA.

While at the Belvidere YMCA, we provided camp participants with hands-on learning about different farm animals. Local 4-H members brought their animals to show camp kids, which provided the campers with a hands-on visual of farm life. The Farm Bureau was able to help expand the campers' knowledge by providing hands-on activities on specific farm animals, such as sheep, poultry, goats, horses, and dairy. The Belvidere YMCA camp is just one of many educational events that the Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau and I have been able to help with this summer. In

the coming weeks, we will be traveling to other youth camps to teach various agriculture topics.

The Farm Bureau is a fantastic organization that provides educational opportunities to many individuals and communities. I am beyond honored that I get the chance to share my passion for education and agriculture through this internship. I plan to implement the experiences I gain from this internship into my future agriculture programs. Being a future Ag education teacher, I want to provide my students with the best educational opportunities, just like the Farm Bureau thrives to do for their members and communities.

Peach Reminder

The Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau® is taking orders for fresh Southern Illinois free-stone peaches. Order forms are available at www.winnebagoboonefarmbureau.org. Orders must be received by Monday, July 26.

Slices of life

Grief is a part of life

I had a bit of a eureka today. There are two groups of people in this world: those who have been thrust into the tsunami that is grief and those who hope to outrun the storm.

Those of us in the eye of the hurricane struggle. We lament. We wail. Our lives have been forever changed and we hate it. We abhor it.

Right now I am one of the haters. Never thought I'd say that, but there you go. I hate grief.

I used to think that sat all on me. I used to think grief was my problem to deal with, to handle. Grief randomly happened to me, so it was logically my own battle.

I think a lot of us think that. We think our grief is our own issue. It's thrust upon us personally and it is ours, personally, to deal with, to move past and "get over."

Not exactly right.

Our culture is missing the point on grief.

Let's start from the beginning. Grief is a part of life, however unfortunate.

We all, most likely, will experience grief at some point



By JILL PERTLER
Columnist

during our time on planet earth. So why, then, are we so afraid of those in the throes of grief?

Maybe because it could be us some day, or even tomorrow morning?

Exactly.

The societal issue of grief doesn't lie with those who are grieving. We can't deny our emotions. We are honest to the core (or at least to the tear ducts). And that often makes others anxious and fearful.

It's hard to be in the company of someone crushed by grief. To see them sad, or worse yet, sobbing. It makes people uncomfortable, so they avoid it. They avoid those who are grieving. And by doing so, they multiply the devastation that grief preys upon.

Because here's the point as succinct as I can make it: my husband stopped breathing

and left this earth. That makes me terribly sad. I miss him. Forever-always-a part of me will be terribly sad; a part of me will miss him. But that isn't my whole being. It isn't even the majority of my being. Grief may always possess a portion of me but it doesn't have to define me.

Grief isn't me. And I don't want to be defined by it.

I feel your fear, just as sure as I feel my own pain. I understand. Not long ago I had the same fear you feel and I'd trade my pain for that fear in a heartbeat. I'd love to continue trying to outrun the storm that caught up with me all too soon.

But the storm got me, and my husband left this earth. He is gone. I am not.

I'm still here. I'm still alive. I still have all the human needs I had before I lost my husband. Just because he's gone doesn't mean I'm done. I don't want to be overlooked or forgotten. I still live and breathe. My heart is still beating. I still laugh. I still want to laugh. I still have joy. I still strive for and choose joy. I still enjoy

a cup of morning coffee, a comfy blanket, a warm shower, and the sunshine on my face. I'm still me.

I didn't die. But sometimes it feels like I did. I absolutely know you don't want me to feel this way and I know you are horrified to think that I possibly do. I'm sorry. I don't want to do or say anything that makes you more uncomfortable than my grief already has. That is not my intent, in any way, shape, or form.

Someday I will join my beloved husband just like you will join the loved ones who go before you. But until then, I long to fully live the life I set out to live when I came to earth. Please don't write me off just yet. Don't forget about me. Let's share a laugh together. Let's share joy.

I'm still here.

Jill Pertler is an award winning syndicated columnist, published playwright, author, and member of the National Society of Newspaper Columnists. Don't miss a slice; follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.

REAL ESTATE LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE TWENTY- SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT MC HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS QUICKEN LOANS, LLC Plaintiff, -v- RICHARD W. DUNCUM et al Defendant 21CH000035

NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on May 18, 2021, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on July 23, 2021, at the NLT Title L.L.C., 390 Congress Parkway, Suite D, Crystal Lake, IL, 60014, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

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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.

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If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

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For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION

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You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-20-02853 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Case Number: 21CH000035 TJS# 41-921

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(Published in the McHenry County News June 17, 25 & July 1, 2021)





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- 3) Inspect Belts & Hoses**
- 4) Inspect Tires & Correct Air Pressure**
- 5) Rotate Tires**
- 6) Inspect Thickness of Brake Pads**
- 7) Check Vehicle Charging System**
 A: Test Output of Alternator
 B: Load Test The Battery
 C: Check Condition of Battery Connections

\$24⁹⁵ Plus Disposal Fee & Sales Tax

- OFFER GOOD FOR MOST CARS •
- MINI VANS - LIGHT TRUCKS UP TO 1/2 TON •
- 3/4 - 1 TON TRUCKS - ADD \$10 •
- 5W20 - ADD \$2 • With Coupon •
- Not valid with any other offer •
- Expires 7/8/2021 •

STORE SPECIAL

PASSENGER TIRES \$40 OFF

Any New Set of Four CS5 GRAND TOURING OR CS5 ULTRA TOURING TIRES

May not be combined with any other offer or coupon. Some services not available at all locations. Must redeem at time of purchase. Offer expires 7/8/2021

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**1983 PAWLISCH DRIVE
 CHERRYVALE MALL
 815-332-9445
 RIGHT NEXT TO WATER TOWER
 M-F 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Sat. 8 a.m.-3 p.m.**



5257 SWANSON ROAD, ROSCOE
 2 MILES S. OF HONONEGAH ELEVATOR ON RT. 251
 M-F 8:00-5:30; SAT. 8:00-3:00
815-637-4055

520 LOGAN AVENUE, BELVIDERE
 3 BLOCKS EAST OF BELVIDERE PARK
 M-F 8:00-5:30; SAT. 8:00-3:00
815-544-4452

1610 ALPINE ROAD, ROCKFORD
 1 BLOCK SOUTH OF COLONIAL VILLAGE
 M-F 8:00-5:30; SAT. 8:00-3:00
815-398-7867

5302 N. 2ND, LOVES PARK
 ACROSS FROM POPEYE'S
 M-F 8:00-5:30; SAT. 8:00-3:00
815-282-1177

