

McHenry County News



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Tim Beagle, McHenry High School science division chair, left to right, accepted a \$500 ExxonMobil educational grant on Feb. 18, from District Manager Lysa Schaefer, and De-

bra Wade, store manager of the McHenry Mobil. Joining Beagle were Dr. Ryan McTague, McHenry District 156 superintendent, and Marsha Potthoff, West Campus principal.

COURTESY PHOTO McHenry County News

McHenry High School gets \$500 STEM grant

Science classes plan to use education grant for sustainable projects

McHenry High School leaders accepted a \$500 ExxonMobil STEM educational grant on Feb. 18 with plans to use the funding for future sustainable growing projects in the new Center for Science, Technology, and Industry at the Upper Campus.

Tim Beagle, science division chair, said the grant will fund aquaponics and hydroponics food production projects for environmental science students to study in the new

greenhouse. With both projects making use of water, aquaponics involves growing fish and hydroponics allows plant growth without soil.

"It is a solution to not having soil or land on which to grow," Beagle said. "It will be a good learning experience for them."

A new greenhouse is part of the 70,000-square-foot Center for Science, Technology and Industry under construction north of West

Campus, which will become the Upper Campus. The center is possible through a bond referendum that voters approved in 2018 to improve McHenry Community High School District 156 buildings and facilities.

The project includes a consolidation into one McHenry High School, with an Upper Campus and a Freshman Campus at East Campus.

The ExxonMobil grant is part of the company's larger Educa-

tional Alliance grant program for station operators to help support local schools. Lysa Schaefer, district manager for ExxonMobil, said officials give the grants each year to local schools. Debra Wade, store manager for the McHenry Mobil, joined in nominating McHenry High School for the award.

The Educational Alliance program is intended to help fund STEM education.

For Beagle, he's glad to have

the grant to increase the study of sustainability at McHenry High School. He said he's modeled his plans after similar projects at Badger High School in Lake Geneva, Wis.

The aquaponics and hydroponics projects also teach students how to incorporate rainwater and snow, and how to create vertical gardens in urban areas. The food products could then be used in high school culinary classes, Beagle said.

Historical society 'food history' program



COURTESY PHOTO McHenry County News

A YouTube presentation by the McHenry County Historical Society, "Food History at Home," teaches viewers about the history of particular foods.

McHenry County Historical Society has launched a historical, how-to approach video series. Its free five-part "Food History at Home" teaches viewers about the history of particular foods.

Not only will our educational team provide you with a step-by-step demonstration of cooking methods, you'll learn about local food history using food-related artifacts from MCHS' collection.

The first episode, "Butter," is available on the historical society's Face-

book page at www.youtube.com/watch?v=oKQzSb5rWaM. It is hosted by our Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator Karolina Kowalczyk.

Other episodes will be posted every other Tuesday. In order, they are about cookies (www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGmUwbrm3iY), bread, canning and fermentation, and celebration of Jan Bosman's family cookbook.

In the book's introduction, the Woodstock resident writes:

"I was raised on a farm in southern Wisconsin, watching my mother

make simple, but substantial, meals for workmen, as well as our family of four. I grew up eating fresh vegetables from our garden and watching my mother can and pickle. I grew up drinking fresh milk and having rich cream for my cereal. I grew up eating fresh meat butchered on the farm and stored in the family freezer."

Visit mchenrycountyhistory.org for more information.

Kurt Begalka, of Harvard, is the McHenry County Historical Society's administrator.



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Expanding downtown fire station in the future for Belvidere

By Bob Balgemann
REPORTER

Fire Chief Al Hyser was in the middle of presenting his proposed 2021-22 budget at a Committee of the Whole meeting, discussing the line item for building maintenance.

At that point Alderman Daniel Arevalo asked if there was any possibility of expanding downtown Station 1, at 123 S. State St. That brought discussion with the chief along with Capt. Shawn Schadle, and their answer was “yes.”

The historic building, part of which was built in the late 1800s, is undergoing extensive remodeling on the 1,700-square-foot second floor. That project should be finished soon.

Hyser’s first response to the alderman was that the two buildings next to Station 1 currently are for sale. While buying them could not happen this year, because of ongoing impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, he said, “That’s something we as a council should be looking at.

“We’ve kind of outgrown that building,” he said of the department’s current location. “It’s difficult to get the command vehicle in there, and the engine. Those two buildings next to us would be a welcome addition for the long haul.”

He provided some food for thought when it came to building new fire stations.

“Today, when other municipalities build fire departments, they’re millions and millions of dollars,” he said. “Some of the cheaper ones are \$5 million and that’s a pole building with a little bit of brick. They can go up to \$12 million.

“The opportunity to expand downtown would be a great thing for us, and I bet we could do it for much less than that.”

Schadle said living quarters at Sta-

tion 1 are “cramped.” Referring to Station 2, 353 E. 6th St., is completely full. “We’re definitely having some growing pains,” Continuing to look to the future, he said. “We should plan for the day when there are women on the department. There are some on the current list of candidates to fill upcoming vacancies. Right now sleeping quarters have no separations.”

He, too, talked about buying the adjacent buildings as “a good move.”

Back to budget

Alderman Marsha Freeman returned to the subject of building maintenance in the 2021-22 budget, asking why it had increased by 70 percent over the last two years.

“Ever since I took over (as chief) I’ve been trying to streamline our budget items, to put them in the areas that they belong,” Hyser explained.

“Ok,” Freeman interjected, “so they’ve been moved around, from other line items?”

“Yes, that’s correct,” the chief confirmed. “It’s been an ongoing endeavor of mine and my administrative assistant. We’re continuing to work on that. I think we’re in a good place (now) and not much movement should be occurring any more. But you never say never.”

With no further questions on building maintenance, Hyser moved on to vehicle repairs, which he said can be very expensive.

“Some Belvidere equipment is old and elsewhere it would have been put out to pasture by now,” he said.

Capital expenses

That discussion transitioned into the department’s five-year capital improvements plan, covering the upcoming 2021-22 fiscal year to 2025-26 and included two major vehicle purchases.

The final \$68,826 payments on Fire Engine 101 will occur next year and

in 2022-23. Then a new engine is proposed for purchase in 2023-24, with annual payments of \$64,285 for the ensuing six years.

Five portable radios (\$11,827) and two mobile radios (\$6,636) are scheduled to be bought in the new year.

Hyser provided some detail about the engine he is proposing to buy in 2023-24.

“Right now we are using a 1992 engine, as well as a 2002, depending on which one is doing well at the time,” he explained. “They’re in the shop quite often and I’m hoping to get them to the finish line. Parts are hard to come by.”

Freeman asked about the status of grants the department was seeking.

Hyser said he really was hoping to land a grant for hydraulic extrication tools.

“Fire Marshal Matt Perez has indicated the upper one-half of the state should be receiving these funds,” the chief said. “I’m optimistic that will occur for us.”

Also, Schadle said he hoped an Assistance for Firefighters (AFG) grant, available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), would be received locally.

“It’s countywide so the (county) 9-1-1 board is trying to shore up some communication problems and a solution would be going to (all) Starcom

radios,” he said. “The estimated cost is \$750,000 to upgrade that equipment (locally).”

Participants in the grant application would be Belvidere, county Fire Protection Districts 1, 2 and 3, and the Capron Rescue Squad.

Later, Hyser appeared before the Committee of the Whole on Feb. 8 and provided more details.

He said Belvidere’s share of the grant would be \$17,480.96 and that it would get 22 radios. District 1 would get 10 radios; District 2, 28 radios; District 3, 27 radios and Capron Rescue, 12 radios. They would include base radios for station houses; mobile radios for trucks; and portable radios for firefighters.

Schadle also was at the committee meeting and explained that there currently are a lot of communication gaps on the outskirts of the county. And also within the Belvidere city limits. Getting the additional radios would help address those problem areas.

Arevalo commended the departments for coming together and going after the grant.

The committee voted 10-0 to recommend applying for the APG grant and that step was given final approval by city council on Feb. 15.

During his budget presentation to the Committee of the Whole, additional proposed capital expenditures

during 2021-22 included purchase of an extrication tool, for use at crash scenes, \$19,668; and reroofing of Station 1, costing \$25,000.

In the beginning

Back at the beginning of his report, Hyser said the department had 30 employees, one chief, one administrative assistant, three captains, three lieutenants, and 22 firefighter/paramedics.

In May 2020, Firefighter Mike Scarpetta retired after more than 26 years of serving the city. Local resident, Firefighter Robert Gunsteen, was hired in August 2020 to replace Scarpetta.

A rapid response vehicle was purchased last year and should be in service by March 20, 2021. It will be based at Station 2.

The proposed budget includes salaries for two new firefighters who had been approved in 2020-21 but never hired because of the COVID-19 pandemic and corresponding shortfall in revenue.

In May 2021, the chief said three firefighters are expected to retire, so as many replacements will be hired.

In the new year salaries for all employees are proposed at \$2.422 million, up from \$2.301 million in 2020-21. Overtime is budgeted at \$136,000, a decrease of \$4,000. Total personnel costs, including benefits, are budgeted at \$4.383 million.

Governor shirks responsibility, shifts blame in partisan speech

State Rep. Joe Sosnowski, R-Rockford, issued the following statement today following Gov. JB Pritzker’s Budget Address delivered virtually to the General Assembly and the people of Illinois:

“Today (Feb. 17), the Governor refused to accept any responsibility for the state’s fiscal challenges or his administration’s failure to fix the unemployment claims process, or his failure to prevent thousands of Illinois residents from being victimized by unemployment fraud, or his failure to protect the lives of veterans in the state’s care, or for destroying sectors of the economy through extreme shut-down measures that only targeted certain businesses like small family-owned restaurants and shops.

“Today the Governor blamed Republicans in the legislature for Illinois’ budget woes, even though Democrats hold a supermajority in both the State House and Senate and have had complete control of state government for 14 of the past 18 years. He also blamed congressional Republicans, despite the fact that Democrats enjoy a majority in Congress.

“JB Pritzker has been Governor for more than two years now. It’s time that he began taking responsibility and starts leading instead of pointing fingers. Illinois doesn’t have time for his rhetoric and failed policies. After record-high spending in his budgets the past two years, this year’s proposal is out of balance by \$1.653 billion when based on current law, and not proposed

tax increases and “free” federal money that the Governor assumes will happen. That will be a deficit on top of the \$4.7 billion unpaid bill backlog, \$4.3 billion in short-term debt and \$141 billion in unfunded pension liabilities.

“Just like this budget proposal, Governor Pritzker’s go-it-alone approach has had disastrous results for the people of the State of Illinois. If he decides to change course and reach across the aisle to work together in honest collaboration with Republicans and Democrats, I’m ready to help pass a truly balanced budget that meets the needs of families here in the Stateline and across Illinois.”

Rep. Sosnowski serves the 69th District, which includes portions of Boone and Winnebago Counties.

Library corner

It may not feel like it this week, but spring will be here soon. Ida Public Library’s new spring quarter starts March 1 and we are blooming with great programs for all ages. Although we are starting March with virtual programs only, we have some exciting offerings for you.

For adults, we will be partnering up with Cherry Valley Library on three Zoom presentations: Mysterious Creatures of Illinois presented by nationally known researcher Chad Lewis; a Rhodes Scholar program about poet Emily Dickinson presented by international storyteller Paddy Lynn; and a Zoom introduction to the

Museum of Bad Art located in Massachusetts.

Our seed library will be starting up as well as a monthly Garden Club to get tips and projects for the planting season. Getting outside will be a focus of the children’s and family programs, with a Backyard Scavenger Hunt, a new Ida’s Explorers program twice a month, and a few outdoor storytimes later in the quarter depending on weather.

Registration may be required for some events, so be sure to stop by the library or visit us online at www.idapubliclibrary.org for the spring program guide.



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Sen. Syverson reacts to Budget Address

Lawmakers across the state watched from their respective districts as the governor delivered a combined State of the State and Budget Address virtually to members of the General Assembly on Feb. 16.

State Sen. Dave Syverson (R-Rockford) issued the following statement following the address:

“The COVID-19 health crisis upended the lives of people across the world almost a year ago and has continued to create hardships for Illinois’ families and businesses. Unfortu-

nately, the day-to-day challenges of navigating this crisis have only been compounded by the Governor’s continued refusal to live within the state’s means.

“For months, job creators and businesses have floundered under government imposed shutdowns, and hardworking men and women have suffered. In the face of this devastation, rather than embracing structural reforms and working to help the job creators of this state, the Governor has decided to build a budget on the backs

of employers and at the expense of Illinois’ infrastructure.

“The budget proposal put forth today is \$1.7 billion out-of-balance, removes substantial businesses incentives, and redirects funding from critical infrastructure improvements. We will not grow our economy through the same failed gimmicks of the past.

“Rather than passing budgets that rely on magic money, we need to focus on doing what it takes to help Illinois recover, support our job creators and promote economic opportunity.”

Belvidere fire calls

The Belvidere Fire Dept. responded to 64 calls Feb. 15 to 21.

Monday, Feb. 15

BFD responded to 3 medical calls and the following fire/rescue calls.
600 block of W. Locust St. - smoke/odor removal
1800 block of Maple Ave. - defective elevator
1600 block of Belvidere Road - call cancelled en route
1700 block of Henry Luckow Lane - call cancelled en route
East Ave./US Route 20 - motor vehicle accident
2000 block of Lakeshore Dr. - call cancelled en route
1300 block of 5th Ave. - assist invalid
1100 block of Nettie St. - no incident found on arrival
Tuesday, Feb. 16
BFD responded to 10 medical calls and the following fire/rescue calls.
2000 block of N. State St. - fire

alarm

1900 block of Wycliffe St. - smoke alarm
200 block of High Line Dr. - call cancelled en route
2000 block of N. State St. - smoke alarm
Warren Ave./Locust St. - gas leak
900 block of Walnut St. - carbon monoxide alarm
9300 block of Beloit Road - call cancelled en route
Wednesday, Feb. 17
BFD responded to 3 medical calls and the following fire/rescue calls.
400 block of Whitney Blvd. - public service
Thursday, Feb. 18
BFD responded to 6 medical calls and the following fire/rescue calls.
900 block of W. 9th St. - good intent call
400 block of McKinley Ave. - cooking fire
900 block of 9th Ave. - no incident

found on arrival

1700 block of W. Chrysler Dr. - cooking fire
Friday, Feb. 19
BFD responded to 4 medical calls and the following fire/rescue calls.
400 block of E. Hurlbut St. - public service
3100 block of Business Rte. 20 - attempted burning
1100 block of Nettie St. - false alarm
Saturday, Feb. 20
BFD responded to 2 medical calls.
Sunday, Feb. 21
BFD responded to 9 medical calls and the following fire/rescue calls.
200 block of N. Main St. - false alarm
2000 block of N. State St. - fire alarm
4100 block of Brookstone Lane - smoke alarm
600 block of Garden Dr. - water/steam leak

WWII veteran celebrates 100th birthday in style

By Robert Ryder
VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
OF BOONE COUNTY

The cars were lined up for almost a half mile as dozens came out to Poplar Grove Wednesday, Feb. 10, to celebrate the 100th birthday of World War II Army veteran Walter Petroske. The “birthday parade” was a joint effort involving several local organizations and individuals who worked together to celebrate the World War II veteran’s birthday.

Sgt. Petroske served as a demolitions specialist and took part in some of the most important battles near the end of the fighting against Nazi Germany, including the Battle of the Bulge, the Bridge at Remagen and the invasion of the Rhineland area of Germany.

“This is more than we could have ever hoped for,” proclaimed Charlotte Kennedy, Petroske’s daughter and one of the main organizers of the parade. “To see so many people come out on such a cold day to say happy

birthday to my dad is really wonderful. I know he really appreciates it and is enjoying every minute of it.”

For COVID-19 concerns Petroske remained in a family van with the window down and the heat on to lessen the chances of infection. That didn’t stop him from showing how much he appreciated all the efforts with a wide smile and continuously waving to the passing cars.

“This is just great to see so many people taking part today,” said Robert Ryder, superintendent of the Veterans Assistance Commission of Boone County. “It really shows how much the Boone County residents care about our veterans and want to honor them in all ways possible.”

The North Boone High School Band, Vets Roll, Brave Hearts and the VFW Post 162 of Belvidere and the American Legion Post 77 of Belvidere and their Honor Guards were just some of the many organizations who took part in the salute to Sgt. Petroske.



ROBERT R. RYDER PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Walter Petroske waves from his family’s van as dozens of cars drive by during his “car parade” to honor the World War II veteran’s 100th birthday. He was the inspiration for the nonprofit organization ‘Sgt. P’s Lapghans for Veterans.’



The Veterans Assistance Commission of Boone County donated a special cake to honor the 100th birthday of World War II veteran Walter Petroske.



Members of the Honor Guard of VFW Post 1461 of Belvidere provided a 21-gun salute in honor of Walter Petroske’s birthday.



Local police and fire departments took part in the car parade including the Boone County Sheriff’s Deputies.

Slick road conditions cause fatal accident

On Tuesday, Feb. 16, at approximately 8:09 a.m., Boone County sheriff’s deputies responded to an injury traffic accident located on Illinois Route 76 just north of Woodstock Road, Poplar Grove.

Preliminary investigation indicates that a 2017 Chevrolet Cruze driven by a 74-year-old female from Poplar Grove was southbound on Illinois 76 when she lost control of her vehicle due to weather related road conditions. The vehicle then entered into the north-bound lane of traffic where it was struck on the passenger side by a 2014 Freightliner Semi Tractor pulling a mobile home driven by a 49-year-old male from Jackson, Mich. Neither he nor his passenger, a 29-year-old male, also from Jackson, Mich. were injured in the accident.

The driver and lone occupant of the Chevrolet was pronounced dead at the scene by the Boone County Coroner’s Office.

Assisting at the scene was Lifeline Ambulance and the Boone County District 2 Fire Department.

The identities of the drivers and passenger are not being released at this time.

The accident remains under investigation by the Boone County Sheriff’s Office and the Boone County Coroner’s Office.

Update:

The woman killed in the motor vehicle crash, Tuesday, Feb. 16, at the intersection of Route 76 and Woodstock Road in Boone County has been identified as Sharon K. Beu, age 74, of Poplar Grove.

The preliminary results from a forensic autopsy performed on Feb. 18 show the preliminary cause of death to be from the multiple injuries received in the crash.

This death remains under investigation of the Boone County Coroner’s Office and the Boone County Sheriff’s Office. No further information is available at this time.

Rebecca A. Wigget, Coroner of Boone County

City tables hiring police officer to work with health department

By Bob Balgemann
REPORTER

A veteran City of Belvidere police officer was on tap to be hired to work with the Boone County Health Dept., assisting with its COVID-19 activities as well as the current opioid crisis, mental health and domestic violence issues.

City council was first to consider that action Feb. 15 and, after discussion, tabled making a decision in a 7-3 vote. Support for the delay came from aldermen Marsha Freeman, Mike McGee, Tom Porter, Tom Ratcliffe, Clayton Stevens, Ric Brereton and Wendy Frank. Aldermen Dan Snow, Daniel Arevalo and Matt Fleury opposed the delay.

Two nights later, on Feb. 17, the Boone County Board, a partner in hiring the officer with proceeds from the \$94,077.38 Comprehensive Opioid Stimulant and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) grant, approved it.

Belvidere’s Committee of the Whole, consisting of all 10 aldermen, previously voted 9-1 with Brereton dissenting to recommend hiring the officer. That action came one week earlier, at the Feb. 8 meeting.

On Feb. 15, the vote to table came late in the meeting after Porter said there seemed to be a lot of unanswered questions surrounding details of the proposal. He offered the motion, which was seconded by Stevens, after saying he’d like Boone County Health Department Director Amanda Mehl to appear before aldermen “and maybe we can get some more information.”

During the council meeting Freeman said she had “several reservations and concerns about that” plan to hire what was termed a Community Law Enforcement Officer.

She said her understanding was the officer would be a city-funded entity for anything over what the grant covered.

“The city will be on the hook for supplying this officer with a car, gas and maintenance for the car, uniforms, and any special or extra training that’s required,” she added. “None of these expenses to my knowledge will be split with the county, or three ways with the county and health department.”

Her other concerns with the inter-governmental agreement (IGA) that was before council that night focused

on compensation for the officer being picked up by the police department.

She concluded by saying, “It is my intention to vote ‘no’ on this. I believe these people need treatment, education, and counseling, not usage arrests.”

Chief’s response

Police Chief Shane Woody said he agreed wholeheartedly with her last statement. “That’s exactly what this grant opportunity is for,” he said. “It’s for rehabilitation, counseling, and interdiction, not for investigations and intervention.

“The whole idea is to work with the health department and identify these clients in a proactive manner, to try and keep them from continuing drug use, and get them into rehabilitation.”

Freeman continued that the county and health department have zero budget liabilities, “and it’s all strapped to the city and our taxpayers. I don’t believe that’s fair. Everybody that has skin in the game should have skin in the game.”

“No, I think there may be a little confusion,” Chief Woody replied.

Slices of life

You've got this: Don't give up

We all have something that seems just out of reach, just beyond our grasp. Whatever it is – you've got this.

To the 4-year-old who just wants to ride a bike like her 6-year-old sister, but despite being in training with dad running behind for the last two weeks (every night after work) the training wheels remain and this situation is getting old – even for a 4-year old.

Stick the course. You're almost there. You've got this.

To the 12-year-old who just moved into a new town with a new school, who feels like he knows no one (because he doesn't) and a new school at age 12 can be a tough circumstance to find yourself in – even if you are popular, which it's hard to be when you know no one and have no friends. When your plight feels insurmountable please understand that it isn't.

Reach out to others. If someone smiles at you, smile back. You've got this.

To the 17-year-old who longs for a date to prom, but feels too



By
**JILL
PERTLER**
Contributor

awkward or afraid to ask the girl or guy of their dreams because they seem cooler and smarter and more well-adjusted than you could ever hope to be. Don't be deceived by appearances. Ask anyway. If you don't, you may always regret your hesitance.

No matter the answer, take control over your own situation. Go ahead, you've got this.

To the young parents who take turns changing diapers on two babies under 2-years-old after each spending 10-plus hours Monday through Friday at their individual careers; who cringe because supper still hasn't hit the table and there is laundry to fold and neither of you is sure who is more overwhelmed; and a part of you both longs for

the simpler days when it wasn't so busy and so complicated and so exhausting. (Although you'd never say this out loud.) Your situation may seem permanent and daunting, but it is both and neither at the same time.

Give yourself a break. Give each other a break. Clean laundry is over-rated - happy babies are not. You've got this.

To the 50-year-old who is tired. Tired of the career that seemed so inviting 25 years ago. To the concept of a mortgage that never seems to get paid off. To the idea of a marriage that's grown cliché and nearly stale. To the perception of youth, which is becoming more distant each day. To the dismay at the thought of lost time and lost opportunities.

Please know you've done well. You've created more good than you know. Grab onto what you have and don't let go. Make your future the best it can be. You've got this.

To the 90-year-old who is unsure. Unsure if you are ready to keep living a good life or ready

to give thanks for a good life well lived. Unsure if you are ready to move on to new things or to simply move on.

Do not let age define you; only you get to define you and only you know what is right for your tomorrow. And whatever you decide you want and whatever that may bring: You've got this. (You always have.)

Life gives us challenges at every stage and it may seem tempting (easy even) to hit the eject button and escape from the toughest route. But our challenges define us. They help us grow. So let's bring this full circle.

To the baby - nine months old, new and unfamiliar with life's challenges. You haven't yet mastered the art of walking. But you try. You fall down. And you try again, and again. You might hit your head on the coffee table. You might cry. But at the first chance, you will pull yourself up. You are determined. You aren't thwarted by disappointment or lack of muscle control. You just keep trying

because you know in your heart one day you will walk.

You know something that perhaps the rest of us don't. Maybe it's something the rest of us have forgotten during the process of growing up.

Babies know, they understand, that in order to walk you first have to fall down – many, many times. They know, inherently, that adversity is a part of life. That even when things seem hard or even insurmountable, we've got this.

Each of us has got this. We have the power within to get this. We just have to stand up again and try to master the act of walking – one foot in front of the other.

To all you who are struggling – and in some ways we all are: You've got this. We've all got this. Together. One step at a time.

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.

Back in the saddle

Planting season preparations, thinking spring

By Ann Marie Cain, FBCM
WINNEBAGO-BOONE FARM BUREAU
On the Road Again

Winter weather this month as definitely made traveling difficult and dangerous at times. Now is the time farmers are planning their crops for the spring, repairing equipment, and catching up on the current rules and regulations. Before getting on the road again, Farm Bureau members can get the latest information before hitting the roads this spring.

Rules of the Road Transportation update

Farmers can get the latest information on trucking rules and regulations during regional Rules for the Road virtual seminars at 9:30 a.m. on March 2 and at 6:30 p.m. on March 4. Each seminar will feature Rodney Knittel, IFB assistant director of Transportation and Infrastructure, along with enforcement professionals from Illinois Department of Transportation and Illinois State Police.

Preregistration is required. Farmers may register with their county Farm Bureau, with registration open until the day

before each free event. Participants who registered before Feb. 22 will receive a new Illinois Rules for the Road handbook before the meeting. For more details visit: bit.ly/3pplPto

Nursing Scholarship application available

Applications are now available for nurse practitioner scholarships through the Illinois Farm Bureau Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program. There will be 15 scholarships, worth \$4,000 each, granted this year.

The scholarship program, now in its twenty-ninth year, helps encourage and develop the pool of rural health practitioners to help meet primary health care needs in rural Illinois. Students who receive scholarships agree to practice for two years in an approved rural area in Illinois.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be Illinois residents and be a Registered Nurse accepted or enrolled in an accredited Nurse Practitioner Program. Funding is provided by the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program (RIMSAP).

Applications are available on the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program website at RIMSAP.com, or by writing Donna Gallivan, Program Manager, Illinois Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 2901, Bloomington, Ill. 61702-2901. Applications are due May 1. For additional information, contact Donna Gallivan at 309-557-2350, or via e-mail at dgallivan@ilfb.org.
Be on the lookout

In late February, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will begin surveying farmers nationwide to determine crop plans for the upcoming growing season as well

as hog and pig inventories.

NASS mailed the survey questionnaires in February. They are asking producers to provide information about:

- The types of crops they intend to plant in 2021
- How many acres they intend to plant
- The amounts of grain and oilseeds they store on their farms
- Hog and pig inventories as of March 1
- The size of the pig crop over the last three months
- Future farrowing intentions

NASS encourages producers to respond online or by mail. Those producers who do not respond by

the deadline may be contacted for a telephone or personal interview. NASS safeguards the privacy of all respondents and publishes only aggregate data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified, as required by federal law.

Survey results will be published in the *Hogs and Pigs Report*, to be released March 25 and the *Prospective Plantings and Quarterly Grain Stocks* reports to be released on March 31. These and all NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications. For more information call the NASS Heartland Regional Field Office at 800-551-1014.

Kopp disclosure

Scratching the surface of identity: Loving Jesus

By Dr. Robert Kopp
CONTRIBUTOR

How do we know if we really love Jesus?

He said, "Love each other just as much as I love you!"

We love Jesus by loving like Jesus!

While this is a brief, incomplete, and indicative not exhaustive guide to loving Jesus, people who really love Jesus show inclinations and incarnations of loving Jesus.

Inclinations

Loving Jesus by loving like Jesus shows we love Jesus!

People who really love Jesus can't get enough of Him!

People who really love Jesus are always hungry and thirsty to get

closer to Him!

People who really love Jesus rarely miss opportunities to worship Him, experience Him at the table of Holy Communion, learn more about Him, hang around His family, and serve Him in a Matthew 25 kinda way.

People who really love Jesus show it/Him!

Incarnations

People who really love Jesus can be distinguished from people who don't really love Jesus by incarnations/enfleshments of really loving Jesus:

- "Strong calm sanity"
- Increasing evidence/proof/fruit of really loving Jesus like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,

faithfulness, gentleness, humility and self-control!

• Increasing obedience to Him by desire more than duty!

One of the clearest and most convincing inclinations/incarnations of loving Jesus by loving like Jesus is forgiving others like He has forgiven us; which comes with a warning: "If you forgive others, you will be forgiven. If you do not forgive others, you will not be forgiven."

Summarily, we know we really love Jesus if more than less, authentically not artificially, relationally not religiously we can say with the apostle, "It is no longer I who live but it is Jesus who lives in and through me!"

LETTER POLICY

We encourage readers to submit letters to the editor. To be considered for publication, all letters MUST be signed with the writer's full name. *An address and telephone number (which will not be printed) must be provided for verification purposes.* Letters exceeding 250 words may be edited for length. No potentially libelous letters or letters containing personal attacks will be printed. Writers are limited to one letter per month. Deadline is 5 p.m. Fridays. Send letters for the Belvidere Daily Republican to: Letters to the Editor, 130 South State Street, Suite 101, Belvidere, IL 61008, or fax to 815-547-3045.



Liberty under fire

Fox promptly fires Dobbs, Bartiromo, Pirro

On Friday February 5, Fox News fired three of its most conservative and publicly trusted anchors: Lou Dobbs, Maria Bartiromo and Jeanine Pirro. The day before, Smartmatic, an election technology company accused of fraudulent 2020 election practices, sued Rupert Murdoch's Fox Corporation and his popular Fox News for \$2.7 billion for "disinformation" suggesting election fraud favoring Biden existed in the 2020 presidential election.

Fox appears to have joined the Democrat Party outlets in censorship, forcing viewers to move to freer outlets for news.

A free country does not censor. A free press, as required by the Constitution, allows differing views. The people are considered intelligent enough to discern for themselves. LibertyUnderFire opposes censorship and thus is publishing below some of what you were forbidden to view from the documentary.

In Arizona. Biden's margin of victory was only 10,000 votes; there were 296,589 contested votes. Of this larger number 36,400 illegal aliens (forbidden by state law to vote) voted, 3 1/2 times the number of votes



By
HAROLD PEASE, PH.D.
Columnist

Trump needed to win. There were 22,903 completed mail-in ballots received the day before ballots were actually mailed. There were 2,000 voters registered to a vacant lot. In Maricopa County there were 150,000 voters registered after the deadline. Also, in this county there were 103,000 electronic adjudicated ballots with no Republican observer present as required by law. In the state there were 50,000 votes loaded before polls even opened. If illegal votes had not been counted Trump would have easily won the state.

In Nevada, Biden's margin of victory was 34,000 with 212,508 contested. Of this contested number Nevada allowed double voting of 42,284 voters. Other anomalies included: allowing, against state law, 4,000 illegal aliens to vote, accepting 15,000 mail-in or absentee ballots from voters who were known to have also voted in other states, 1,506

dead people who voted and 19,218 "non-Nevadans" who voted in Nevada. The most controversial category of the contested voters was with respect to mail-in ballot signature verification of only half the image quality suggested by the manufacturer of voting machines. More than half of the contested votes 130,000 did not meet this standard.

In Pennsylvania, Biden's margin of victory was 68,000, with 866,284 contested, most of these 682,777 were counted without a Republican observer to verify the ballots, names, signatures, addresses and dates, as required by law. The contested ballots included 100,000 fake ballots, driven from New York to Pennsylvania, the vast majority for Biden. Other contested ballots included: 10,000 ballots accepted up to three days after the election and 4,500 ballots sorted out because of errors "poll workers then refilled out these ballots so that they could be read by tabulation machines, contrary to state law." Between 80-100 self-proclaimed Black Lives Matter affiliated members, from other States, have admitted to having voted in Pennsylvania.

In Wisconsin, Biden's margin of victory was 20,000 votes with

400,000 contested; 170,000 of these were "generated by illegally expanding the definition of Indefinite Confinement." Other anomalies included 170,000 mail-in ballots processed under the guise of absentee ballots in clear violation of state law and another 100,000 United States Postal Service backdated ballots. Any serious review of these anomalies would have given the state to Trump.

In Georgia, Biden's margin of victory was 10,000 votes with 1,567,146 contested. If Georgia had simply not counted the 10,315 dead people who had voted, presumably all for Biden, Trump would have claimed this state. The state had far more anomalies than sister states. These include: 66,247 underage children illegally voting, 96,600 mail-in ballots with no required return address, and 40,279 who failed to re-register to vote in their new county in time after moving from one county to another. Three types of voters fit one of three disqualifying categories: moved mailing addresses with no change of address card, where filed as moving out of state but are still registered in GA, and finally,

living outside of GA and voted in GA. Another category had 600,000 ballots with no chain of custody. So corrupt was this state, felons, 2,560 of them, voted, as did 395 who voted in GA and also in another state, as did 15,700 who voted in Georgia but changed their address before the election. Out of a million and a half contestant votes certainly Trump would have gotten another 11,000 votes to beat the corruption and Biden.

None of these facts are disputed by the socialist left—they can't be. NO court has reviewed any of this evidence. The left's only answer is to refuse to review any evidence and to censor anyone who does as in the cases with Dobbs, Bartiromo and Pirro. Unfortunately we haven't space enough to treat the Dominion and Smartmatic documentation or the vast election interference from China—much just coming out—but these can be viewed on Rumble, Mike Lindell, Absolute Proof "Election Fraud Exposed." Feb. 5, 2021. For those who do not want their thinking controlled, it is a must view.

Trump only needed three of the above contested states to win—this evidence, absent fraud, shows he won them all.

• Tables (Continued from page 3)

"Maybe (city) attorney (Mike) Drella can help me if I'm not perfectly clear in my explanation. The grant is going to cover the bulk of the costs to the city of Belvidere. Overtime would be closely monitored; that could potentially be an additional cost."

Attorney Drella interjected that Mehl indicated the grant would be used in conjunction with another grant, for \$600,000, that the health department received. They have already hired one person to work with the police officer on these issues, he said.

"To say the county, through grants received by the health department, has no skin in the game is not quite true," he said. "They're providing a social worker to help them identify the people needing these services, so they're working hand-in-hand."

Stevens asked what kinds of numbers the city and county are dealing with, when it comes to people using drugs.

Some numbers

"In 2020, which was kind of an anomaly due to COVID-19, we had 30 calls for services for overdose situations, all involving controlled substances," Woody replied. "The county wound up having six. Talk about heroin, the city had 19 (calls), the county had two." He reiterated what had been said before, that in addition the officer would work in outreach for mental health and domestic violence situations.

Concerning domestic violence, he said in 2020 city police responded to approximately 800 such calls for service.

"When we look at that kind of violence, we'll have more than enough to keep this officer busy," he added. "We know, given the COVID situation, this (effort) will have to be grant funded."

In response to questions from Porter, Drella said the COSSAP grant was similar to others the city has used in the past to hire police officers.

"In the past there were always retirements so it was cost neutral to the city," he said. "If there is not (an extension or retirements this time) and council wants to return to the original staffing level, yes, you would lay off the most junior staff member. Yes, the collective bargaining agreement allows you to do that."

In addition, he said the officer would be sworn in by Sheriff Dave Ernest and have county-wide jurisdiction.

"That will not be an issue," he said.

Porter raised another issue, saying before council made a decision he would like to know which option, treatment or being prosecuted in court, would be cheaper for taxpayers.

Woody had an immediate answer, saying treatment would be the least expensive option.

An entry-level police officer would be hired to replace the veteran officer who was assigned to work at the health department. Porter's next question was: If that replacement officer was laid off after the potential six-year life of the grant, would he be eligible for a pension?

Woody said his understanding was an officer needed at least eight years on the job to be vested in a pension.

Porter's motion to table the decision on hiring a Community Law Enforcement Officer followed and, after it passed, Mayor Chamberlain moved on to the next agenda item.

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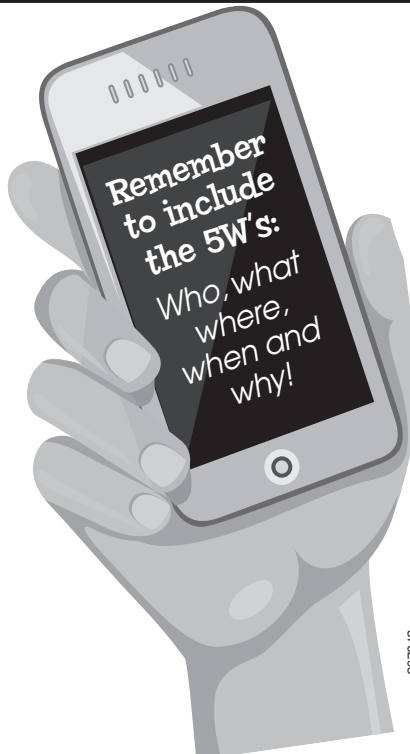
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Pritzker’s office says no tax hikes, flat spending in upcoming budget

Budget will close \$900 million in ‘corporate tax loopholes,’ according to governor’s office

By Jerry Nowicki
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Gov. JB Pritzker’s office says he will propose a budget with no tax increases for the upcoming fiscal year, and the deficit is now projected at about \$2.5 billion less than previously thought.

The governor introduces his proposed budget each year, but lawmakers in the General Assembly have the ultimate say as to what funding gets appropriated. Pritzker was scheduled to outline his full budget proposal Wednesday in a virtual message,

although details have not been finalized, according to his office.

In a brief, 250-word outline of the upcoming fiscal year 2022 budget proposal, the governor’s office said the state will keep spending flat from a year ago while closing “corporate tax loopholes” worth \$900 million. The outline did not identify any specific loopholes.

Pritzker’s office said the FY22 budget will continue to include \$700 million in state government spending cuts his administration initiated this year upon the failure of the

graduated income tax constitutional amendment.

Cigarette taxes would be moved into the general revenue fund as well, according to the outline. In 2019, the General Assembly increased the tax on a pack of cigarettes to \$2.98, up from \$1.98. The tax increase was to go to the state’s Rebuild Illinois capital infrastructure plan.

There would also be no new state funding for the evidence-based funding model for K-12 education, according to the outline.

“Significant federal funding for

education will provide additional support for schools while the state maintains its existing investment, and the governor is committed to ensuring that education is fully funded in future years,” the governor’s office wrote in an email.

The evidence-based funding model was passed in 2017 and called for an added \$350 million in state investment in schools each year to be driven toward the districts that were furthest from funding adequacy based on a number of factors. But this year will mark the second straight in which the state did not direct any new money toward the formula.

“There is no question that this budget will include painful choices, but as the effect of the pandemic diminishes over the coming months, the governor will continue to focus on economic recovery for the hardest hit,” the governor’s office said in an email.

In a bit of good news, however,

the deficit for FY22 is now projected to be \$3 billion, down from the \$5.5 billion of previous estimates, as the state’s economy “performed more strongly than expected.” The governor’s office also cited his decision to expedite repayment of \$700 million borrowed from the federal Municipal Liquidity Facility program as a contributing factor to the lowered anticipated deficit.

“The governor will also continue to advance long-term structural budget improvements that continue the stronger fiscal trajectory Illinois was on before the pandemic,” his office said in an email.

The new fiscal year begins July 1 and lawmakers generally look to pass the annual operating budget by the time of the scheduled adjournment of the General Assembly on May 31 each year.

“The governor looks forward to collaborating with the General Assembly to finalize a responsible state budget,” his office said in an email.

Foundation holding plant fundraiser

The McHenry County 4-H Youth Foundation is hosting a Spring Plant Fundraiser through March 10 to raise funds to support the McHenry County 4-H program. All plants are grown by Tom’s Farm Market in Huntley. Owner Tom Hallet and his family, have been generous supporters of the local 4-H programs and can frequently be seen at many of fundraisers, shows and auctions.

The 4-H Foundation has teamed up with Tom’s Farm Market to offer you a chance to purchase your spring flowers while supporting the 4-H program. All flowers will be available for pick-up on Saturday, May 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the McHenry County Fairgrounds in the 4-H building, located at 11900 Country Club Rd, Woodstock.

Clubs, families, and friends of 4-H are invited to purchase or pro-

mote sales to help raise funds for the McHenry County 4-H Youth Foundation. Not in the market for spring flowers? You can add a stand-alone donation to the MCH4-H Foundation online or by check.

There are two was to order:

Conveniently make your selections and pay online or order online and mail/drop off check to address below.

Visit docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSerrpDxmpLRvJ0sKcmn-217JKURVZ0vzeuYFVJdPktNP-6w7Ikg/viewform or to download an order form, uofi.app.box.com/s/r64gtzg1g2lwguuje7j3ohovw564n-dc1.

Paper order form can be mailed or dropped off to the Extension office with payment.

If paying by check, pay to: McHenry County 4-H Youth Foundation.

Mail or deliver check or cash payments to: MC4-HY Foundation, c/o University of Illinois Extension, 1102 McConnell Rd, P.O. Box 1430, Woodstock, IL 60098.

Delivery option: For only \$20 a volunteer will deliver to your location within McHenry County.

The McHenry County 4-H Youth Foundation is a separate 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to bolster the county’s 4-H program helping to ensure growth and success for its 4-H youth. The McHenry County 4-H Youth Foundation supports and provides funding for: annual contribution to University of Illinois Extension, McHenry County; enhancing programming efforts for our 4-H youth; in supporting volunteers and extension staff to help guide our youth in becoming self-directed and contributing members of our society.

McHenry County Sheriff's report

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

Feb. 2

Christopher D. Petty, 51, McHenry, was cited for violation of an order of protection;

Feb. 3

Bradley K. Conant, 55, Johnsburg, was cited for domestic battery/physical contact and interference with emergency communication;

Cohl A. Saldana, 19, Lake in the Hills, was cited for delivery/manufacture cannabis over 30 gm, possession of a controlled substance, cannabis control act—over 30 grms not more than 100 gms;

Feb. 4

Cody A. Shambo, 33, Elgin, was cited for burglary and theft/control intent \$500 <10K;

Oscar J. Perez, 21, McHenry, was cited for aggravated criminal sexual abuse/victim <18 family;

Kayla B. Hameister, 23, DeForest, was cited for forgery/possess with intent, aggravated fleeing with damage >\$300 prop, and possess stolen title/certify/plate;

Feb. 5

Donald F. Burnett, 44, Antioch, was cited for violation of an order of protection;

Lisa A. Ikard, 50, Rockford, was cited for forgery issue/deliver document, theft control intent \$500 <10K, theft control intent <\$500 prior;

Feb. 6

Jillian M. Brady, 26, Richmond, was cited for domestic battery/bodily harm and battery/make physical contact;

Feb. 8

Amber L. Shackelford, 31, Richmond, was cited for domestic battery/physical contact;

Grady J. Pounds, 30, North Chicago, was cited for violation of an order of protection;

Nickolas S. Bonadore, 35, Kenosha, was cited for 2 counts of retail theft/disp merch >\$300;

Jacob S. Podsada, 20, Carpentersville, was cited for 15<200 object/parts LSD/analog, possess 15<200 object/part LSD;

Daniel M. Hill, 34, Wonder Lake, was cited for domestic battery/bodily harm.

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.

Jan. 27, 10:19 p.m., East Calhoun Street near Irving Avenue, Bryan I. Hernandez, 20, of Woodstock, was arrested for possession of cannabis in vehicle without container by driver, operating an uninsured motor vehicle and no front registration plate.

Jan. 29, 2:26 p.m., westbound Church Street from North Madison Street, Angel Bello, 23, of Woodstock, was arrested for no valid driver’s license, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, no valid registration and improper tail lights.

Jan. 30, 1200 block of Lake Avenue, Jesus E. Castaneda, 27, of Carpentersville, was arrested for WOW (two counts FTA-McHenry County), no valid driver’s license, possession of cannabis in vehicle without container by driver and operating an un-

insured motor vehicle.

Jan. 30, 3:16 p.m., 700 block of Prairie View Lane, Joshua A. Brown, 20, of Woodstock, was arrested for WOW (FTA-McHenry County).

Jan. 31, 5:18 a.m., 2000 block of South Eastwood Drive, Reyman Solis, 24, of Lake in the Hills, was arrested for DUI and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

Feb. 2, 11:01 p.m., in the 11000 block of Route 14, Daniel Sanchez, 18, of Harvard, was arrested for no valid driver’s license and speeding.

Feb. 3, 4:18 a.m., in the 400 block of Leah Lane, a 14-year-old male Woodstock juvenile was arrested for no valid driver’s license, failure to yield to emergency vehicle, improper lighting (headlights) and no registration light.

Feb. 4, 6:45 p.m., in the 1600 block of South Eastwood Drive, Robert B. Marin, 34, of Hebron, was arrested for DUI, DUI over 0.08 and improper lane usage.

Feb. 7, 8:38 p.m., South Eastwood Drive and East Calhoun Street, Victoria P. Kusio, 26, of Mount Prospect, was arrested for no valid driv-

er’s license and improper lighting.

Feb. 8, 11:04 a.m., in the 1400 block of Commons Drive, a 43-year-old Woodstock man was arrested for two counts of domestic battery.

Feb. 8, 9:44 p.m., Barbary Lane at Savanna Lane, Daniel Castaneda, 21, of Crystal Lake, was arrested for no valid driver’s license and driving too fast for conditions.

Feb. 9, 6:38 p.m., in the 200 block of South Madison Street, Jason F. Spitzer, 35, of Woodstock was arrested for interference with the reporting of domestic violence.

Feb. 9, 7:53 p.m., in the 300 block of North Seminary Avenue, Erick Gomez-Rubi, 20, of Harvard, was arrested for no valid driver’s license and failure to reduce speed to avoid a crash.

Feb. 10, 7:20 p.m., Route 14 at Dean Street, Gabriela Ortiz, 21, of Harvard, was arrested for driving while license suspended and following too closely.

Feb. 11, 9:43 a.m. in the 500 block of East Jackson Street, Nikita F. Dye, 26, of Woodstock, 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.

Feb. 3-9 11 incidents of Illinois Department of Employment Security fraud were reported.

Feb. 3, 11200 block of Fitzgerald Lane: A victim reported an unauthorized credit card transaction.

Feb. 3, Route 47 and Big Timber road; Sergio G. Resendez, 31, of Carpentersville, was arrested for driving while license suspended and lights required when towing vehicles.

Feb. 4, Route 47 and Regency Parkway: Pablo Zarate-Gonzalez, 42, of McHenry, was arrested for

driving while license suspended and driving without registration light.

Feb. 4, Route 47 and Main Street: Evan T. Altergott, 19, of Lake in the Hills, was arrested for possession of cannabis, manufacture/delivery of cannabis and a non-working muffler.

Feb. 5, 12100 block of Regency Parkway: A telephone harassment was reported.

Feb. 7, 10400 block of Haligus Road: A Trespassing complaint was reported.

Feb. 8, 13500 block of Dakota Fields: A theft by mail was reported.

Feb. 9, 13900 block of auto Mall Drive: A financial fraud was reported.

McHenry County News

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE 17TH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF BOONE
IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF
JULIE ANN QUINNEY,
deceased.

Case No. 2021-P-5
CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of JULIE ANN QUINNEY, of Caledonia, Illinois, who died on January 8, 2021. Letters of Office were issued on January 25, 2021 to CAROL J. LUCAS, 303 County Road 13, Myrtle, MN 56036, as independent administrator, who is the legal representative of the estate. The attorney for the independent administrator is JOHN H. MAVILLE, 600 South State Street, Suite #307, Belvidere, Illinois 61008.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under §28-4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4), an interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk - Probate Division, at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, or with the legal representative, or both, on or before August 12, 2021, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication of this notice, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by 755 ILCS 5/18-3, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred.

Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the representative's attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Dated: January 29, 2021
CAROL J. LUCAS,
Independent Representative
LAW OFFICES OF
JOHN H. MAVILLE
JOHN H. MAVILLE, Attorney
for Representative
600 South State Street;
Suite #307
Belvidere, IL 61008
(815) 544-3165
E-Mail: john@mavillelaw.com
(Published in the
Belvidere Republican
Feb. 11, 18 & 25, 2021)

389551

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE 17TH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF BOONE
IN THE MATTER
OF THE ESTATE OF
SCOTT ROBERT NEALE,
deceased.

Case No. 2021-P-6
CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of SCOTT ROBERT NEALE, of Poplar Grove, Illinois, who died on January 9, 2021. Letters of Office were issued on January 27, 2021 to CHRISTOPHER M. NEALE, 1632 Fox Point Drive, Chesterton, Indiana, as independent administrator, who is the legal representative of the estate. The attorney for the independent administrator is JOHN

H. MAVILLE, 600 South State Street, Suite #307, Belvidere, Illinois 61008.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under §28-4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4), an interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk - Probate Division, at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, or with the legal representative, or both, on or before August 12, 2021, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication of this notice, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by 755 ILCS 5/18-3, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred.

Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the representative's attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Dated: February 1, 2021
CHRISTOPHER M. NEALE,
Independent Representative
LAW OFFICES OF
JOHN H. MAVILLE
JOHN H. MAVILLE, Attorney
for Representative
600 South State Street;
Suite #307
Belvidere, IL 61008
(815) 544-3165
E-Mail: john@mavillelaw.com
(Published in the
Belvidere Republican
Feb. 11, 18 & 25, 2021)

389786

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF BOONE
SHANA KARYN SULLIVAN
and NICHOLAS KEITH
ZEIGLER
Petitioners,
vs.
RONALD GILBERT
SULLIVAN, a minor, and
BYRON E. CHILDERS,
Respondents.
CASE NO. 2021AD1
ADOPTION NOTICE
IN THE Matter of the Petition for Adoption of Ronald Gilbert Sullivan, a male child, Adoption No. 2021 AD 1.
To: Byron E. Childers

TAKE NOTICE that a Petition was filed in the Circuit Court of Boone County, Illinois, for the adoption of a child named Ronald Gilbert Sullivan.

NOW THEREFORE, unless you, BYRON E. CHILDERS, and all whom it may concern, file your Answer to the Petition in said suit or otherwise file your appearance therein, in the said Circuit Court of Boone County, 601 N. Main St., in the City of Belvidere, Illinois on or before the 16th day of March 2021, a default may be entered against you at any time after that day and judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said Petition.

DATED at Belvidere, Illinois, this 2nd day of February 2021.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

Attorney Nathan J. Noble, P.C.
504 North State Street
Belvidere, IL 61008
815.547.7700
ARDC 6290348
nnoble@attorneynoble.com
(Published in the
Belvidere Republican
Feb. 11, 18 & 25, 2021)

389862

ASSUMED NAME
CERTIFICATE OF
INTENTION
STATE OF ILLINOIS ss.
County of Boone

This is to certify that the undersigned intend...to conduct and transact a retail seller wholesale seller business in said County and State under the name of KUSTOMBLU at the following post office addresses: 275 High Line St. Apt. 5, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with the respective residence address of each are as follows:

Luis Ortiz, 275 High Line St. #5, Belvidere, IL 61008.

Raquel Garcia, 275 High Line St #5, Belvidere, IL 61008.

SIGNED:
LUIS ORTIZ
Dated 2/8/21
RAQUEL GARCIA
Dated 2/8/21
Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 8th day of February, A.D. 2021.

JULIA A. BLISS
COUNTY CLERK
By GISELLE R. LENOVER
DEPUTY
(OFFICIAL SEAL)
(Published in the
Belvidere Republican
Feb. 18, 25 & March 4, 2021)

389970

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF BOONE
ILLINOIS BANK & TRUST,
as assignee of Rockford Bank
and Trust Company,
Plaintiff,
vs.
WILL HUNTER
PROPERTIES, LLC; UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA;
ACME GRINDING AND
MANUFACTURING, INC.;
CHARLES ZALUCKYJ;
CAI CUSTOM ALLOYS,
INC.; UNKNOWN OWNERS
and NON-RECORD
CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.

Case No. 2021 CH 4
PUBLICATION NOTICE

The requisite Affidavit for Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants in the above-entitled cause, that the above-entitled Mortgage Foreclosure action was filed on February 9, 2021, and is now pending.

1. The names of all Plaintiffs and the Case Number are identified above.

2. The Court in which this action was brought is identified above.

3. The name of the title holder of record is: Will Hunter Properties, LLC

4. A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify

it with reasonable certainty is as follows:

The North Half (1/2) of Lot Nine (9) as designated on the Plat of Belford Industrial Park, being a Subdivision of part of the East Half (1/2) of Section 32 and the West Half (1/2) of Section 33, Township 44 North, Range 3 East of the Third Principal Meridian, as platted and recorded in the Recorder's Office of Boone County, Illinois on April 10, 1974 in Book 12 of Plats on pages 30 and 31 as Document No. 74-738; situated in the County of Boone and the State of Illinois.

PIN: 05-33-100-026

5. A common address or description of the location of the real estate is as follows:

6871 Belford Industrial Drive, Belvidere, Illinois 61008

6. An identification of the Mortgages sought to be foreclosed is as follows:

A. Name of Mortgagor: Will Hunter Properties, LLC

B. Name of Mortgagee: Rockford Bank and Trust Company (now assigned to Illinois Bank & Trust)

C. Date of Mortgage: June 26, 2017

D. Date of Recording: June 28, 2017

E. County Where Recorded: Winnebago County, Illinois

F. Recorded Document Identification Number: Document No. 2017R03283

NOW THEREFORE, unless you, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants, file your Answer to the Complaint for Foreclosure in this cause or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the offices of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Boone County, 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, on or before March 20, 2021 (which is the 30th day after the first publication of this notice), default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a Judgment for Foreclosure may be entered in accordance with the prayer of said Complaint.

RENO & ZAHM LLP
BY: /s/ Michael G. Schultz
Michael G. Schultz,
Attorney for Illinois Bank & Trust, as assignee of Rockford Bank and Trust Company,
Plaintiff

RENO & ZAHM LLP
Jamie S. Cassel (#06200979)
Michael G. Schultz
(#06297569)
2902 McFarland Road,
Suite 400
Rockford, IL 61107
(815) 987-4050
jsc@renozahm.com
mgs@renozahm.com
(Published in the
Belvidere Republican
Feb. 18, 25 & March 4, 2021)

390149

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE 17TH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF BOONE
In the Matter of the Estate of
JAMES L. MARGIS,
deceased.

Case No. 2021P9
CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given of the death of JAMES L. MARGIS, of Belvidere, Boone County, Il-

linois 61008, on January 6, 2021. Letters of Office were issued on February 15, 2021, to CYNTHIA A. HODGES of 1122 Garfield Avenue, city of Belvidere, Illinois as independent executor, whose attorney is DEBORAH S. LOOS, P.C., by Deborah S. Loos, 130 South State Street, Suite 210, Belvidere, Illinois 61008.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under 5/28-4 of the Probate Act 755 ILCS 5/28-4 (1992), an interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk Probate Division at the Boone County Courthouse, at 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, or with the representative, or both, on or before August 18, 2021, which date is not less than six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred.

Copies of any claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Dated: February 12, 2021
CYNTHIA A. HODGES
Independent Executor
DEBORAH S. LOOS, P.C.
Deborah S. Loos, #6206092
Attorney at Law
130 South State Street,
Suite #210
Belvidere, IL 61008
deb@attorneydeborahloos.com
Phone: (815) 544-5418
Fax: (815) 544-1038
(Published in the
Belvidere Republican
Feb. 18, 25 & March 4, 2021)

390352

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed Proposals for the "2021 Tree Work Program" in the City of Belvidere will be received at the office of the City Clerk of the City of Belvidere, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Suite 100, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 until 10:00 AM local time on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 and will be publicly opened and read at that time.

Specifications and Proposal forms may be obtained, by any qualified bidder, from the Department of Public Works, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Suite 200, Belvidere, Illinois.

All proposals must be accompanied by a bid bond or bank cashier's check for not less than ten (10) percent of the amount of the bid.

The City Council reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive technicalities.

(Published in the
Belvidere Republican
Feb. 25, 2021)

390462

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed Proposals for 2021 sidewalk replacement program will be received at the office of the City Clerk of the City of
Continued on next page

Pritzker outlines \$41.6 billion budget with flat spending

By Jerry Nowicki and Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS
Gov. JB Pritzker outlined a \$41.6 billion budget proposal last week that would hold most state agencies at flat funding levels but which relies heavily on changes to the state's corporate tax structure that lawmakers have not yet approved.

The budget proposal, which is only the governor's request for lawmakers in the General Assembly, does not call for income tax increases. Over the next four months, lawmakers will work on an operating budget of their own to send to the governor which may or may not address all of his requests.

It also does not rely on any federal funding increases that have not yet been passed into law, although a federal Medicaid reimbursement rate increase that is already in place does account for a \$638 million reduction to the state's expenditures.

It was Pritzker's third budget message since taking office in 2019. And unlike others that were delivered from the House chamber in the Capitol, this year's message was delivered remotely through a prerecorded video due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The address was recorded at the Illinois State Fairgrounds, which now serves as a COVID-19 vaccination site.

In his speech, Pritzker had harsh rhetoric for "far right" Republicans at all levels of government, describing them as "carnival barkers," for lobbying against federal relief to states and for defying health guidelines. He also once again made note of the two-year budget impasse presided over by Republican former Gov. Bruce Rauner, calling it a "self-inflicted" period of suffering which saw the state's backlog of unpaid bills balloon to over \$16 billion.

He said in the past 20 years, as pension payments have become an increasing burden on state finances, Illinois' number of government employees has shrunk by 30 percent, the Illinois State Police force has shrunk by 40 percent, and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency work force shrunk by 60 percent, he said.

"If there is anything the last year should have taught us, it is that we need a reliably well-funded government," he said. "Many on the far right have made their name in politics by touting cuts to unemployment programs and health insurance coverage. They called anyone who sought unemployment benefits 'takers.' They demonize state employees. And they fought unrelentingly to eliminate any state or federal funds designed to make health care more accessible, equitable and fair."

The budget proposed for fiscal year 2022 relies on more than \$900 million in corporate tax changes that will require action from the General Assembly. Those include a reversal of previous General Assembly action to repeal the corporate franchise tax, a cap on net operating losses for the fiscal year that would allow for \$314 million in savings and a cap on a retailer's discount to \$1,000 per month, and other changes.

GOP, Illinois Chamber criticize proposed budget

But Republicans and business groups lambasted the governor's plan as a tax increase on businesses and a betrayal of a bipartisan compromise budget which members of both parties celebrated in Pritzker's first year.

Republican House Minority Leader Jim Durkin, of Western Springs, accused the governor of seeking "pay-back" in his effort to repeal some corporate tax incentives passed by lawmakers in 2019, alleging that it was in response to the November failure of the graduated income tax.

Senate Minority Leader Dan McCortie, R-Hawthorn Woods, called the budget an attempt to "move money around" and raise corporate taxes.

While the governor characterized his corporate tax changes of closing "corporate loopholes," Republicans characterized it as an elimination of important incentives aimed at keeping job creators in the state.

Illinois Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Todd Maisch characterized the tax changes as "a massive tax increase."

"We understand that the state has fiscal problems to address, however, the governor's plan will have a long-term negative impact on job creation and tax revenues for the state as it produces an unfair increase on taxpayers after they resoundingly defeated the graduated income tax," Maisch said in an email statement. "This not only will expand what will get taxed, but will also reduce key tax credits for vital sectors of the economy."

Toll of pandemic on state finances

Much of Pritzker's speech was dedicated to demonstrating the toll of the pandemic both on society and state finances.

"I had bolder plans for our state budget than what I am going to present to you today. It would be a lie to suggest otherwise," Pritzker said. "But as all our families have had to make hard choices over the last year, so too does state government."

Senior budget officials, in a briefing before the address was streamed, noted the governor will still seek to decouple the state tax code from changes allowed in the federal Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security, or CARES, Act. That change would keep revenues flat from a year ago by providing that the CARES Act cuts passed last year would not automatically reduce Illinois state tax burdens for businesses.

The measure failed in the lame duck session as Republicans blasted it as a

more than \$500 million tax increase on businesses, but Democrats at the time said it was a way to prevent revenue loss by maintaining the status quo.

Total revenues for the year represent a 4.1 percent decrease from a year ago, due in large part to \$2 billion in borrowing from the federal Municipal Liquidity Facility program, \$690 million of which is due in fiscal year 2022 but will be prepaid in fiscal year 2021, according to budget officials. Another \$1.2 billion in MLF borrowing from June 2020 is also due to be repaid in the current fiscal year.

K-12 education funding from the state will remain flat from a year ago, the second straight year the state would forgo that added \$350 million called for in state law each year as part of an evidence-based funding formula.

The budget proposal also eliminates a 48-month deadline for repaying inter-fund borrowing, which alleviates \$276 million of pressure in the current fiscal year by allowing the state to repay fund borrowing on an extended deadline.

Budget calls for full pension payments

The budget calls for a full pension payment and increases funding for the Department of Children and Family Services by 7.9 percent. Pritzker also asked lawmakers to pass a standalone bill increasing spending for the Illinois Department of Employment Security by \$60 million in federal funds for the current fiscal year and called for an add-

ed \$73 million for the current fiscal year in federal funds.

Higher education would see funding levels maintained and Monetary Award Program grants for college students would increase by \$28 million, per the governor's request.

Pritzker's budget proposal also calls for an 8 percent reduction, or \$638 million, in Medicaid expenses. That's because the federal government has increased its share of Medicaid funding by 6.2 percentage points through the end of 2021 as part of its pandemic response plan.

Local governments also would see a cut in financial assistance they get from the state. The Local Government Distributive Fund, or LGDF, which gives local governments a share of the income tax revenue the state collects, would only be funded at 90 percent, but officials in the governor's office said they expect that cut to be offset by gains they municipalities would realize through the closing of corporate tax loopholes.

Budget officials also claimed the budget shortfall for the current fiscal year has been addressed through the federal borrowing, \$700 million in operational cuts and revenues performing better than projections. The state is now projecting a surplus of \$77 million for the current fiscal year, along with the ability to prepay some of the Municipal Liquidity Facility borrowing from the previous fiscal year.

Madigan resigns from Illinois House

By Sarah Mansur
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Former House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, 78, announced Feb. 19 he will step down from the state House of Representatives after 50 years in office.

"I leave office at peace with my decision and proud of the many contributions I've made to the state of Illinois, and I do so knowing I've made a difference," Madigan wrote in a lengthy emailed statement.

His initial statement said he planned to retire by the end of the month, but by the end of the day Feb. 18, the letter he submitted to the clerk of the Illinois House said his resignation was effective immediately, a spokesperson confirmed. His current term, which he won in November, would have ended in January 2023.

Madigan, who was the longest serving state House speaker in the country, failed to earn enough support to win another term as speaker, resulting in the election last month of Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch.

Madigan's support within the Democratic caucus began to fracture after federal prosecutors revealed last July that utility giant Commonwealth Edison admitted its executives were bribing associates of Madigan in a years-long scheme in order to ensure legislation favorable to the company.

Although he has not been charged and he denies wrongdoing, Madigan was forced on the defensive after Republican lawmakers launched a special committee to investigate his involvement in the scheme. That committee ended with a partisan finding that Madigan did not commit conduct unbecoming of a lawmaker.

"It's no secret that I have been the target of vicious attacks by people who sought to diminish my many achievements lifting up the working people of Illinois. The fact is, my motivation for holding elected office has never wavered. I have been resolute in my dedication to public service and integrity, always acting in the interest of the people of Illinois," Madigan said in the statement.

Madigan, who was raised in the Clearing neighborhood on Chicago's southwest side, is a graduate of Notre Dame University and Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

In 1969, just two years after graduating law school, Madigan was elected the Democratic committeeman for the city's 13th ward, and slated as a delegate to the 1970 Constitutional Convention. In 1970, he was first elected

to represent the 22nd district, which covers a portion of the southwest side of Chicago.

He was first elected Speaker of the House in 1983 and served, for all but two years, until January 2021. In 1998, he was elected to serve as Democratic Party chair, a post he continues to hold.

His term as party chair ends in March 2022. A spokesperson for Madigan did not comment on his plans for that role.

As party chairman, Madigan remains in control of the Democratic Party of Illinois' committee fund, which has nearly \$2 million on hand.

Even after he leaves the House, Madigan will also still control two other massive political committee funds: the Friends of Michael J. Madigan, which stands at more than \$13.5 million and the 13th Ward Democratic Organization, which has more than \$2.6 million.

Kent Redfield, an emeritus professor of political science at the University of Illinois at Springfield, said Madigan can continue to accept contributions to the Friends of Michael J. Madigan and the 13th Ward group and distribute money from those committees to other candidates' committees.

Redfield said Madigan's sources of power came from controlling the legislative process in the House, and "being able to aggregate and distribute money, which gave him huge control over who ran for office, as well as his having an impact on those campaigns."

"That was the key to the power that he had," Redfield said. "Losing the speaker-ship and resigning from the legislature—he's in a significantly weakened position, and it's not clear how much influence he's going to exercise over the (Democratic Party of Illinois)."

Madigan's oversight of an enormous campaign war chest as the Illinois Democratic Party's chair, as well as his unilateral power over the House chamber, led some, especially Republicans, to demonize him as a corrupt machine boss who, with the support of organized labor and trial lawyers, controlled Illinois' state government.

Former Gov. Bruce Rauner, who campaigned on busting unions in Illinois, regularly ran ads during his single term, which was plagued by a two-year budget impasse, that characterized Madigan as a power-hungry puppet master.

Republican House Minority Leader Jim Durkin, of Western Springs, who

initiated the special committee investigation into Madigan, echoed this characterization of Madigan, describing the former Speaker's tenure as an "autocratic rule" that "has not made Illinois a more prosperous nor competitive state."

Durkin said in his written statement that Madigan's resignation represents a "new day" in Illinois that he has been looking forward to for many years.

"I urge the Democrats in both Chambers and the Governor to reflect on how we can use this opportunity to improve Illinois," Durkin said. "Our state is in shambles—financially, structurally and ethically. New ideas and sincere collaboration between the parties is the only path-way forward."

During his five decades in the General Assembly, Madigan has overseen significant legislative achievements that include the passage of a same-sex marriage law and raising the minimum wage to \$15 by 2025.

Welch, D-Hillside, said in a written statement that he appreciates Madigan's contributions and wishes him well.

"Under him, we've had strong, sustained Democratic leadership in Springfield. We legalized same-sex marriage, abolished the death penalty and solidified abortion rights. Illinois also became the first state in the Midwest to increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. These laws gave underserved populations a new sense of hope," Welch said.

"Now we must build on that with a new generation of leadership focused on racial and gender equity in all dimensions, improving government transparency, and leading with the kind of conviction, compassion and co-operation expected by our constituents."

Gov. JB Pritzker also expressed his gratitude for Madigan's service, and thanked his family too.

"One thing I will say is that when you serve as long, and in as dedicated a fashion in terms of just the sheer number of hours that the man put into the job, his family can really suffer," Pritzker said in an unrelated public appearance in Belleville last week.

"It's a challenge for the spouses and children and grandchildren of somebody who's put that much into public service and I really just want to call them out today and say, they really deserve kudos for the public service that former Speaker Madigan did because it's the family that often suffers, the fact that he's not home when they would like him to be."

LEGAL NOTICES

Continued from previous page

Belvidere, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Suite 100, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 until 10:00 AM local time, on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 and will be publicly opened and read at that time.

Specifications and Proposals forms will be available in the office of the Director Public Works, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Suite 200, Belvidere, Illinois 61008.

The City Council reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive technicalities.

All proposals must be accompanied by a bid bond or bank cashier's check for not less than ten (10) percent of the amount of the bid.

(Published in the
Belvidere Republican
Feb. 25, 2021)

390463

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed Proposals for Mowing Public Works Properties in the City of Belvidere will be received at the office of the City Clerk of the City of Belvidere, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Suite 100, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 until 10:00 AM local time, on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 and will be publicly opened and read at that time.

Specifications and Proposals forms may be obtained, by qualified bidder, from the Department of Public Works, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Suite 200, Belvidere, Illinois.

All proposals must be accompanied by a bid bond or bank cashier's check for not less than ten (10) percent of the amount of the bid.

The City Council reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive technicalities.

(Published in the
Belvidere Republican
Feb. 25, 2021)

390464

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed Proposals for the 2021 Landscape maintenance of various City facilities will be received at the office of the City Clerk of the City of Belvidere, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Suite 100, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 until 10:00 AM local time, on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 and will be publicly opened and read at that time.

Specifications and Proposal forms will be available in the office of the Director of Public Works, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Suite 200, Belvidere, Illinois 61008.

The City Council reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive technicalities.

All proposals must be accompanied by a bid bond or bank cashier's check for not less than ten (10) percent of the amount of the bid.

(Published in the
Belvidere Republican
Feb. 25, 2021)

390465

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390299

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Rock Valley Publishing, your hometown newspapers serving the stateline has an opening for an experienced Media Sales Representative to call on current and new accounts in a protected sales territory.

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Vicki Vanderwerff, Director of Advertising
Email: vicki@southernlakesnewspapers.com
Fax: (262) 725-6844

316524

Part-Time Advertising Sales Representative

We are currently seeking a Part-Time Advertising Sales Representative to serve new and current clients in our Belvidere market. If you like a fast-paced environment and enjoy a challenge, this is the opportunity for you!

For immediate consideration send resume /job history to:
Vicki Vanderwerff, Director of Advertising
Email: vicki@southernlakesnewspapers.com
Fax: (262) 725-6844

Rock Valley Publishing LLC

353885

Byron Community SCHOOL DISTRICT #226

Openings for the 2021 school year:

- Middle School 2nd Shift Custodian
- High School 3rd Shift Custodian
- Middle School Assistant Boys Track Coach

If interested, please fill out an online application on the school website at www.byron226.org under the 'About Us' tab in the Employment Opportunities section.

390679

Prairie View Assisted Living

located in Winnebago is seeking the following:

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