

FREE

BOONE COUNTY JOURNAL

LOCAL NEWS, OPINION & HISTORY

Real Journalism for a Real Democracy

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Billiards and Bowling

By David Larson

This billiard and pool hall was above what is today Nico's Cabin--or where the Wicked Brew was--or if you have been out of Belvidere for more than a few decades--it was on the corner of State and Buchanan Streets. The accompanying picture is of this building around the 1960's, when it was known as The Corner Tap.

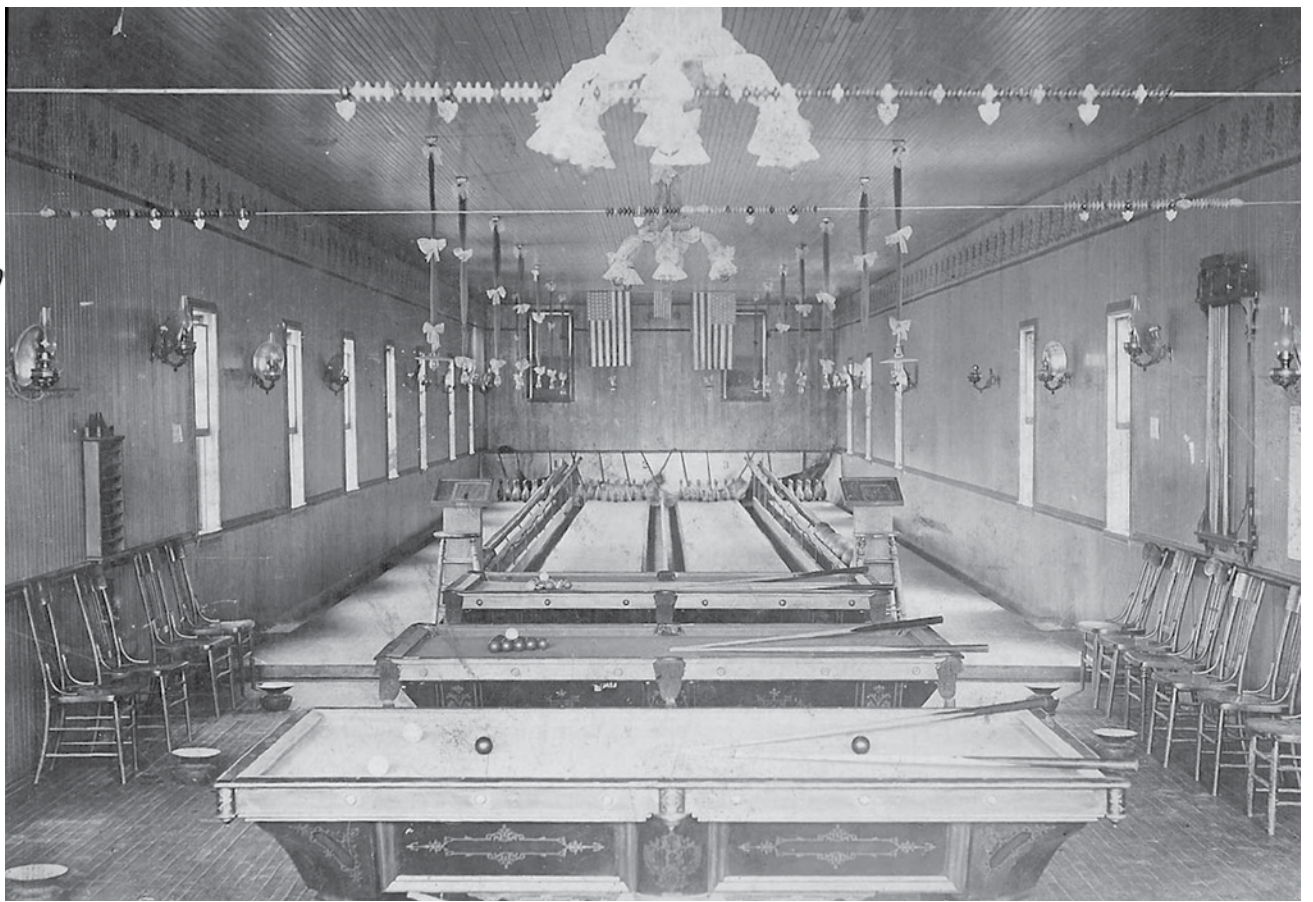
This week's picture is of the Soost Billiard and Pool hall. The picture was taken around the turn of the 20th Century and appears to be a state-of-the-art man cave. In Belvidere at the time, underage boys could not enter this establishment by city statute. William Soost, was accused of allowing young boys into the second floor hall by a local man by the name of Meyers. The charge was denied and argument escalated to a fist fight that spilled out onto Buchanan Street. There, the building owned by an man by the name of Sullivan had a plate glass window was busted out from the melee.

By 1916, the Sullivan building was the sight of a new business in town. A local man who had been employed at The Hub Cigar Store and Penwell's Cigar Store, having become knowledgeable in the field of tobacco, endeavored to market the same. His name was Fox. The new tobacconist named his store "The Smokehouse."

The one block of Buchanan Street between State Street and Whitney Boulevard came to be known locally as The Short Line and had a unique flavor of nightlife and general enjoyment of drink and frivolous fun. Which is still part of its lure today. In an earlier day, it was also a street with blacksmiths, stables and carriage shops.

William Soost had a son, Carl, who like many young boys in 1917, went to Europe to fight in World War I. A newspaper article appeared in the local newspaper, reprinting a story from a French newspaper about Carl. It was as follows: December 9, 1918 Bordeaux France - "Thursday at about 1 pm Mademoiselle Charlotte Vaudelaine living at No. 42 Rue Leyteire, was thrown in the Garonne River by a crane, the load of which was turning close to thee Ground.

"The water was very low, which rendered the rescue of the young lady more difficult.



"Corporal Carl Soost of the American Army, listening only to his courage, threw himself in the river all dressed and was successful after diving three times, in bringing out to the bank, the almost lifeless body of Mademoiselle Vaudeline.

"He was assisted in his task by Private Carl Lewis, of the same army. Our congratulations to the brave allies."

The Soost family came to Belvidere from

Racine, Wisconsin in 1869. Their daughter Martha was only 3 when they arrived, and she lived in Belvidere until her death at the age of 72 in 1941. She had two brothers, William, who ran the Soost Billiards and Pool Hall and Fred, who lived in Kirkland. Her sister Mabel lived in DeKalb. She had four sons who lived their lives each in a different city from Belvidere to Bayside, Long Island, New York..

5.5 % More Money with Mandates for Schools Ok'd

by Peter Hancock
Capitol News Illinois

Public schools in Illinois will have a lot of new money to work with in the upcoming fiscal year, along with a host of new laws to implement.

That was the news the Illinois State Board of Education heard Wednesday when it received its annual legislative and budget updates.

The big news, according to the board's chief financial officer, is that schools will get an additional \$375 million compared to the current fiscal year through the state's Evidence Based Funding formula. Of that, \$300 million will be distributed in so-called "tier" funding, which means poorly funded systems will get a greater share of the money than wealthier, highly-funded systems.

Lawmakers passed the Evidence Based Funding formula in 2017. Over time, it is intended to provide all school systems with at least 90 percent of the amount that is considered "adequate" to meet their costs. Currently, funding levels range from a low of about 52 percent of adequacy in the Central City School District in Marion County, to a high of 280 percent of adequacy in the Rondout School District in Lake County.

The increase brings the total state appropriation for the formula next year to more than \$7.2 billion,

a 5.5 percent increase over this year's funding.

In addition, lawmakers added \$50 million for property tax relief grants to eligible school systems.

The budget also provides an additional \$50 million for early childhood education, a 10 percent increase over this year's funding, but only half of the increase that the board had requested. That increase is enough to serve an estimated 4,600 to 5,800 additional children.

It also includes a \$5 million increase for career and technical education, and \$2 million in new money to help defray the cost of taking Advanced Placement (AP) tests for low-income high school students.

Overall, total general revenue funding for public schools next year will be just under \$8.9 billion, which is \$498 million or 5.9 percent more than this year's funding.

Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed the new budget into law on June 5.

Along with that additional funding, the board's legislative affairs director, Amanda Elliott, said, will come a host of new laws affecting teachers, prospective new teachers, students and school districts throughout the state. Those bills, however, are still awaiting Pritzker's signature.

Among those are two competing bills that do away with the "basic skills" test that prospective new teachers have to take in order to be licensed, measures that are intended to alleviate the state's teacher shortage.

House Bill 423 would suspend the use of that test at least through July 1, 2025, while Senate Bill 1952 would do away with it entirely. The Senate bill also allows student teachers to be paid and it provides that teachers who practice in the lowest-funded Tier 1 districts can apply for refunds for the cost of taking another licensing exam known as the EdTPA test.

Pritzker's office has said the governor will decide which, if either, of the bills he wants to sign.

Another bill aimed at reducing the state's teacher shortage is House Bill 1472, which extends for another two years a program that allows retired teachers to return to work in subject-shortage areas without impairing their

Continued on page 2



Education

from page 1

retirement status or their retirement annuity.

Lawmakers also passed a bill that abolishes the state's Charter School Commission effective July 1, 2020. Senate Bill 1226 provides that all the duties and functions of that commission will be transferred to the State Board of Education.

Several bills that passed both chambers address student safety and child abuse. Among those was House Bill 3687, which requires prosecutors to immediately notify school districts when a school employee is charged with a sex offense.

House Bill 1475, meanwhile, requires that parents or guardians of students with epilepsy who seek epilepsy-related care at school to submit a "seizure action plan" to the student's school.

Students would also receive additional legal protections under House Bill 2627, which says students may not be questioned, detained or taken into custody by law enforcement in a school setting in connection with criminal charges or allegations without the presence of the student's parent or guardian, a school social worker or a licensed mental health professional.

Senate Bill 2124, on the other hand, expands the list of banned items in schools or at school-related activities to include pneumatic guns, spring guns, paint ball guns and BB guns that have specified features. Violation of the law can result in expulsion for not less than one year.

Students also would be required to fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA form, as a condition of graduating high school under House Bill 2719, although the bill does allow students and their families to opt out of the requirement by applying for a waiver from the State Board of Education.

Several bills also address school curricula, including Senate Bill 246, requiring that U.S. history classes in public schools include a study of the roles and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the history of the nation and the state of Illinois.

And House Bill 2265 provides that public elementary schools must include in their sixth, seventh or eighth grade curriculum at least one semester of civics education.

Ending the Feline Overpopulation Issue in Boone County

by Sofi Zeman
Reporter

In recent years, Boone County has been struck with an overpopulation of stray cats in both municipal and residential areas. Day and night, loose cats that have no home to call their own wander about the streets alone. These animals are put in a situation that can dramatically decrease their quality of life and chance of survival. Inevitably, this has adversely affected local households for quite some time.

In many circumstances, it is entirely common for a wild tomcat to contribute to this issue more so by choosing to reproduce wherever they go. Both household and homeless female cats are often impregnated and have multiple litters as a result. The production of numerous kittens may make it difficult for owners to care for their pets, resulting in even more cats out on the streets. This process is a main contributor to the issue at hand. Stray cats continue to make more stray cats. What can be done?

Currently, the Boone County Animal Services Auxiliary has joined with Spay Illinois in an attempt to remedy this ongoing situation. The two associations have set up a spay and neutering transport system for both residential and street cats, under the hope that sterilizing the animals will reduce the amount of strays born in the area.

Here's how it works. After someone signs up and brings an animal to the Animal Services Auxiliary, Spay Illinois brings out a van and picks up the registered animal. The company then brings the cat back to its clinic in Lisle, Illinois where the sterilizing surgery is performed. After, the animal is brought back home. While the ears of animals are often "tipped" after sterilization surgery to signify that it is spayed, Spay Illinois avoids this process out of consideration for the animal. This transport process takes place once a month and is extremely affordable for Boone County residents.

The goal of this initiative is to not only control feline reproduction, but to vastly improve feline general quality of life.

"Spaying and neutering is healthy for an animal. My dream was always to try to get to the root of the problem, which is educating people about their pets. While animal's personalities change when neutered, it's for the better. They're not going to be as aggressive; they're not going to wander. Health-wise, this is a much better option than leaving your cat be," claimed Jane Gordon, who is involved in the Animal Services Auxilia

The two companies host spay and neuter transports exclusively for cats at the moment, due to a lack of space. Dogs will likely be included after the construction of Spay Illinois' new clinic is complete, which is expected to occur within the coming year.

While the June spay and neuter transport already occurred, there will be another on July 18 for those who want to have their feline sterilized. It is preferable to call and sign up with the Animal Services Auxiliary two weeks before in order to have an animal transported. The Auxiliary will also be hosting a low-cost vaccine clinic on June 22. As this date has already reached capacity, another will be happening on June 29.

While opinions over sterilizing an animal may vary from owner to owner, this clinic is a step in the right direction toward reducing the number of stray cats.

Illinois Hemp Farmers Leverage High Risk for High Profit Potential

by Peter Hancock
Capitol News Illinois

Trent Lawrence had a rude awakening earlier this week. Overnight, mice had gotten into the greenhouse on his farm and eaten several dozen trays of seedlings he was planning to transplant into a field.

Lawrence and his wife, Jami, work a 26-acre farm outside of Delavan, about 30 miles south of Peoria, in Tazewell County. For the past several years, they've been growing organic peppers, tomatoes and a variety of other specialty crops. But this year, they're starting a new crop that became legal in Illinois only earlier this year, industrial hemp, and that's what the mice found especially tasty.

At a cost ranging from 25 cents to \$1 per seed, rodents in the greenhouse are just one of many risks that Illinois hemp farmers face.

"It's very risky, very risky," Lawrence said during an interview on his farm.

Fortunately for Lawrence, the damage was minimal. He has hundreds more seedlings growing in that same greenhouse, and hundreds more on top of that germinating under lights in an upstairs room of the house that sits on the property.

With luck, each of those plants will grow to produce one to two pounds of flower rich in a compound called cannabidiol, more commonly known as CBD, which when extracted can be used to control a wide range of medical conditions including seizure disorders. And with market prices ranging from \$80 to \$100 a pound, depending on its CBD content, that makes each one of those seedlings extremely valuable.

That industry, however, became possible only in recent years. Since the 1930s, industrial hemp had been illegal in the United States, with a brief exception during World War II, because it was classified as a narcotic in the same category as marijuana. It was only in 2014 that Congress began allowing states to authorize limited production for research purposes, and it was finally legalized completely in the 2018 Farm Bill, which Congress passed in December.

"Six months ago, this would have been the mother of all felonies," Lawrence said as he looked around his greenhouse. "It's no joke. Until the 2018 Farm Bill was signed, it was still under controlled substance territory. This would have been a Schedule I drug, but since they deregulated CBD - they removed CBD out of the Schedule I drug category."

Lawrence said the plants classify as industrial hemp as long as they test below 0.3 percent Tetrahydrocannabinol, more commonly known as THC, the principal psychoactive ingredient in marijuana.

"So, we can grow a CBD crop now, as long as we don't go above 0.3 percent delta-9-THC," he said.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture began accepting applications for licenses to grow industrial hemp on April 30, and as of June 10, according to agency figures, the state had issued licenses to 474 growers covering just over 12,103 acres.

That's actually quite small compared to the 11 million acres of corn the state produced in 2017, or the 10 million acres of soybeans farmers grew that same year.

In terms of income potential, however, there is little comparison. In 2017, according to the Illinois Department of Agriculture, corn production in Illinois averaged 201 bushels per acre, and it sold for \$3.35 a bushel, or \$673.35 per acre. Soybeans yielded roughly \$556.80 per acre.

But some in the industry believe a quality hemp crop that's geared toward CBD production could generate as much \$90,000 to \$160,000 an

Obituaries

Jones, Phyllis, 90, Belvidere, June 17



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419 S. State St • Belvidere, IL 61008
Phone: (815) 544-4430 Fax: 544-4330
www.boonecountyjournal.com
news@boonecountyjournal.com

Each week, the Journal seeks to present a variety of voices.
Letters. Every attempt will be made to print all letters received with the exception of those that are libelous or obscene. Letters should be signed and include an ID or phone number, so that we can contact the author prior to publication to verify authenticity.

Guest columns. Community leaders are encouraged to submit guest columns consistent with our editorial guidelines for possible inclusion in the Journal.

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acre, depending on how much flower the plants yield and how much CBD they contain.

“It’s just that the CBD craze that’s going on right now has produced some pretty tremendous stories of farmers and what they can earn on an acre of hemp flower,” said Kevin Pilarski, chief commercial officer of Revolution Cannabis in Elmhurst.

Different varieties of hemp can be grown for its fiber, or to produce seeds. But for now, Pilarski said, Illinois farmers are focusing exclusively on CBD production.

But for farmers hoping to cash in on that market, there are also substantial risks.

Ginger Duer, president and founder of Delta Valley Logistics, a company that grows industrial hemp in Illinois, California and Ontario, said the first of those is upfront capital investment.

“I tell our farmers to anticipate spending – from before they purchase seeds to when they have a salable biomass at the end of the product cycle, they have a product that is dried, packaged and ready to sell to a processor – \$15,000 to \$20,000 an acre,” Duer said. “Now, that is making an assumption that the farmer does not have a lot of equipment that they’re going to have to obtain. However, for the vast majority of farmers, you do have that equipment.”

Both Duer and Lawrence acknowledged another risk about the hemp industry: the fact that there is no accredited crop insurance for it yet.

“Every farmer out there who’s currently growing hemp is running naked,” Duer said. “But that’s causing other problems within the hemp markets because it’s making it more difficult to pre-sell their crop because there’s no crop insurance.”

In addition, she said, there are no certified industrial hemp seeds available yet, which makes shopping for seeds a risky venture of its own because of what she described as “rampant fraud” in the hemp seed market.

“We’re talking about people selling seed stock that is two to three years old as ‘fresh’ seed stock, so the germination rates are 50 to 60 percent instead of above 95,” she said. “You have people selling seeds that were pollinated by high-THC drift in certain states and areas of the country, leading to farmers planting plants that they believe are going to be industrial hemp but are legally marijuana and have up to 6 to 7 percent THC by harvest.”

Lawrence, who said he purchased seeds from hemp farmers in Colorado and Oregon, where production has been legal for some time, said he experienced the uncertainty of the seed market as soon as he decided to go into production.

“Imagine doing a wire transfer for \$10,000 or \$20,000 with somebody in another state that you’ve never met for something that was, six months ago, a felony,” he said.

In addition, he said, even though the seeds came from plants that met the standards for industrial hemp in another state, that does not necessarily predict how they will grow in the fertile soils and hot summers of Illinois. There is always a danger, he said, that the plants will end up producing too much THC.

“Before we harvest, the state will come in and take samples, send those in and get our levels, and if it tests over a certain percent, we have to burn the crop,” he said.

Duer said she believes the hemp industry in the United States will never fully stabilize until there is crop insurance available and there are controlled, certified seeds available to farmers.

Lawrence, however, remains optimistic that will eventually happen.

“I’m thinking in another four or five years, this is going to be just like any other commodity,” he said. “Once more farmers start doing this, especially with grain and fiber, once the infrastructure for those crops is in place for processing grain and fiber, I think this will go mainstream. We’ll have corn, beans and hemp growing everywhere.”

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Medicaid Managed Care Reform Package Breeds Optimism

Providers, Insurers Praise Added Transparency Measures

by Jerry Nowicki
Capitol News Illinois

Illinois lawmakers took several steps this legislative session to increase efficiencies in the state's Medicaid managed care system, which has been widely panned by high-volume Medicaid providers since its inception in 2011.

The negotiations included insurers, health care providers, government regulators and lawmakers, and all sides expressed optimism about a bill which was approved unanimously in both chambers and awaits action from Gov. J.B. Pritzker.

State Sen. Heather Steans, a Chicago Democrat who sponsored Senate Bill 1321, said the "omnibus" package is aimed at decreasing Medicaid claim denial rates by maximizing the communication between the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, managed care organizations also known as MCOs, and health care providers.

"There'll be a lot more reporting requirements, a lot more transparency on what's actually happening," Steans said. "One thing we're doing, for example, right now we get different information from providers, MCOs and the Department of Healthcare and Family Services about what claims are actually being denied. There's not a similar data set that's available."

Under the managed care system, insurance companies are paid a flat, per-patient monthly fee to manage the care of most Medicaid recipients. These MCOs are required to reimburse health care providers and make sure patients receive follow-up care.

But critics have argued that MCOs are merely managing costs through excessive denials of claims and delayed payments.

Illinois Comptroller Susana Mendoza said 26 percent of Medicaid reimbursement claims are denied by MCOs, causing difficulties for high-Medicaid care providers.

"We pay \$14 billion of state dollars to managed care organizations and have a blind spot," Mendoza said. "Once that money goes out my door, I have no idea when they're paying the vendors, and the vendors keep calling my office and saying 'When am I going to get paid?' and all I can say is 'I already paid you.' But by law, I have to pay the managed care organizations who then trickle the money down."

Steans said denial rates can't simply be blamed on MCOs, however, which is why one of the goals of the omnibus package was to bring all sides to the table to find greater efficiencies. One solution was giving the DHFS a greater role in coordinating claims and providing a one-stop database that will help determine what is causing denials.

The bill also lays out parameters of a DHFS-run complaint portal where providers can challenge denials. It requires DHFS to work with stakeholders to "enhance and improve operational performance" of the managed care system, and creates a dispute resolution process in which DHFS has final say over whether a claim denial is permissible.

It also creates an "expedited provider list" to speed payments to health care providers with the greatest financial needs, establishes late payment interest penalties when an MCO does not pay a provider within 30 days of receipt of the claim, and requires the DHFS and MCOs to work toward the creation of consistent billing practices to be applied across MCOs.

Patrick Gallagher, senior vice president of health policy and finance at the Illinois Health

and Hospitals Association, said greater involvement from DHFS is a welcome change.

"I do think that this sets the stage for the state providing greater oversight of the MCOs, because what needs to happen is to have all these billing issues resolved," Gallagher said. "You're always going to have a certain level of denials, but you can't have the levels of what we've been seeing where hospitals have had to hire staff just to chase down these payments."

Managed care organizations supported the collaborative process as well, according to Glenn Harston, who represents the Illinois Association of Medicaid Health Plans.

"While we disagree with the characterization of 26 percent denial rates, we do agree with providers that more can and should be done to ensure that providers and plans are talking with one another and not at one another," Harston said. "The leadership at (DHFS) has made significant progress in bringing the stakeholders together to focus on billing issues and to ensure we discuss how we can collectively improve the program for Medicaid members."

Steans said creating a central system will make it easier for billing departments, and a simplified redetermination process will help drive down denials as well. The bill requires the DHFS to look at ways to simplify the eligibility redetermination process and issue quarterly reports.

"If somebody's sitting in a nursing home, their circumstances probably aren't changing, and they're probably still eligible for Medicaid. So why do we make it complicated and require a lot of information for them to have to fill out?" Steans said. "So that was one of the things we're doing is trying to facilitate getting as much automation done in the redetermination process as possible."


She said Illinois' low Medicaid reimbursement rates received a bump this legislative session because of an assessment, or tax, on managed care organizations that brought more funding into the Medicaid system and freed up approximately \$530 million of general revenue spending. It also allowed for a greater draw down of federal matching dollars while preventing MCOs from passing the fee onto consumers.

Harston said IAMHP also supported the MCO assessment.


"IAMHP was supportive of the Managed Care Assessment as it brought in much needed funding and stability to the Medicaid program," he said. "The assessment will generate a tax of \$1.2 billion plus additional federal dollars amounting to a near \$2 billion investment in the Medicaid program."

John Hoffman, a spokesman for DHFS, said the department "has been implementing a range of enhancements to help providers better serve Medicaid members and to correct for program components that were inadequately developed under the previous administration."

"The Department has an obligation to make sure this program runs as efficiently as possible, and we will actively engage the full scope of available tools to address provider and other concerns promptly and appropriately with strong and vigorous oversight," Hoffman said.



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Community News & Events

2019 Heritage Days BBQ Showdown- The City of Belvidere will host 2018 American Royal Worlds Series of Barbeque Grand Champions; "Bunch of Swine" at the 2019 Heritage Days BBQ Showdown. Currently ranked #2 in the world. From June 22nd to 23rd (9 A.M.-4 P.M.) at the Boone County Fairgrounds teams will compete for a cash prize as well as bragging rights. For any questions regarding the showdown please contact Dan Anderson at danderson@ci.belvidere.il.us.

Greek Fest -2019- A weekend of fun and the finest Greek Food in the area awaits everyone on Saturday, June 22 and Sunday June 23 when the St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Dekalb holds

their "Greek Fest." Greek Fest occurs at Hopkins Park in Dekalb beginning at 11 A.M. and running until 8 P.M. each night. Thousands come every year from miles around to Greek Fest to enjoy savory roast lamb, flavorful Greek chicken, juicy souvlaki and, of course, sweet Baklava for dessert. In addition, Greek Fest also offers a wide range of mouth-watering Greek pastries and Greek dishes that can be found no where else. Greek Fest also offers a special wine and beer garden. There is no admission charge and credit cards are welcomed.

The First Heritage Days Community Challenge Blood Drive, City VS.

County- Monday, June 24th through Friday, June 28th. Donate blood at our Belvidere location Monday-Thursday, by calling 815-965-8751, or to schedule an online appointment go to www.rrvbc.org. You may also donate at Jack Wolf Cadillac-GMC on Friday from 10:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M. and cast your vote. Its city against county, and the winner will be declared Friday night by Mayor Chamberlain.

Rockford Urban Ministries Annual Dinner- Rockford Urban Ministries will hold its annual dinner on Thursday, June 27, 6:00 P.M. at Second Congregational/ First Presbyterian Church, 318 N. Church St. Rockford. For more information call 815-964-7111.

Farm Breakfast- Saturday, June 29, 2019 at the 22nd Annual Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau Foundation Farm Breakfast located at Luckey Farms,

1704 Kelly Road, Caledonia, IL. Breakfast consisting of all-you-can-eat pancakes, whole hog sausage, applesauce, ice cream, milk and coffee will be served from 6:30 A.M. until 11 A.M. For more information, like Winnebago-Boone Farm Breakfast on Facebook; visit www.winnebagoboonefarmbureau.org or call the Farm Bureau office at (815) 962-0653.

Star Spangled Spectacular- Wednesday, July 3 at 8 P.M. The Rockford Symphony Orchestra will perform patriotic music and American Pop favorites at Starlight Theatre at Rock Valley College. Arrive early and bring a picnic or take advantage of food trucks on site and stay for the post-concert fireworks. Tickets can be ordered through Starlight Theatre box office at 815-921-2160. Tickets are also available online at www.rockfordsymphony.com or www.rockvalleycollege.edu. Price is \$30 (\$10 for children 18 and under).

Vacancy Volunteer Boards of Boone County-Fire Protection District #3

Remainder of Term (3) Year Term

Interested parties are asked to send a letter and/or resume expressing your interest and qualifications along with your contact information to Boone County Board Chairman Karl Johnson, Administration Campus, 1212 Logan Ave., Suite 102, Belvidere, IL 61008. Please respond by July 5, 2019 to assure being considered.

Heroes Unplugged- The Rockford Chapter of Guitars for Vets is hosting "Heroes Unplugged", the fourth annual benefit for Guitars for Vets, on Saturday, July 6th at Shooters North in Forest Hills Lanes at 7742 Forest Hills Road. The program will be from 6-10 P.M. and feature the Rockford G4V Jam Band, Paul Bronson, Curt Lewis, and Trinadora Duo. There is a \$5 cover charge at the door. The Rockford Chapter serves veterans who receive their health care through the Rockford VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic. Monthly Jam Sessions, held the second Monday of each month, provide an ongoing forum for veterans to continue their music making journey.

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**Received a notice from the IRS?
Haven't filed for several years?
Can't afford to pay your taxes?**

You have a serious legal problem. You must take action. The IRS is not going to go away.

There are deadlines. Miss those deadlines and you'll lose your rights to appeal, have your case heard, and pay more interest and penalties.

I can help. As a tax attorney, I am trained to analyze the law, minimize your tax bill, and protect your legal rights. Wouldn't you rather speak with someone locally that you can trust?

You can overcome your tax problems. I use a variety of approaches, often more than one, to solve a tax problem. Each client's situation is different.

Let's work through your IRS matter and get you back to enjoying The Good Life.

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- Unit #C26 Jessica Winemiller, 419 Pembroke Rd. SW, Poplar Grove, IL 61065: \$640.00 plus the cost of postage and advertising.
 - Unit #C38 Noel Tuttle, 14774 Clark St., Caledonia, IL 61011: \$1,000.65 plus the cost of postage and advertising
- Published in *The Boone County Journal* 6-14, 21-2019

TAKE NOTICE

CERTIFICATE NO. 2015-00153
 TO: Tamara L. Moore, Spouse of Tamara L. Moore, Occupant, Lex Financial, LLC, Tamara L. Moore, Spouse of Tamara L. Moore
 Persons in occupancy or actual possession of said property; Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots.
 A Petition for Tax Deed on premise described below has been filed with the Circuit Clerk of BOONE County, Ill. as Case No. 2016TX26 (12)
 The Property is located at:
 1727 14th Ave., Belvidere, IL
 Property Index Number: 05-35-352-011
 Said Property was sold on 10/27/2016 for Delinquent Real Estate Taxes and/or Special Assessments for the year 2015.
 The period of redemption will expire on 9/30/2019. On 12/10/19 at 10:00 am the Petitioner will make application to such Court in said County for an Order for Issuance of a Tax Deed.
 Realtax Developers, Ltd, Petitioner
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* June 7, 14, 21, 2019

TAKE NOTICE

CERTIFICATE NO. 2015-00171
 TO: Rogelio Hernandez-Flores, Lisa Hernandez, Occupant, PNC Bank, N.A., Mirella Castillhidaldo, PNC Bank, N.A.
 Persons in occupancy or actual possession of said property; Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots.
 A Petition for Tax Deed on premise described below has been filed with the Circuit Clerk of BOONE County, Ill. as Case No. 2016TX26 (13)
 The Property is located at:
 1006 Washington St., Belvidere, IL
 Property Index Number: 05-36-256-001
 Said Property was sold on 10/27/2016 for Delinquent Real Estate Taxes and/or Special Assessments for the year 2015.
 The period of redemption will expire on 9/30/2019. On 12/10/19 at 10:00 am the Petitioner will make application to such Court in said County for an Order for Issuance of a Tax Deed.
 Realtax Developers, Ltd, Petitioner
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* June 7, 14, 21, 2019

TAKE NOTICE

CERTIFICATE NO. 2015-00109
 TO: Midland States Bank TR 1015, Midland States Bank, Occupant, Midland States Bank, Filter Systems, Inc.
 Persons in occupancy or actual possession of said property; Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots.
 A Petition for Tax Deed on premise described below has been filed with the Circuit Clerk of BOONE County, Ill. as Case No. 2016TX26 (3)
 The Property is located at:
 424 Fairview St., Belvidere, IL
 Property Index Number: 05-25-127-023
 Said Property was sold on 10/27/2016 for Delinquent Real Estate Taxes and/or Special Assessments for the year 2015.
 The period of redemption will expire on 9/30/2019. On 12/10/19 at 10:00 am the Petitioner will make application to such Court in said County for an Order for Issuance of a Tax Deed.
 Ideal Enterprises, Inc., Petitioner
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* June 7, 14, 21, 2019

TAKE NOTICE

CERTIFICATE NO. 2015-00162
 TO: David Edge, Susan Edge, David Edge, Susan Edge, David Edge, Susan Edge, PNC Bank, National Association, Warner Auto, United States Attorney General, United States Attorney, Internal Revenue Service, Internal Revenue Service, David Edge, Spouse of David Edge, Spouse of David Edge, Spouse of David Edge, Spouse of David Edge, Susan Edge, Spouse of Susan Edge, PNC Bank, National Association
 Persons in occupancy or actual possession of said property; Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots.
 A Petition for Tax Deed on premise described below has been filed with the Circuit Clerk of BOONE County, Ill. as Case No. 2016TX26 (4)
 The Property is located at:
 SW Comer of Logan Ave. & Caswell St., Belvidere, IL
 Property Index Number: 05-36-129-006
 Said Property was sold on 10/27/2016 for Delinquent Real Estate Taxes and/or Special Assessments for the year 2015.
 The period of redemption will expire on 9/30/2019. On 12/10/19 at 10:00 am the Petitioner will make application to such Court in said County for an Order for Issuance of a Tax Deed.
 Ideal Enterprises, Inc., Petitioner
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* June 7, 14, 21, 2019

TAKE NOTICE

CERTIFICATE NO. 2015-00166
 TO: Manuel Ortega, Yolanda Ortega, Spouse of Manuel Ortega, Spouse of Yolanda Ortega, Occupant, Manuel Ortega, Spouse of Manuel Ortega, Yolanda Ortega, Spouse of Yolanda Ortega
 Persons in occupancy or actual possession of said property; Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots.
 A Petition for Tax Deed on premise described below has been filed with the Circuit Clerk of BOONE County, Ill. as Case No. 2016TX26 (5)
 The Property is located at:
 123 W. 6th St., Belvidere, IL
 Property Index Number: 05-36-156-009
 Said Property was sold on 10/27/2016 for Delinquent Real Estate Taxes and/or Special Assessments for the year 2015.
 The period of redemption will expire on 9/30/2019. On 12/10/19 at 10:00 am the Petitioner will make application to such Court in said County for an Order for Issuance of a Tax Deed.
 Ideal Enterprises, Inc., Petitioner
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* June 7, 14, 21, 2019

TAKE NOTICE

CERTIFICATE NO. 2015-00110
 TO: Belvidere National Bank & Trust TR 1015, Boone County Trustee, Filter Systems Inc
 Persons in occupancy or actual possession of said property; Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots.
 A Petition for Tax Deed on premise described below has been filed with the Circuit Clerk of BOONE County, Ill. as Case No. 2016TX26 (10)
 The Property is located at:
 1005 North Ave., Belvidere, IL
 Property Index Number: 05-25-128-001
 Said Property was sold on 10/27/2016 for Delinquent Real Estate Taxes and/or Special Assessments for the year 2015.
 The period of redemption will expire on 9/30/2019. On 12/10/19 at 10:00 am the Petitioner will make application to such Court in said County for an Order for Issuance of a Tax Deed.
 Realtax Developers, Ltd, Petitioner
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* June 7, 14, 21, 2019

A Petition for Tax Deed on premise described below has been filed with the Circuit Clerk of BOONE County, Ill. as Case No. 2016TX26 (9)
 The Property is located at:
 10426 McKinley Ave., Poplar Grove, IL
 Property Index Number: 05-11-400-004
 Said Property was sold on 10/27/2016 for Delinquent Real Estate Taxes and/or Special Assessments for the year 2015.
 The period of redemption will expire on 9/30/2019. On 12/10/19 at 10:00 am the Petitioner will make application to such Court in said County for an Order for Issuance of a Tax Deed.
 Realtax Developers, Ltd, Petitioner
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* June 7, 14, 21, 2019

TAKE NOTICE

CERTIFICATE NO. 2015-00046
 TO: Mark Waldron, Kim Waldron, Occupant, Candlewick Lake Association, Inc.
 Persons in occupancy or actual possession of said property; Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots.
 A Petition for Tax Deed on premise described below has been filed with the Circuit Clerk of BOONE County, Ill. as Case No. 2016TX26 (7)
 The Property is located at:
 105 Squire Ln., SE Poplar Grove, IL
 Property Index Number: 03-27-230-021
 Said Property was sold on 10/27/2016 for Delinquent Real Estate Taxes and/or Special Assessments for the year 2015.
 The period of redemption will expire on 9/30/2019. On 12/10/19 at 10:00 am the Petitioner will make application to such Court in said County for an Order for Issuance of a Tax Deed.
 Midtax, Inc., Petitioner
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* June 7, 14, 21, 2019

TAKE NOTICE

CERTIFICATE NO. 2015-00021
 TO: Mohamad M. Badran, Spouse of Mohamad M. Badran, Candlewick Lake Association, Inc.
 Persons in occupancy or actual possession of said property; Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots.
 A Petition for Tax Deed on premise described below has been filed with the Circuit Clerk of BOONE County, Ill. as Case No. 2016TX26 (6)
 The Property is located at:
 200 Lamplighter Loop SE, Poplar Grove, IL
 Property Index Number: 03-26-105-001
 Said Property was sold on 10/27/2016 for Delinquent Real Estate Taxes and/or Special Assessments for the year 2015.
 The period of redemption will expire on 9/30/2019. On 12/10/19 at 10:00 am the Petitioner will make application to such Court in said County for an Order for Issuance of a Tax Deed.
 Midtax, Inc., Petitioner
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* June 7, 14, 21, 2019

TAKE NOTICE

CERTIFICATE NO. 2015-00011
 TO: Johnny E. Bowen, Spouse of Johnny E. Bowen, Occupant, Candlewick Lake Association, Inc., Toyota Motor Credit Corp., Deborah Thompson
 Persons in occupancy or actual possession of said property; Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots.
 A Petition for Tax Deed on premise described below has been filed with the Circuit Clerk of BOONE County, Ill. as Case No. 2016TX26 (8)
 The Property is located at:
 107 Centralia Pl. NE, Poplar Grove, IL
 Property Index Number: 03-22-428-007
 Said Property was sold on 10/27/2016 for Delinquent Real Estate Taxes and/or Special Assessments for the year 2015.
 The period of redemption will expire on 9/30/2019. On 12/10/19 at 10:00 am the Petitioner will make application to such Court in said County for an Order for Issuance of a Tax Deed.
 Realtax Developers, Ltd, Petitioner
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* June 7, 14, 21, 2019

TAKE NOTICE

CERTIFICATE NO. 2015-00143
 TO: Debra A. Hughes, Occupant, Spouse of Debra A. Hughes, Deann F. Hopkins, Spouse of Deann F. Hopkins, Dawn E. Garza, Spouse of Dawn E. Garza, Carrie R. Hopkins, Spouse of Carrie R. Hopkins, Daniel H. Hopkins, Spouse of Daniel H. Hopkins, Debra A. Hughes, Spouse of Debra A. Hughes, Deann F. Hopkins, Spouse of Deann F. Hopkins, Dawn E. Garza, Spouse of Dawn E. Garza, Carrie R. Hopkins, Spouse of Carrie R. Hopkins, Daniel H. Hopkins, Spouse of Daniel H. Hopkins, Deann F. Hopkins, Spouse of Deann F. Hopkins, Dawn E. Garza, Spouse of Dawn E. Garza, Carrie R. Hopkins, Spouse of Carrie R. Hopkins, Daniel H. Hopkins, Spouse of Daniel H. Hopkins, Waterfall Party Bar
 Persons in occupancy or actual possession of said property; Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots.
 A Petition for Tax Deed on premise described below has been filed with the Circuit Clerk of BOONE County, Ill. as Case No. 2016TX26(11)
 The Property is located at:
 141 S. Appleton Rd., Belvidere, IL
 Property Index Number: 05-34-200-023
 Said Property was sold on 10/27/2016 for Delinquent Real Estate Taxes and/or Special Assessments for the year 2015.
 The period of redemption will expire on 9/30/2019. On 12/10/19 at 10:00 am the Petitioner will make application to such Court in said County for an Order for Issuance of a Tax Deed.
 Realtax Developers, Ltd, Petitioner
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* June 7, 14, 21, 2019

TAKE NOTICE

CERTIFICATE NO. 2015-00098
 TO: Michael D. Coil, Spouse of Michael D. Coil, Occupant, DWV Inc. d/b/a Tractor Town, Michael D. Coil, Spouse of Michael D. Coil, Kari L. Stevens, Spouse of Kari L. Stevens, First National Bank of Omaha, Kari L. Stevens, Spouse of Kari L. Stevens, Tri Star Enterprises, United States Attorney, Internal Revenue Service, Internal Revenue Service, Michael D. Coil, Spouse of Michael D. Coil, Illinois Attorney General, Illinois Department of Revenue, First National Bank of Omaha, Tri-Star Landscape, Maureen Koteles
 Persons in occupancy or actual possession of said property; Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that at 6:45 P.M., July 15, 2019, Public Hearing will be held at Boone County Fire Protection District No. 2, 1777 Henry Luckow Lane, Belvidere, Illinois, for the purpose of considering the proposed budget and appropriation ordinance of the District. Any party interested in viewing a copy of the proposed budget and ordinance may do so during business hours (8:00 A.M. to 5 P.M.) at the Station at 1777 Henry Luckow Lane, Belvidere, Illinois.
 Published in the Boone County Journal 06/07,14,21,28 08/05,12

CHANGE IN CERTIFICATE OF OWNERSHIP OF BUSINESS PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on June 18, 2019, a certificate was filed on the Office of the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois, concerning the business known as FARM 4695 BOONE COUNTY ILLINOIS, located at 8068 Coon Trail Rd., Capron, IL 61012, which certificate sets forth the following changes in the operation thereof: Dissolution of Business Dated this 18th day of June, 2019.
 Julie A. Stapler Boone County Clerk
 By Sherry L. Blauert, Deputy
 Published in the Boone County Journal 06/21,28 07/05

Assumed Names

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION
 State of Illinois County of Boone) ss This is to certify that the undersigned intend...to conduct and transact a Firearms business in said County and State under the name of RSM Firearms/ RSM Custom Gun Works at the following addresses: 1443 South State Street, Belvidere IL, 61008 and 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: NAME AND ADDRESS OF RESIDENCE: Robert & Stacy Miskewitch 4054 Pearl Street Road, Belvidere IL, 61008 Signed: Robert & Stacy Miskewitch 06/11/19
 Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 11th day of June, 2019.
 Julie A. Stapler, County Clerk, by Christine Gardner, Deputy
 Published in the Boone County Journal 06/14,21,28

CHANGE IN CERTIFICATE OF OWNERSHIP OF BUSINESS PUBLICATION NOTICE
 Public Notice is hereby given that on June 13, 2019, a certificate was filed on the Office of the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois, concerning the business known as Safe and Sound Tags, located at 105 James Circle SE., Poplar Grove, IL 61065, which certificate sets forth the following changes in the operation thereof: Dissolution of Assumed Name. Dated this 13th day of June, 2019.
 Julie A. Stapler Boone County Clerk
 Published in the Boone County Journal 06/14,21,28

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

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

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

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

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

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

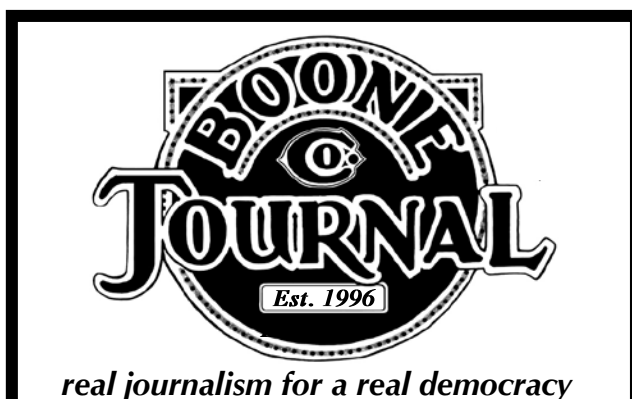
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Sosnowski, Chamber Host Graduated Income Tax Town Hall June 26

Local residents are invited to a public forum to learn about the Graduated Income Tax at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 26 at the Community Building Complex of Boone County, located at 111 W. First Street. The town hall is sponsored jointly by State Representative Joe Sosnowski, R-Rockford, and the Belvidere Area Chamber of Commerce. Light breakfast will be served starting at 7:30 a.m. with the presentation to begin at 8:00 a.m.

The presentation will feature Mr. Ralph Martire, Executive Director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, an advocate in support of the graduated income tax; and Mr. Mark Glennon, Executive Director and founder of Wirepoints, an opponent of the graduated income tax.

“The Illinois General Assembly voted to place a referendum on the 2020 General Election ballot to let the voters decide whether to change the state constitution to allow for a graduated income tax,” Representative Sosnowski said. “This town hall meeting is an opportunity for local taxpayers and job creators to learn the facts about the graduated income tax from both sides of the debate. I encourage everyone interested in or concerned about taxes to attend our town hall and join the conversation.”

There is no cost to attend the town hall meeting, however, those who plan to attend are asked to register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/graduated-income-tax-town-hall-tickets-63565002634>.

Reproductive Health Act is law, making Illinois a ‘beacon’

by Capitol News Illinois

Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker made Illinois the most liberal state in the U.S. for access to reproductive health care with the stroke of 20 pens Wednesday, June 12, at the Chicago Cultural Center.

It was a vow he made at the beginning of the legislative session, and a charge both backers and detractors of the Reproductive Health Act maintained would come to pass. The measure became law immediately with his signature.

Pritzker said the law makes the Prairie State a “beacon” for access to pregnancy care, contraception, birth control, abortion procedures and other related benefits by making access to these things a “fundamental right.” That means no level of government in Illinois can infringe upon a woman or man’s access to reproductive health care.

“Let the word go forth today from this place that if you believe in standing up for women’s fundamental rights, Illinois is a beacon of hope in the heart of this nation. We trust women,” the governor said.

While opponents say the law strikes protections from statute — including the automatic autopsy of a woman who dies during an abortion, penalties for an illegally-performed abortion post-viability and inspections of clinics where the procedure is done — proponents say it codifies current

practices and removes aspects of statute enjoined by the courts.

Advocates also point out the measure treats abortion procedures as health care.

“The government shouldn’t be able to tell a woman what’s best for her body and her future. By making the Reproductive Health Care law in Illinois, we’re sending a clear message — that we trust women to make their decisions about their bodies,” Senate sponsor Melinda Bush, a Democrat from Grayslake, said. “We believe that women should have the same autonomy over their bodies that men do.”

The legislation was introduced in February by House sponsor Rep. Kelly Cassidy, a Democrat from Chicago, and in the Senate by Bush. The twin bills sat in legislative limbo until early May, when calls for action came from advocates and lawmakers after moves by states such as Louisiana, Georgia and Missouri to restrict access to abortion procedures.

Some of those laws were passed to challenge the 1973 case Roe v. Wade, which legalized the procedure nationwide, before the U.S. Supreme Court.

“All of us believe the state of Missouri and the rest of the states that have passed laws taking away women’s rights should change their minds, should revisit the issue,” Pritzker said. “But Illinois knows where we stand and we’re going to be here for women if they have to be refugees from other states. We don’t want them to be — we want women to be able to access health care where they live and all of us believe in that.”

Immediately following the signing ceremony, opponents of the act held a news event in opposition to the new law. Present were representatives from the Thomas More Society, a Chicago-based pro-life law firm, and Illinois Right to Life Action, a pro-life lobbying group.

“It’s a tale as old as time. Illinois politicians are more concerned with pandering to cash-wielding progressives and Chicago media outlets than they are with representing the people of our state,” said Mary Kate Knorr, Illinois Right to Life Action spokeswoman. “Pritzker doesn’t care what the people of Illinois want, nor does he care that abortion takes a human life.”

Peter Breen, vice president and senior counsel of the law firm, said the “deceptively titled” Reproductive Health Act makes Illinois “an abortion destination for the country.”

Nursing Home Funding

by Capitol News Illinois

Funding for nursing homes serving the state’s most vulnerable elderly populations will increase by \$240 million next fiscal year as part of the state’s recently-passed budget.

Of that \$240 million, which will be split between the state and federal government, \$70 million will be directly appropriated to help nursing homes meet minimum staffing require-

ments. Another \$170 million will update the reimbursement formula for support costs such as food, utilities, maintenance and equipment.

Advocates for the nursing home industry say the added funding will help stem a tide of 20-plus skilled- and intermediate-care facility closures that occurred over the past five years due to crippling budget cuts and decades-old Medicaid reimbursement rates.

“This money means survival,” said Pat Comstock, executive director of the nursing home advocacy group Health Care Council of Illinois. “Our members are thrilled, but they’re also relieved because these dollars are going to provide some much needed relief from the struggles to survive that members are experiencing.”

The legislation also creates fines for nursing homes that fail to meet staffing minimums, and provides safeguards against the use of psychotropic drugs. Labor and senior care advocates say this will help hold nursing homes accountable and make life better for workers and patients.

The \$70 million for nurse staffing will be distributed by a funding formula to be decided by the Department of Healthcare and Family Services. That formula will drive greater funding to the nursing homes with more Medicaid bed days.

The \$170 million for support costs would update reimbursement rates currently determined by costs dating back to 2004. The distribution formula is still to be determined, but \$37 million of that sum will be used to ensure facilities will not lose funding as a result of the new formula.



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(815) 569-1571

For SALE: General Steel Pole Building, new, three sided, 22' W x 70' L x 20'8" H, Side single slope w/2:12 pitch. One 14'W x 14'H framed opening and one 10' W x 10'H framed opening with heavy duty doors. Asking \$29,000.
Call 815-569-1571 for more information.