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Boone County Receives \$140 Million for Road & Bridge Improvements

By David Larson

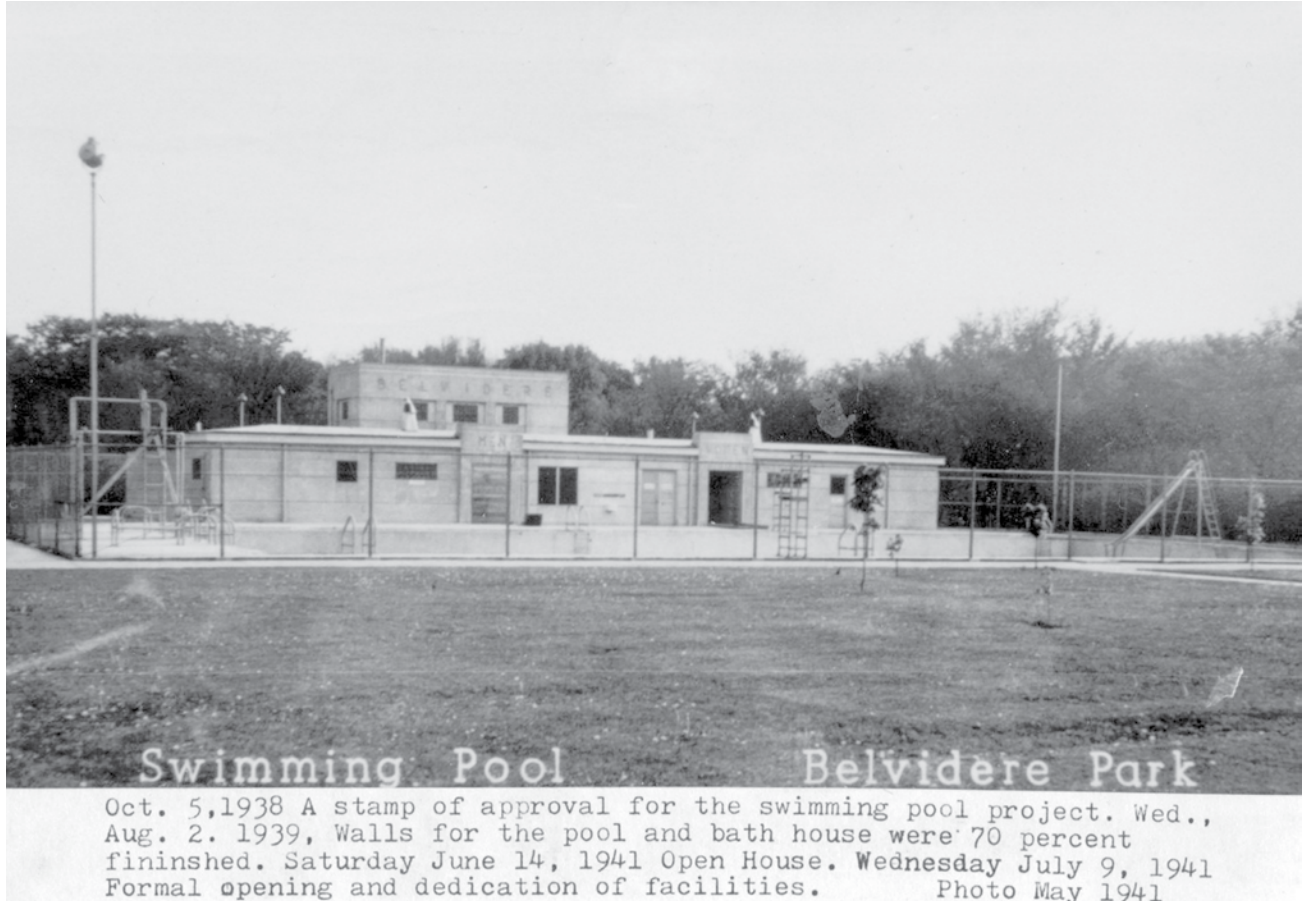
Gov. J. B. Pritzker and Illinois Department of Transportation Secretary Omer Osman announced Monday that Boone County will receive 140 million from the 19-cent increase in motor fuel tax for three projects between 2020 and 2025. (see Rebuild Illinois Plan story in this issue)

Route 173 has been recently resurfaced from Winnebago County to Route 76 according to Boone County Engineer, Justin Krohn. Krohn stated that the Multi-Year Plan funded by the increase in motor fuel tax will completely rebuild Route 173 from Route 76 east to the McHenry County Line. The estimated cost of this project is \$16.45 million. A second project replaces the U.S.20 Grant Highway bridge over Interstate 90. The bridge is located between Ipsen Road and Wheeler Road. The estimate for this project is 15.53 million

And finally, a very large project will widen Business 20 State Street from Shaw Road to the junction of North State Street in Belvidere. Also, the Business 20 Northern By-Pass will be widened across Logan Avenue to U.S. 20 Grant Highway. This project will increase the number of lanes and generally improve the roadway at an estimated cost of \$108 million. Each year, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) develops a fiscally-constrained six-year program, that details how IDOT will invest transportation dollars in the state and local highway system. According to the 2020-2015 Multi-Year Plan, (sometimes referred to as the Multi-Year Plan, or MYP), it will invest \$23.5 billion in roads and bridges and includes a FY 2020 annual highway program of \$3.76 billion. Rebuild Illinois Plan, approved earlier this year, will invest \$33.2 billion of the 45 billion in infrastructure in the current phase. Beyond road and bridge repair, the Rebuild Illinois Plan significantly increases funding for mass transportation for a total of \$4 billion. The Rebuild Illinois Plan will also invest in universities, broadband, affordable housing and other critical projects.

Funding for the Multi-Year Plan comes from \$1.5 billion per year in federal funding for highways and bridges. Illinois ranks sixth in the nation in aggregate federal funding for highways and bridges under the FAST Act. State funds totaling \$13.7 billion are anticipated to be available for the FY 2020-2025 MYP, and are primarily generated from state motor fuel taxes and motor vehicle registration fees. Three percent comes from local funding statewide.

The public is encouraged to participate in the planning and development of transportation planning across the state. A public comment page and information is available at the IDOT website.



The Belvidere Pool: A WPA Project

By David Larson

The Belvidere Park Pool opened to swimmers only months before the attack on Pearl Harbor. It was, as many other large and small assets in Belvidere, a product of the Roosevelt New Deal.

The Community Planning Committee was a taxpayer watchdog organization, composed of representatives from virtually every important group or club in Belvidere. The Committee advocated for the pool project because Marshall Beach had been closed due to pollution in the river. The Kishwaukee River in those days was virtually a drainage ditch that ran through Belvidere. Raw sewage and industrial slug were dumped into the river. Yet, river swimming was common, particularly at the Park District's Marshall Beach at Lawrenceville Road and Lincoln Avenue in Belvidere. The group reasoned that with Federal WPA money and transferring the cost of running Marshall Beach, taxes would not go up. Based on that analysis, they fully supported the pool project, as did most people in Belvidere.

Before construction began, a site had to be chosen for the pool. Two were publicly discussed. One was the Gallagher site, which was approximately where the City Street Department yards at West Locust and Pleasant Street are today. The site overlooked Doty Flats, a marshy, swampy area, and would have been located very close to the street. The public was strongly against that location, and preferred the mill race site, where the pool stands today.

The cost of the pool project was \$70,000. The WPA grant covered \$50,000. Using today's dollars, \$70,000 would be approximately \$1.3 million. It took the WPA two full years to build the pool. In the summer of 1940, running behind schedule, 75 additional workers were pulled from road projects in rural Boone County to catch up.

The WPA (known officially as the Works Progress Administration, and later as the Work Projects Administration) had many projects in Boone County. It built roads and bridges,

the Community Building in Belvidere, and the tennis courts and pool in Belvidere Park. The WPA employed many out-of-work, local people. It provided day care and festival events. The WPA was a culture of employment, sponsored and funded by the Federal Government. It was much maligned at the time as "Socialistic" by the Republican Party.

Like 2010, when unemployment was over 10%, the Depression was a time of mass unemployment, but it was much more devastating, because many of the institutions that soften the blow of not having work were not in place in the early 1930s. The New Deal was a back to work or infrastructure program as opposed to a cash infusion into the insolvent banking system in 2010.

Pritzker Calls Multi-Year Road Construction Plan 'Historic Improvement'

Says New-Look Process Guided By 'Highest Standards Of Transparency And Ethics'

by Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

Lawmakers and Illinois Department of Transportation officials released details of a new \$23.5 billion multi-year plan for revamping the state's roads and bridges Monday at a bipartisan event in Springfield.

Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker stood in front of two orange work trucks and a fleet of yellow-vested construction workers as he and speakers from both parties hailed the plan as one that would stimulate the state's economy and usher in a new era of bipartisanship and effective government in Illinois.

Acting IDOT Secretary Omer Osman, a Pritzker appointee, said slightly more than \$9

Continued on Page 2

Rebuild Plan *Continued from page 1*
 billion of the \$23.5 billion that will be spent from fiscal years 2020-2025 will come from the federal government, about 39 percent of the total funding. He said the passage of the horizontal infrastructure bill this May upped the state's contribution to the multi-year plan from 12 percent to 58 percent.

The money will go toward maintaining 4,212 miles of roadways and 9.2 million square feet of bridges, according to the governor's office. The projects on the list were identified "based on the principles of asset management" to "maximize system performance and minimize lifecycle costs."

Factors that help determine which projects will be completed and the order of construction include crash history, pavement condition, average daily traffic and bridge condition.

"This is a big change from how previous capital programs have done this in the past when the state would let roads and bridges deteriorate so thoroughly that repairs have cost taxpayers far more than if they'd been maintained to a minimum standard," Pritzker said. "Instead, we are embarking on a new regimen of investing on the front end. This is a historic improvement which will save taxpayers potentially billions of dollars over the long run."

According to the governor's office, 75 percent of the funds is allocated to reconstructing and preserving roadways and bridges, while 16 percent is dedicated "to strategically expanding the system in areas where data have shown the investment will be highly effective." The rest will go to "necessary traffic and safety improvements."

In total, \$7.58 billion will go toward roadway reconstruction and preservation, \$4.99 billion to bridge replacements and repairs, \$1.59 billion to "safety and system modernizations," \$3.08 billion to strategic expansion of the system and \$2.11 billion for system support such as

engineering and land acquisition, according to the governor's office.

Pervasive during the news conference were questions about the ethics of the project selection process, given the ongoing probe of one of the capital bill's chief architects, Sen. Martin Sandoval, and a growing list of other government officials.

In his public remarks, Pritzker said the state would follow "a rigorous and objective procurement process with the highest standards of transparency and ethics," and "taxpayers need to know that their resources are being used wisely and effectively."

"Let me be clear about something. There is no, no acceptance in any way whatsoever — in fact, a full-throated rejection by my administration, by this IDOT — of any of the deception of the corruption that has been uncovered and that may yet be uncovered," Pritzker said when asked about the ongoing federal probe. "We are being extremely focused and careful to make sure that every dollar that gets spent in this capital plan is done completely above board and done the right way and with taxpayers in mind."

There have been no official charges of wrongdoing resulting from several high-profile raids on elected officials in recent weeks. But Sandoval, a Chicago Democrat who carried the horizontal infrastructure bill in the Senate and hosted a series of committee hearings across the state to build support for it, resigned as chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee following raids on his Statehouse and district offices in September.

Sandoval has not appeared publicly since those raids occurred, and he was not at the news conference Monday. But Sens. Andy Manar, D-Bunker Hill, and Don DeWitte, R-St. Charles, who traveled the state with Sandoval's committee, each praised the bill and the processes in place to determine how the money will be spent.

"Ultimately, beyond just repairing roads and fixing bridges that are in desperate need of repair, this bill ... is going to put thousands of people, thousands of people to work in all parts of Illinois," Manar said. "That helps out every part of our state's economy, and this is a sustainable program that's going to be paying dividends to the people of the state for years to come."

DeWitte said he "couldn't be prouder to be a part of this new era that we have begun for the state of Illinois" as he praised the bipartisan effort.

"Instead of continuing the status quo, leaders from both sides of the aisle and Governor Pritzker and his staff came forward with real solutions to the challenges that face communities all over the state of Illinois," DeWitte said. "This capital plan is going to do exactly what its name promises to do, it will rebuild Illinois."

The road and bridge infrastructure spending is separate from building infrastructure money which will be generated by a massive gambling expansion in the state. The roads and bridges are primarily funded by an increase of the state's gas tax to 38 cents per gallon from 19 cents, with the tax indexed for inflation going forward.

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Obituaries

Daniels, Richard "RJ", 81, Garden Pr., Oct 19
 Dodge, Charlotte, 88, Belvidere, October 22
 Erickson, Virginia, 90, Belvidere, October 15
 Libbe, Margie, 57, Belvidere, October 16
 Olsen, Robert, 64, Harvard, October 14
 Rowinski, Felix, 92, Belvidere, October 18



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David Grimm April 1938 - Dec. 2000
 Richelle Kingsbury Aug. 1955 - June 2013

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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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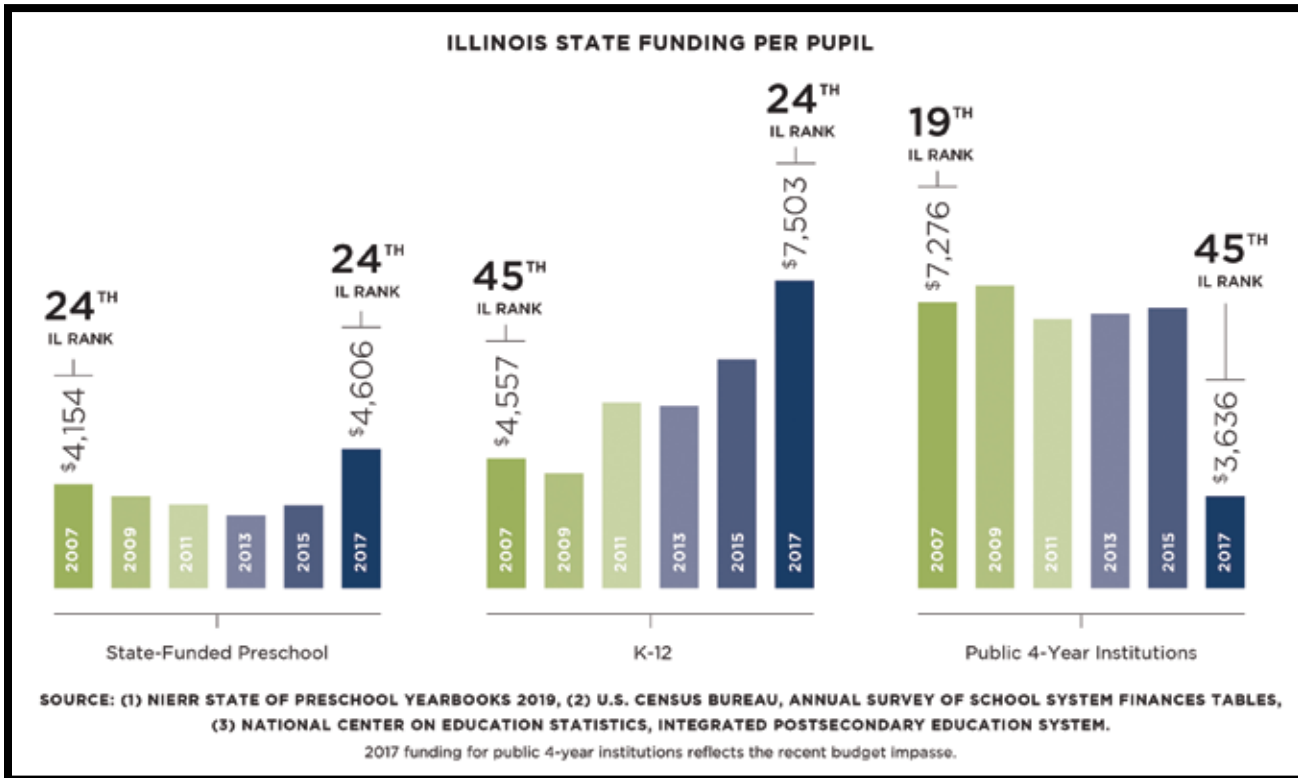
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Report: Education Funding Overhaul Effective, Increased State Investment Needed

As K-12 Funding Has Grown, Higher Education Funding Has Plummeted In Illinois, Advocacy Group Finds

by Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

A new report from an independent policy and advocacy organization is calling for increased state investment in public education in Illinois, particularly in early childhood and higher education.

“Overall, our outcomes are improving despite insufficient state investment in programs and schools. We must build on the progress of K-12 funding reform and ensure our early childhood and postsecondary programs are fully and equitably funded so students and families have access to the resources they need to thrive,” Advance Illinois said in its 2019 “The State We’re In” report.

Advance Illinois was founded in 2008 by leaders from several civic, philanthropic, business and education organizations across the state. The group’s stated purpose is to work “toward a healthy public education system that prepares students to achieve success in college, career and civic life.”

Their annual report tracks roughly 80 metrics pertaining to student performance in three categories: early education, K-12 and postsecondary.

The report found that evidence-based funding formula, which was passed in 2017, has helped increase per-pupil state spending at the K-12 level. Illinois spent, on average, \$7,503 per pupil in 2017, ranking it 29th in the nation. That’s up from \$4,557 in 2007, when the state ranked 45th.

The evidence-based funding formula calls for an added \$350 million in K-12 education spending annually and directs that money to the schools furthest from adequate funding. This helped decrease the number of school districts funded at less than 60 percent of their adequacy targets from 168 in

2017 to roughly 34 in 2019, according to the report.

Still, nearly half of Illinois’ 852 school districts are working with “less than 70 percent of the funds they need to adequately meet their students’ needs,” the report said.

While K-12 education spending increased from 2007 to 2017, over that same span, per-pupil state spending at four-year higher education institutions was decimated. In 2007, Illinois spent \$7,276 per student at public four-year institutions, but that number fell to \$3,636 in 2017. That was a steep enough fall to move the state from the 19th to 45th highest in the nation.

The decreased state investment came as higher education costs continued to rise. In the last 15 years, annual inflation-adjusted tuition at public four-year universities has increased 62 percent from \$8,641 to \$13,970.10, the report said.

Because of this, a family earning the median household income of \$62,992 would have to pay 27 percent of its income to send one child to a state university, provided they receive no state or federal aid. That number jumps to 50 percent of annual income for those living at the federal poverty line.

The decreased spending coincided with an overall enrollment decline in Illinois institutions of higher education, which dropped from roughly 896,000 in 2009 to 747,000 in 2017.

“When looking at the most recent five years, black student enrollment at Illinois institutions declined almost 26 percent,” the report said. “While Latinx enrollment grew 6 percent, Latinx students represent fewer than 18 percent of total enrollment.”

The overall high school graduation rate has

grown in recent years, and the rate for black (75 percent) and Latinx (81 percent) populations also inched closer to that of white populations (91 percent), the report said. Despite the gains, other attainment gaps by race are growing.

“While Illinois Latinx and black students’ growth is equal to or exceeds their white peers in both reading and mathematics, they are still performing below grade level in 8th grade,” the report stated. “Put differently, our current rate of growth, while significant, is neither far-reaching nor fast enough to make up for early gaps and prepare all students for college and careers.”

On top of that, Illinois offers inadequate birth-to-three services and support for low-income families, according to the report. Just 59,000 of roughly 300,000 eligible children aged birth through four receive assistance from the state’s Child Care Assistance Program, the report found.

“The need far outpaces the state’s investment for these families and is leaving a critical hole in services and supports for our children,” according to the report.

Approximately 84 percent of the state’s low-income three- and four-year-olds have access to state or federally funded pre-school, which ranks high nationally, according to the report. However, most of those are half-day programs, and access is “uneven,” according to the report.

“There are early childhood ‘deserts’ with essentially no publicly supported programming for children in need from birth to 3 years, and communities with no public pre-kindergarten for 3- and 4-year-olds from low-income households,” the report stated.

The report also called attention to a statewide teacher shortage and a lack of diversity in the teaching profession – 83 percent of teachers are white, and 76 percent are women, while 6 percent of teachers are black despite 17 percent of schoolchildren being black.

A black student is seven times more likely to be suspended than a white student, per the report, and five times more likely to be suspended than a Latinx student, making those students more likely to fall behind.

Access to school counsellors also lags in Illinois, which has one counsellor for every 320 students, while the national average is of one for every 239.

The report also found that an increasing number of Illinois students are graduating high school, enrolling in higher education and obtaining degrees, and more students are enrolling in challenging high school coursework such as advanced placement courses.

“As a state, we have demonstrated our ability to make real progress for all students on challenging issues. There is more work to do and more children counting on us to tackle it,” the report concluded.

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Let's Talk About Electronic Devices, Communication & Guns

by Jim Nowlan

I muse widely, yet my knowledge base is quite narrow. So, I could sure use help from thoughtful readers who know more than I about the topics below, which I am beginning to explore for possible essays. If you have informed thoughts and links to good sources, please email at jnowlan3@gmail.com.

First: There will be war-like conflicts in the future, and the U.S. won't be spared, as we have been in the past. As drones and cyber conflict replace much of the boots-on-the-ground-warfare, the first thing to go down in any major future dust-up would likely be our electric power grid.

Would apocalyptic chaos ensue on the streets? Would a nation like ours be brought to its knees, just like big corporations that make huge ransomware payoffs to hackers, to get their systems back up and running?

Could Americans benefit from "civil defense" training, or would it be useless? How would you and your family fare if you were without electricity for several weeks? Should every family buy a small gas-powered generator to keep the lights on, and a supply of food and water?

Second: The evil of anonymity. In my early days as a weekly newspaper publisher, we required that letters to the editor be signed. After all, the writer should be willing to stand behind his thoughts.

In today's world of instantaneous, off-the-cuff, often profane, vicious comment via digital platforms, anonymity seems to be the order of the day. On the blogs I see, commenters use fictitious "handles." Why?

Anonymity allows us to brush aside the mediating forces of our personality (the ego and superego, as Freud would have it) and unleash the id, our primitive, animal drives (the beast within us, as Hobbes would say). This builds anger and polarization.

If self-identification became the norm again, we would tend to be much more respectful, but could still make our arguments. And, in contrast, anonymous comment would therefore be discounted. Right?

Third: What are the consequences of our society having been transformed, in about one short century, from a nation of producers to that of consumers? In the early 1900s and before, most job holders made things, whether on the farm or in the factory. Today, few of us make things. Many of us do provide services, often critical ones like health care, but many services are nice but not necessary.

Our primary job as humans has been transformed from producing to consuming. That is why Wall Street pores over the data from the many surveys of consumer sentiment. If we stop gorging ourselves with food, doo-dads and services, beyond our needs, our economy collapses.

Doesn't it worry you that if consumers suddenly decided to stop shopping, for reasons of anxiety about our economic future or whatever, we would be in deep economic doo-doo?

And shouldn't our government be saving for a rainy day, rather than piling on trillions in long-term debt simply to stimulate more current consumption?

Fourth: Are humans becoming helpless in the age of digital helpmates? Have you ever asked a teen behind the counter at a gas station for directions? He or she looks at you as if you're from another planet. I'm sure he wonders why I haven't already looked the directions up on my cellphone (which I can do).

Computers find everything for us. Farmers around me aren't even allowed to fix their own equipment.

It's as if digital technology is somehow, surreptitiously, relegating humans to total dependency, helplessness. If so, what are the

consequences?

Five: Why don't officials act to ban assault-style weapons of war like AR 15s and AK 47s, each able to spew out scores of bullets per minute? I live in rural gun country. Many of my friends have several guns, for hunting, target practice as well as personal and home defense, which I think is fine.

None of my friends, however, so far as I know, has the need for his own weapon of war. Yet these rat-a-tat guns have to be absolute magnets for pathologically insecure men whose battered self-esteem is bolstered by ownership of big weapons.

If the world of responsible gun owners, as most are, came out against weapons of war, their standing in the larger society would be enhanced, especially by parents who are now fearful of letting their kids go to the malls. What am I missing here, as there isn't even much talk of banning such weapons?

Any thoughtful observations to guide me, or straighten me out, much appreciated.

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

Community News & Events

The Southern Lakes Auto Modelers Club hosts 4th Annual NNL Model and Toy Show- Saturday, October 19th from 9 A.M.- 4 P.M. at the Johnstown Community Center, (9937 E. County Road A, Johnstown, just outside of Janesville, Wisconsin). If you are interested in more information about the event, please contact Rick Allen at 262-745-5500 or Alex Drake at 262-661-4432.

The Autism Program of Easterseals Upcoming Trick-or-Treat Event- Friday, October 25, 2019. Located at the Ida Public Library (320 N. State Street, Belvidere, IL 61008). The hours will be from 5:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

Youth Mental Health First Aid Training- A Youth Mental Health First Aid Training session will be held on Friday, October 25, 2019 at Immanuel Lutheran Church on Belvidere (1045 Belvidere Road, Belvidere, IL 61008) from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. with registration starting at 8:30 A.M. Participants should enter through door #4. Youth Mental Health First Aid is designed to teach parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, health and human service workers, and other caring citizens how to help an adolescent (age 12-25) who is experiencing a mental health or addictions challenge or is in crisis. A \$40 fee covers the cost of training and manual. A light lunch will be provided. Register early, as space is limited to 30 participants. Deadline is October 21. To register for this training, visit our website at web.extension.illinois.edu/bdo or call the Boone County Extension office at 815-544-3710. Free CEU's and CPDU's are available for LPC, LCPC, LSW, LCSW and teacher who complete the entire workshop. For more information, please contact Judy Hodge, Extension Program Coordinator at 815-544-3710 or hodg@illinois.edu

Vintage RUMmage Sale- Rockford Urban Ministries hosts its first Vintage RUMmage Sale in the former JustGoods Store, (201 Seventh Street, Rockford IL). This year the sale includes of a wide variety of vintage items, artwork, including prints, oils, water colors, posters, knickknacks, and sculpture.

Books are priced to sell. Collectibles include postage stamps, coins, foreign paper money, post cards and sheet music. The Vintage RUMmage Sale is open during JustGoods fair trade store hours: Friday and Saturday, October 25th and 26th from 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

A Driving Track in Rockford- Saturday, October 26, 2019 from 1:30 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. A Driving track in Rockford as told by Amanda Becker. Books will be available for purchase. Donation if desired to benefit Camp Grant Museum 1004 Samuelson Rd, Rockford. Call 815-395-0679 or 815-395-0678 for further information.

Genoa Township Park District Halloween Happenings- October 26, 2019 from 2:00-4:00 P.M. at Chamberlain Park. Food, games, prizes, balloon artist, inflatables, costume contest, wagon rides and face painting. This event is FREE!

The History of Camp Grant- Tuesday, October 29, 2019 from 1:30 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. Would you like to know the history of Camp Grant? Yolanda will tell you and will discuss it with you. Donations if desired will benefit the museum. 1004 Samuelson Rd., Rockford IL, 61109. Call 815-395-0679 or 815-395-0678 for further information.

Archaeological Institute of America Invites The Public to Free Presentation on Archaeology- Tuesday, October 29, 2019, starting at 7:30 P.M. at the Burpee Museum of Natural History, (737 North Main Street, Rockford). The topic of the presentation will be the worlds oldest communications network-investigating fire beacons and fortress landscapes in America. The public is invited to a free reception held immediately following each presentation. Please email dave@dobson.com for any further information.

Village of Cherry Valley Trick-or-Treat Hours- The Village of Cherry Valley Trick-or-Treat hours will be from 5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. on Halloween.

Music Academy Presents Heartstrings- Heartstrings Night at the Museum, the biennial fundraising event of The Music Academy in Rockford, will be held Saturday evening, November 2 at the Burpee Museum of Natural History. Heartstrings celebrate the connection between music, medicine and science and benefits the school's scholarship, financial aid and professional development fund. For reservations and information call 815-987-0036 or go to www.musicacademyinrockford.com

Community Building Complex Finance, Rules & Regulations and Building & Grounds Committee Meeting- Tuesday, November 5, 2019 at 11:45 A.M. located at The Steam Plant Restaurant, Belvidere.

Nielsen Chorale's 2019-2020 Season- The Nielsen Chorale's 2019-2020 season will officially begin with a performance of Mozart's Requiem with the Rockford Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, November 9, 2019. More information of upcoming performances can be found at www.nielsenchorale.org

The Art of Hunting- Get ready to explore "The Art of Hunting" on November 9th at Burpee Museum of Natural History (737 N. Main Street, Rockford, Illinois). Adults and children of all ages are welcome to become participants in activities such as tossing tomahawks, shooting a bow and arrow, and throwing an atlatl: all different devices used in various hunting techniques. Burpee welcomes many special guests from Richard Harrison demonstrating flintknapping and spear making, to beautiful artifacts and stories from the Native American Awareness Committee, to Joel Bowling with fantastic artifact displays and Alan Harrison demonstrating and teaching the traditional atlatl throwing. Everyone is invited to take part in the enactment of authentic Native drumming, songs, dances,

and storytelling.

31st Annual Wonderful World of Christmas Craft & Vendor Show- Sunday, November 10, 2019 at the Genoa-Kingston High School on Route 72 (just west of Genoa, IL) from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Over 120 talented crafters and vendors will display their items and make you holiday shopping a snap-maybe something even for yourself! You'll find everything from hand painted wood signs, vinyl signs and ornaments, knit and crochet items, purses, candles and delicious food items. Over 300 grab bag gifts will be available. Santa will arrive at 11:30 and stay until 1:00 to hear special wishes- bring your camera. Admission is \$2.00 for adults and .50 for children. There are over 100 instant chances to win door prizes donated by crafters and vendors. A 50/50 cash drawing will take place at the end of the show plus a beautiful hand-crafted afghan drawing.

Learn about AMBUCS- Learn about AMBUCS and how they may help you or your family member if having trouble walking or use a wheel chair. Presentation at 5:30 P.M. Picnic supper buffet available for \$10.00 starting at 5:00 P.M. Located at The Camp Grant Museum Thursday, November 14, 2019. (1004 Samuelson Road, Rockford, IL). Call 815-395-0679 or 815-395-0678 for more information.

Stories From Veterans- Stories from Veterans as told by Dr. John Ulferts. Books will also be available for purchase. \$5.00 donation if so desired to benefit the Camp Grant Museum. Saturday, November 16, 2019, starting at 1:00 P.M.

Chicago Mayor: To Balance Budget, City 'Will Need Cooperation From Springfield'

Lightfoot Eyes 'Statewide Pension Reform,' Casino Tax Fix, Increased City Real Estate Transfer Fees

By Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot laid out her budget plan Wednesday, announcing the city "will need cooperation from Springfield" in order to fill an \$838 million operating deficit.

Lightfoot called on state lawmakers to authorize the city to increase its real-estate transfer tax, "support a Chicago casino" and "develop a statewide pension reform package."

The mayor claimed that, "for the first time in our city's history," the budget will include full funding for police and fire pensions "at the level outside experts say we should be paying for them to ensure their long-term financial stability."

The long-term prospects of meeting those responsibilities, however, will depend on the state, Lightfoot said.

"And if we are able to work with Springfield to approve these two measures, Chicago will have all four of our pension funds reach that level and be on the path to structural balance by 2022. That is good news," she said. "But if we don't get the authorization we need, we will be forced to make more painful choices when it comes to new sources of revenue. And we all know what those choices are."

According to Lightfoot's budget proposal, pension appropriations will increase to \$1.7 billion from the proposed local fund operating budget in 2020, an increase of \$346.8 million from the 2019 budget.

The city has an unfunded pension liability of about \$28 billion. That is separate from the state's unfunded liability, which sits at more than \$130 billion.

While details of a "statewide pension reform package" remain murky and yet to be negotiated, Emily Bittner, spokesperson for Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker, said the governor encourages dialogue on the city's proposals.

"Cities around the state face enormous fiscal challenges, and the governor believes that

balancing Chicago's budget is an important step in stabilizing our overall fiscal health to benefit all our state's residents," she said. "The governor will encourage the General Assembly to give the mayor's proposals their full consideration during the veto session."

Lightfoot is also seeking changes to the existing tax structure that would govern a new Chicago casino among other possible changes.

A feasibility study released earlier this year said the tax structure approved in the gambling expansion bill is "very onerous" and would create an effective tax rate of approximately 72 percent for the casino operator.

Earlier this week, Pritzker Press Secretary Jordan Abudayyeh said the governor was willing to work with the city on that issue is as well.

"After the casino feasibility study was released in mid-August, the governor was willing to give the new city administration time to develop alternative proposals for the Chicago casino," she said. "The governor remains open to a number of approaches for making the Chicago casino successful, and we look forward to working with the General Assembly during veto session."

Lightfoot said Chicago will also need approval from Springfield in reforming Chicago's real estate transfer tax, which applies to anyone selling or buying a home in the city.

"These reforms will bring an additional \$50 million this coming year with an additional \$100 million every year after that," she said.

In all, the proposed operating budget spends \$11.65 billion. The proposal does not include property tax increases, but it does include one-time savings from restructuring city debt, increased taxes on rideshares and all food and drinks sold in Chicago restaurants and increased fees on downtown parking meters.

Lightfoot also said her budget accounts for \$150 million in savings obtained through "zero-based budgeting," which she called a budgeting approach built "from the ground up, ensuring every line was essential to the core service mission of every department." She did not elaborate on where those savings would be realized.

Veto session runs Oct. 28-30 and Nov. 12-14 and is the first time the General Assembly will be in session since they adjourned in early June.

Lightfoot's budget is also subject to debate and changes from the Chicago City Council.

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Holiday Bazaar & Luncheon

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Bake Sale & Bazaar
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Ham Ball Luncheon
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STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
VILLAGE OF POPLAR GROVE, ILLINOIS, a body politic and
corporate, Petitioner,
v. Case No.: 2019-MR-111
ANTHONY B. ENOS and ANY UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-
RECORD CLAIMANTS, Respondents/Respondent.
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS
The requisite affidavit for service by publication as to Defendants,
Any Unknown Owners and Non-record Claimants, that the above-
entitled cause of action for a Judgment on the Findings, Decision
and Order of its Code Enforcement Hearing Officer on the property
described below is now pending in the Boone County Circuit Court.
If you fail to answer the complaint filed in said action by November
12, 2019, a default judgment may be entered against you on or after
that date and a decree entered in accordance with the prayer of said
complaint, subject to your possible right to redeem within the time
and manner provided by law. The property which is the subject of this
action is described as follows:

COMMENCING AT A POINT ON RANGE LINE, 410 LINKS
NORTH OF THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST
¼ OF SECTION 24, IN TOWNSHIP 45 NORTH, RANGE 3, EAST
OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN; RUNNING THENCE
NORTH, 90 LINKS; THENCE WEST, 250 LINKS; THENCE
SOUTH, 90 LINKS; THENCE EAST 250 LINKS TO THE PLACE
OF BEGINNING, ALL BEING IN SAID SECTION 24, IN BOONE
COUNTY, ILLINOIS. SITUATED IN BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

P.I.N.: 03-24-282-008

201 S. State Street

Poplar Grove, Illinois 61065

The current owner of the property is ANTHONY B. ENOS.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

of Boone County

Josef Kurlinkus - ARDC# 6293179

Sosnowski Szeto, LLP

6735 Vistagreen Way, Suite 300

Rockford, IL 61107

josef@sosnowskiszeto.com

Published in The Boone County Journal 10-11, 18, 25-2019

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 Water Softener business
in said County and State under the name of American Water Softener
at the following addresses 747 Manchester Rd, South Beloit IL, 61080 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: William
Evensen, 747 Manchester Rd., South Beloit IL, 61080 Signed: William
Evensen 10/11/19

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 11th day of
October, 2019.

Julie A. Stapler, County Clerk, by Sherry L. Blauert, Deputy

Published in the Boone County Journal 10/18,25 11/01

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 Farming & Concrete
business in said County and State under the name of H & G Farming
and Concrete at the following addresses 10901 Denny Road, 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: German Luna, 10901 Denny Road, Belvidere IL, 61008
Signed: German Luna 10/21/19

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 21st day of
October, 2019.

Julie A. Stapler, County Clerk, by Giselle Lenover, Deputy

Published in the Boone County Journal 10/25, 11/01,08

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 Retail Pet Supply business
in said County and State under the name of TJ's Parrot Toys at the
following addresses 636 John 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: Tiffanie Johnson, 636 John
Street, Belvidere IL, 61008 Signed: Tiffanie Johnson 09/20/19

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 20th day of
September, 2019.

Julie A. Stapler, County Clerk, by Sherry Blauert, Deputy

Published in the Boone County Journal 10/25, 11/01,08

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 Dealership Used Cars
business in said County and State under the name of Northside Auto at
the following addresses 1473 McKinley Ave., 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: Gerardo
Moreno, 5865 Inverness Dr., Rockford IL, 61107 & Nicolas Reyes, 2080
N. Boone School Rd., Caledonia IL, 61011. Signed: Gerardo Moreno &
Nicolas Reyes 10/21/19

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 21st day of
October, 2019.

Julie A. Stapler, County Clerk, by Giselle Lenover, Deputy

Published in the Boone County Journal 10/25, 11/01,08

Julie A. Stapler

Boone County Clerk & Recorder

CHANGE IN CERTIFICATE OF OWNERSHIP OF

BUSINESS PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on September 3, 2019, a
certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Boone County,
Illinois, concerning the business known as Taco'n Madres, located at
116 Buchanan St., Belvidere, IL 61008, which certificate sets forth
the following changes in the operation thereof: Owner withdrawal of
Laurencia Medrano. Addition of owner Beatriz Medrano. Business
owners will consist of Yoselyn Rios Garcia and new owner of Beatriz
Medrano. Dated this 8th day of October, 2019.

Julie A. Stapler Boone County Clerk

By Giselle Lenover, Deputy

Published in the Boone County Journal 10/25, 11/01,08

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