

FREE

BOONE COUNTY
LOCAL NEWS, OPINION & HISTORY
JOURNAL
Real Journalism for a Real Democracy



Subscribe Online
www.boonecountyjournal.com

Friday • October 9, 2020
Vol. 25, Issue 23 • No. 1271

2020 Property Tax Assessments will be published here Oct. 23

Belvidere City Bakery



*A portal to the past
by David Larson*

This week's picture shows H.F. "Hank" Bowley's Belvidere City Bakery delivery wagon parked at the bakery. The precise date and location in Belvidere are unknown; A wild guess would be on the corner of Whitney Boulevard and Buchanan Street's southwest corner around 1878. Today, that is the Buchanan Street Pub's beer garden. It is not known if the driver is H.F. Bowley or an employee of the bakery. But, given the occasion of taking a photograph in 1878, let's assume it is Hank. The appearance looks polished and successful, and clearly from a different culture than that of today's manufactured baked goods.

Think Tank's Lawsuit Takes Aim at Graduated Tax Ballot Language

Group once tied to ex-Gov. Rauner asks judge to require amended voter pamphlet

by Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

A think tank once tied to Republican former Gov. Bruce Rauner is suing the Illinois State Board of Elections and secretary of state, charging that graduated tax constitutional amendment language is "misleading" as it appears on the General Election ballot and in a pamphlet sent to voters.

The Illinois Policy Institute, which describes itself as a libertarian-leaning think tank and has been a leading organization in opposition the amendment, is joined by three retirees in the lawsuit which asks a judge to force election authorities to send "a corrective notice" to voters regarding the graduated tax constitutional amendment.

That amendment – which is a marquee policy initiative of Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker, who has given more than \$50 million to groups lobbying for its passage – would change the state's constitution to allow lawmakers to impose different tax rates on varying levels of income. Currently, the state must level a flat rate income tax on every penny of a taxpayer's income.

Continued on Page 2

Dem Chairman Delays Further Hearings in Madigan Probe Until After Election

Republicans accuse Democrats of protecting speaker at all costs

by Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

The chairman of the Special Investigating Committee probing Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan's alleged role in a bribery scheme said Tuesday that he will delay any further meetings of that panel until after the Nov. 3 general election.

"The committee will meet again in person on Nov. 5 in Springfield – without the backdrop of a political campaign," Rep. Emanuel "Chris" Welch, D-Hillside, said in a statement.

That statement, which came exactly four weeks before the Nov. 3 general election, infuriated Republicans on the panel who accused Welch of stonewalling the investigation in order to protect the powerful Democratic speaker.

"Chairman Welch's decision is an utter insult to the people of Illinois who want and deserve the truth," Rep. Deanne Mazzochi, R-Elmhurst, said during a virtual news conference later in the day. "Chairman Welch has now become Chairman Squelch."

Madigan, a Chicago Democrat who has served as speaker of the House for all but two years since 1983, was implicated in a bribery scheme in July when officials at Commonwealth Edison, the

Continued on Page 4

Belvidere had many independent bakeries until the 1970's. The calligraphy of this bakery's signage is unique and powerful. In 1878, a time without premade computer fonts, a professional, an artist, would do hand lettering like this and the lettering, the fonts, are unique to the customer and define the brand as we think of a logo today. The custom lettering, the subject and quality of the photo make this photo an excellent representation of life in post-Civil War Belvidere. The photo is real--not a make-believe history image—and it might make an excellent mural someday.

Ten years ago, the Journal published this photo and reported that Robert "Bob" Bowley, a former Ward 2 alderman on the Belvidere City Council, is a direct descendant of H.F. Bowley. H.F. Bowley also ran for public office in Ward 1 and Ward 5. He was one of the men who endorsed Charles E. Fuller for a judgeship. Fuller later became a Congressman for the district.

Bowley was a member of the Red Ribbon Club in Belvidere, a temperance group. In April of 1878, H.F. Bowley was elected treasurer of the Red Ribbon Club. The Red Ribbon Club was a social organization that regularly sponsored social events in town. Events were often philosophical lectures of a spiritual and moral nature, often accompanied by a local church choir. In early February of 1878 a fund raiser was held at which the Peak Family, Swiss Bell Ringers and the ever-popular female impersonator, Burton Stanley combined for a show, giving two performances in the Union Hall on the first and second Saturday of that month. The Union Hall, also known as the Adelphi

Continued on Page 3

Lawsuit

Continued page 1

On the ballot, voters are asked to vote “yes” or “no” after reading the following language:

“The proposed amendment grants the State authority to impose higher income tax rates on higher income levels, which is how the federal government and a majority of other states do it. The amendment would remove the portion of the Revenue Article of the Illinois Constitution that is sometimes referred to as the ‘flat tax,’ that requires all taxes on income to be at the same rate. The amendment does not itself change tax rates. It gives the State the ability to impose higher tax rates on those with higher income levels and lower income tax rates on those with middle or lower income levels. You are asked to decide whether the proposed amendment should become a part of the Illinois Constitution.”

The lawsuit

The IPI’s lawyers argue in the court document that the amendment would “eliminate important structural safeguards that deter legislators in the General Assembly from imposing new taxes on retirement income and deter legislators from imposing higher taxes on individuals with middle or low incomes.”

Many of the arguments in the lawsuit filed in Cook County Circuit Court mirror those that conservative groups have used to argue

against the amendment’s passage in public advertisements, opinion pieces and campaigns.

The basis of the lawsuit is the language of the question and the arguments in favor of the proposal that were distributed to voters.

The phrasing of the ballot question and pamphlet was approved on a partisan roll call in the General Assembly earlier this year. But the lawsuit claims the “misleading statements in the ballot explanation deny voters their rights to a free and equal election in violation of the Free and Equal Elections Clause of the Illinois Constitution,” as well as the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The lawsuit objects to the language that says the amendment allows the state to “impose higher income tax rates on higher income levels,” and suggests it be changed in a corrective notice to be sent to voters to read “different income tax rates on different income levels.” It also seeks an added sentence noting, “The General Assembly would continue to have the authority to establish income tax rates.”

When the language passed, Republicans in the General Assembly issued similar concerns, noting the language in the question was similar to language used in arguments supporting the measure.

The lawsuit also argues that the absence of the actual amendment language in the pamphlet and on the ballot is also a violation of voters’ U.S. and state constitutional rights. The lawsuit seeks to have that information included in the corrective notice they are asking a judge to require.

The amendment

Specifically, Article 9, Section 3 of the Illinois Constitution would be amended if the ballot question passes. The new language would read: “The General Assembly shall provide by law for the rate or rates of any tax on or measured by income imposed by the State. In any such tax imposed upon corporations the highest rate shall not exceed the highest rate imposed on individuals by more than a ratio of 8 to 5.”

That would replace the current language, which states: “A tax on or measured by income shall be at a non-graduated rate. At any one time there may be no more than one such tax imposed by the State for State purposes on individuals and one such tax so imposed on corporations. In any such tax imposed upon corporations the rate shall not exceed the rate imposed on individuals by more than a ratio of 8 to 5.”

Under current law, lawmakers already have the authority to tax retirement income – it is not an added power granted by the amendment. While lawmakers could tax retirement income currently, it would have to be at the same flat rate of any other income tax levied and it would have to apply to every retirement earner equally.

Because the amendment removes the flat tax requirement, however, it would open the door to taxing some levels of retirement

income without taxing every retiree’s income. Opponents argue this makes raising or creating such a tax politically easier.

Gov. JB Pritzker has frequently said he opposes any tax on retirement income, and a rate structure already approved by the General Assembly in separate legislation that will become law in January if voters approve the amendment does not provide for retirement income taxation. That structure would raise taxes on those earning more than \$250,000 annually while keeping taxes level or lowering them slightly for those earning less than that amount.

But the lawsuit argues those rates are subject to change and a retirement income tax could be instituted by a future General Assembly.

The number of votes required to raise income taxes in the General Assembly – a simple majority – is unchanged by the amendment.

The lawsuit argues, however, that a pamphlet sent by Secretary of State Jesse White’s office to voters which states “This amendment does not tax retirement income” could be interpreted by voters “to mean that voting in favor of the (graduated tax) amendment is specifically a vote against the imposition of a tax on retirement income,” when it in fact is not.

Treasurer comments

The lawsuit cites a June comment from Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs, a Democrat who has no role in setting tax rates, as an indicator that retirement taxes are being considered by state lawmakers.

“Specifically, the Illinois State Treasurer, Michael Frerichs is reported as stating at a Chamber of Commerce event that ‘[o]ne thing a progressive tax would do is make clear you can have graduated rates when you are taxing retirement income, and, I think that’s something that’s worth discussion’ or words to that effect,” according to the lawsuit.

Frerichs had scheduled a news conference for Tuesday morning to “condemn misleading statements” about taxing retirement income, but he canceled it about 10 minutes before the event. Instead, he issued a statement in favor of a graduated tax and said, “I oppose creating a retirement tax in Illinois, along with the General Assembly, and governor.”

John Tillman, who is the chairman and CEO of Illinois Policy Institute, is not a stranger to suing the state. In August, a Sangamon County judge declined to hear a lawsuit filed by Tillman as a private citizen challenging the constitutionality of two of the state’s general obligation bond issuances.

Former Gov. Rauner’s family foundation had given at least \$500,000 to IPI before he was governor, according to the Chicago Tribune, and several staffers went from IPI to serve briefly on Rauner’s staff in high level positions in 2017 before the ex-governor vowed not to give any more money to the organization.

Quidnunc



Who do you think did the best job in the V.P. Debate Wednesday night?

Obituaries

John MacNamara, 81, Rockford, September 30



real journalism for a real democracy

Publisher/Editor David C. Larson
Senior Writer/Editorial Charles Herbst
Advertising Bethany Staniec
Photography Susan Moran
Office Amanda Nelson

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

THE BOONE COUNTY JOURNAL
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.

Opinions. The opinions expressed in the Journal are those of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Boone County Journal management or ownership.

**Boone County License & Title
Stickers - Titles - Plates
We Are OPEN**

Bring:
Postcard Bill from the Secretary of State
Or
Old Registration Card
Or
Vin# + Plate # + Expiration Date

419 S. State St. Bel
815-544-2075



Bowley

Continued page 1

Hall, was located where State Street Commons is today, in the 500 block of South State Street. It was a different building at the time. After expenses, the purse was split between the Red Ribbon Club and the remainder to be used to create a lending library in the Club Room.

The Ida Public library was not yet in existence in 1978. Ida Public library was originally located in the State Street Fire Station building and began in 1883 when General Allen C. Fuller donated \$5,000 to the Belvidere City Council in memory of his daughter to open a public library. The library was named after Ida Fuller Hovey, the daughter of General Fuller, who died at the age of 24. Ida Fuller was a talented piano player and a member of the Red Ribbon Club. She gave a performance the following week after the fundraiser, February 19, 1878, and was no doubt known to H.F. Bowley. The following summer, Ida was married at the age of 19. The couple built a home on First Street between South State and Garfield on the South Side.

Bowley was a sportsman who often took long hunting trips into the wilderness of Wisconsin and Michigan. At a time when the local newspaper published extensive details of individuals' lives, his hunting trip was, you might say, legendary. On a trip to Michigan with his friends Terwilliger and Witbeck in 1879, 24 deer were bagged. In Michigan, they camped near a lumber camp on the Flint River outfitted with a pair of mules, provisions, a cook, and a teamster. Gone for three weeks, they returned by train. The hunters were no doubt delighted with the success of the trip, having only shot 7 deer the prior year. Another news tidbit reported his bagging two geese at a distance of 90 yards from some local blind. Bowley was also one of the top clay pigeon shooters in the community. He was an in-the-money shooter in the October 1878 Sherwin & Hurlbut Shootout, with prizes ranging from \$52.50 to \$5.25. Clay pigeon or trap shooting was a regular sport in those days, and it was often held at the fairgrounds. At the time, that may have been northwest of the court house which we know is on North Main Street.

Bowley expanded his business interest when, in September of 1893, he opened a restaurant in

In our 25th year publishing *The Boone County Journal* October 9, 2020 3 a storefront formerly occupied by C.L. Stowe. By June 1998, he and a partner, M.B. Rider, opened an upscale restaurant in the former office of F.W. Starr. Starr was very active in the real estate market.

Belvidere in 1880, with a county population of 11,508, had many businesses: Saxton & Michell Furniture and Undertaking, J.J. Tailoring, George Bement Watch-Maker and Dentist, and D.E. Ellis Physician and Dentist to name a few. To look through the lens of a camera brings the past into view. Too often the past is a blurry background, and only the present can be seen.

The Journal would like to thank the Boone County Museum of History, James Middleton, and Newspapers.com whose contributions run throughout this article.

Letter to The Editor

Editor:

My name is Wendy LaFauce. I am running for the Boone County Board in District 3. I have lived in Boone County for 25 years. I graduated summa cum laude from Rockford College. I've taught, substitute taught, or worked as a paraprofessional in both parochial and public schools in Belvidere. Working in a small parochial school I had to create differentiated lesson plans to meet a variety of students' needs. I hope to bring those same problem-solving skills to the county board.

I left teaching to become the caregiver for my aunt. During that time, I began to be politically active fighting for the rights of the disabled and issues involving public education. I joined the Boone County Democratic Party helping to organize a candidate forum, fundraisers, and as Recording Secretary. Currently, I am an IDA Public Library Board Trustee. I was also elected as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. I am the first woman from Boone County from either party to receive that honor.

As a teacher, the skills and characters of my students made me optimistic about the future of Boone County. When I started attending their high school and college graduations, however, I learned that many

were planning to start their future anywhere but Boone County.

The county board should do better creating a climate encouraging a variety of businesses to start or expand here. Despite our ideal location, we lack adequate public transportation and a structure allowing different departments to work together more seamlessly to accommodate business expansion. Some of the skills I developed as a teacher are managing limited resources, building consensus amongst colleagues and constituents, and the ability to anticipate problems before they reach crisis level. These skills would be an asset to Boone County.

One issue candidates are being questioned on is, "Should the Boone County Board Chair be an elected position?" I have been observing the board for over a year, voters don't have access to enough unbiased information for them to make an informed decision about the county board chair. However, I would like to see more formalized transparency and accountability on the part of the Chair.

As a caregiver for family members, I was constantly aware that my loved ones might need to go to Maple Crest. Even though it was managed by another entity, I knew our county had a watchful eye on the citizens who once made Boone County the community we love today. The additional resources Boone County invests in the management of Maple Crest give our aging population and their loved ones the peace of mind they deserve.

For more information follow my Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Wendy-LaFauce-for-Boone-County-Board-District-3-101189628138153

Visit my website: www.wendyforboonecounty.com

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Wendy LaFauce
Candidate Boone County Board – District 3

Coronavirus	Flu	Allergies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever • Dry cough • Shortness of breath • Fatigue • Chills • Muscle pain • Headache • Sore throat • New loss of taste or smell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever • Cough • Muscle aches • Fatigue • Headache • Runny nose • Sore throat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sneezing • Itchy eyes • Runny nose • Watery, red or swollen eyes



EMPOWER BOONE FOOD PANTRY

We are here to serve our neighbors in need and support our community during this difficult time.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

BAR GRAPH KEY:

- = Additional Saturday drive-thrus in Belvidere
- = Ongoing Tuesday hours at food pantry

Individuals Served per Month in 2020

26 VOLUNTEERS
3 STAFF
working to safely transport, stock, and serve food boxes on M, Tu, Th

36 SPONSORS
who are providing additional monetary support, helping us meet increased demand

YOU CAN HELP

CALL US
815-569-1571

DONATE

www.EmpowerBoone.org

Charles Herbst

Attorney At Law

Practice Areas:

- Wills and Trusts
- Tax Strategy
- IRS Representation
- Real Estate
- Wealth Planning
- LLCs and Corporate



Education:

- LL.M. (Masters in Tax Law) New York University
- B.S. Business, J.D. Law (cum laude) Indiana University

Experience:

- International Tax Associates, Director of Federal Tax Research
- Ernst and Young LLP, Manager; Writer, Washington National Tax Writing Center
- Private Practice in the local area for over 13 years
- Former chairman of the written publications committee of the Indiana State Bar Association.

Over 25 years of experience
With a comprehensive approach to tax management.

Licensed to practice before the Internal Revenue Service nationally and in state courts in Illinois.

345 Bienterra Trail, Suite 3, Rockford, IL 61107

815 484 9482

Madigan

continued from page 1

state's largest electric utility, admitted to federal prosecutors that over a period of nine years, they handed out no-work jobs and lobbying contracts to close associates of Madigan as part of a concerted effort to curry his favor for legislation that benefitted the company.

Madigan has not been charged and has denied any wrongdoing, saying that all he did was recommend people for jobs.

Regardless, Republicans in the House, led by Minority Leader Jim Durkin of Western Springs, filed a petition to launch a disciplinary process on the grounds that Madigan may have engaged in "conduct unbecoming to a legislator or which constitutes a breach of public trust." Under House rules, that charge could lead to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the House.

The special committee last met on Tuesday, Sept. 29, and heard testimony from ComEd Executive Vice President of Compliance and Audit David Glockner who said he could not specifically confirm whether the company's actions had, in fact, influenced Madigan or whether Madigan was even aware of its intent to influence him.

Also during that meeting, Republicans on the panel sought to issue subpoenas to multiple other potential witnesses who had declined requests to testify voluntarily, including Madigan. Welch, however, ruled that request out of order, calling it "premature."

Since then, Democrats and Republicans have engaged in back-and-forth criticism of one another, with Welch accusing Republicans of trying to use the hearings for "political theater," while Republicans have accused Welch of stonewalling the process in order to protect the speaker politically.

"At every step of this process, our cooperation has been accompanied with the proviso that we will not allow this committee to be used as a stage for political theater – an admonishment our Republican colleagues appear to have taken more as a challenge than as a reflection of this committee's serious work," Welch said in a statement.

Asked via email how he distinguishes between political theater and a legitimate request for relevant information, Welch replied: "The (Special Investigating Committee) convening on Nov. 5, 2020 in the Capitol, after the election, removes this process from the backdrop of an election where two members of the committee are in the middle of contested political campaigns."

That was a reference to two of the GOP committee members, Mazzochi and Rep. Grant Wehrli, of Naperville.

Earlier Tuesday, Rep. Tom Demmer, R-Dixon, the ranking Republican on the

special committee, released a statement noting that Welch, in lieu of issuing subpoenas for testimony, had sent a letter to ComEd seeking what Demmer called a "data dump" of all communications over the last decade between ComEd, its parent company Exelon, "and any staff member, employee, contractor, or consultant" of former Govs. Pat Quinn and Bruce Rauner, current Gov. JB Pritzker, former Senate President John Cullerton, current Senate President Don Harmon, Speaker Madigan and other current and former Republican state lawmakers.

"This request involves hundreds of people and could take months for ComEd to respond," Demmer said in the statement.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

Community News & Events

The Blaine Cemetery Association will hold its fall meeting on Sunday, 11 October 2020. A visual of the cemetery will be at 12:30pm with a business meeting to follow at 1:00pm at the Blaine United Methodist Church, 7200 Blaine Road, Poplar Grove, IL

Local Girl Scouts Open Online Businesses for 2020 Fall Product Program: The girls are kicking off the start of the 2020 Fall Product Program with online sales offering gourmet nuts, candies, and magazines to Girl Scout supporters. The delicious 2020 lineup includes fan favorites like Thin Mint Almonds and introduces new ones like Peanut Butter Trail Mix!

Customers can order items through girls' individual websites. Each customer can order, pay, and receive direct shipments of items with girls receiving full credit for the purchase! Girls are currently offering Fall Products virtually and may choose to sell in-person with parent permission and following all Girl Scout health and safety rules from October 5–24.

Interested customers can ask a Girl Scout about her Fall Product Program website or order card! To be connected to a local Girl Scout's small business, customers can call GSNI's Product Program hotline at 847-214-9295, e-mail orders to cookies4you@girlscoutsni.org, or visit www.girlscoutsni.org/buynutscandymags.

C-SPAN'S 17th Annual Studentcam Video Competition:

Mediacom and C-SPAN announce the start of this year's annual student documentary competition and encourage middle school and high school students to participate in the video documentary competition known

WANTED TO BUY

FREON WANTED: We pay \$\$\$ for cylinders and cans. R12 R500 R11 R113 R114. Convenient. Certified Professionals. Call 312-598-1758 or visit RefrigerantFinders.com

35th ANNUAL NORTHWEST ILLINOIS CLUB CALF SALE

Saturday, October 17th 2020

Stephenson County Fairgrounds, Freeport, IL

7:30 P.M.

Cattle are ready for viewing at 5:30 P.M.

Due to COVID 19 Health Release Forms will need to be filled out before entry to the fairgrounds. Thank you for your understanding!




For More Information Contact:
Cindy Feltmeyer : 815-297-2492
cfeltmeyer@eastland308.com
Alyssa Miller - 815-297-3609 Email: alyssa.miller@ejshs.org
Auctioneer: Jared Ruter (815) 238-7530

ROOM FOR RENT: Belvidere: Nice furnished room w/ fridge, near downtown, bus stop, Aldi, Drug & Dollar Stores. No Sec. Deposit. \$102/wk. or \$430/mo.
Call (815) 544-4466

Boone County License & Title Stickers - Titles - Plates

We Are OPEN

Bring:
Postcard Bill from the Secretary of State
Or
Old Registration Card
Or
Vin# + Plate # + Expiration Date



419 S. State St. Bel
815-544-2075

Get instant cash for your **GOLD**



WE PAY HIGHEST PRICES

Belvidere Collectible Coins

880 Belvidere Rd.
Belvidere, IL
815-547-7111

WE PAY 10%
MORE THAN ANY
OTHER OFFER!

Visit us Online at www.goldsilverjewelrycoin.com



- Digital Color & Black & White
- Multi Functional
- * Copy * Print * Fax * Scan
- * Service • Supplies • Toner

Sharp ~ Canon ~ Toshiba ~
Lexmark ~ HP ~ Xerox ~ Ricoh

Sales
815-608-1173

Service
815-282-4002

Pro Tree Care & Landscaping

Linda Johns owner

Over 30 years of service

• 24 hr emergency service

General and Safety Pruning

Hedge and Shrub trimming • Tree and stump Removal

Spring and Fall cleanup • Firewood pickup and delivery



815-547-3345

jackoftrade81@mchsi.com



as “StudentCam.” Students are asked to create a short video documentary and submit it online between November 1, 2020 and January 20, 2021.

This year, the new topic for 2021 submissions is “Explore the issue you most want the president and new Congress to address in 2021.” Students are asked to analyze the current and/or historical significance of their chosen issue and include differing points of view. Participants present their views by creating a short video documentary, five to six minutes in length. Students can work in teams or individually to create their videos.

Cash prizes of up to \$100,000 in total will be awarded to winning documentaries. Winners will be announced in March 2021 and the top-rated videos will be televised on C-SPAN in April 2021. Complete competition details and entry forms are available on the C-SPAN StudentCam website <http://www.studentcam.org>.

Pritzker Administration Releases Policy Guidelines for Criminal Justice Reform

Includes 7 principles, many taking cues from Illinois Black Caucus

by Raymon Troncoso
Capitol News Illinois | Report For America

Gov. JB Pritzker announced seven “guiding principles” Tuesday to “build a more equitable criminal justice system,” a series of policy recommendations the governor says are priorities for his administration as it works with the General Assembly.

The seven principles build on the justice reform agenda that was laid out by Pritzker and Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton in January as part of the unveiling of the Justice, Equity and Opportunity initiative that operates out of the lieutenant governor’s office.

“As I’ve always said, we cannot truly have justice without equity and opportunity. These principles will guide us on a path of repairing the historic harm caused by our justice system, especially in Black and Brown communities,” Stratton said in a news release. “Comprehensive justice reform will help to reverse the systemic cycles that tear apart families, lay barren communities, lead to overcrowded jails, put strains on criminal justice infrastructure, and burden taxpayers.”

The principles themselves are policy positions that have been championed by the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus, both in years past and as part of the caucus’ legislative agenda for the upcoming veto session. Many of the principles have been the subject of joint senate committee hearings held in the past few months, spurred by the ILBC agenda.

“The governor commends the decades of tireless work by the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus,” according to a Tuesday news release from the Pritzker’s office.

The first principle includes an end to cash bail and limits to pre-trial detention, allowing it only for individuals who are a threat to public safety. The governor calls for cash bail to be replaced by a “risk assessment” system to determine whether

In our 25th year publishing *The Boone County Journal* October 9, 2020 5 a defendant is likely to appear at trial and whether they pose a threat to others if released.

The second principle calls for the reformation of sentencing laws on theft and drug offenses, and taking a public health approach in dealing with issues of mental health and drug addiction – conditions prevalent among segments of the incarcerated population which are currently dealt with primarily by criminal justice institutions.

Third, the governor seeks to reduce the length of time spent by offenders in prison and offer more opportunities for rehabilitation. According to the release, the state would increase access to credit for time-served and time-limited supervised release. Currently, truth in sentencing laws require convicted offenders to serve the vast majority of their sentence regardless of good behavior.

The fourth principle seeks to prioritize rehabilitation over punishment and reduce the risk of recidivism – the process of released individuals committing new crimes and returning to the prison system not long after completing their original sentence – by increasing services for incarcerated individuals to help them secure housing and health care upon release.

The fifth principle calls for an increase in accountability and transparency for police departments. According to the release, the governor advocates for the licensing of police officers, body-camera requirements, state-level processes for investigating police misconduct and making it easier for civilians to report officer misconduct by removing barriers. One such barrier is the signed affidavit requirement, passed in 2004 after lobbying from police unions, which requires all police complaints be accompanied by a sworn affidavit, something police reform advocates say can intimidate people from filing legitimate complaints.

The sixth calls for establishment of statewide standards for use of force by police officers, including a requirement to issue first aid after using force and a prohibition of no-knock search warrants. The governor’s office also calls for mandates that officers must intervene and make a report when excessive force is used by another officer or subject themselves to liability.

The seventh seeks to decrease negative interactions between law enforcement and civilians by decriminalizing minor non-violent offenses and providing more resources to train officers on how to respond to non-violent crimes and protests.

The governor’s office said principles can be achieved through a mix of executive authority and reforms to departments under Pritzker’s control, such as ongoing reforms at the Department of Juvenile Justice, and legislation from the General Assembly. Many of the principles are set to be addressed via legislation by the ILBC during the veto session scheduled for Nov. 17-19 and Dec. 1-3, although criminal justice accounts for just

one pillar of the Black Caucus’s four-pronged agenda to end systemic racism in Illinois.

In Tuesday’s announcement the governor said he is committed to “working with the caucus on the additional pillars of their agenda,” which includes education, economic equity and health care.

“We’re building toward an Illinois that works for everyone – and criminal justice reform is a key element of that holistic approach,” Pritzker said. “As we move forward with the General Assembly to pass comprehensive criminal justice reform, it is my hope that the nation will look to Illinois as a leader in true equity and justice for generations to come.”

IDPH Urges Flu Shots as Covid-19 Continues to Spread

1,617 new cases, 32 additional deaths reported Tuesday

by Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

State officials on Tuesday urged Illinoisans to get their seasonal flu vaccinations as a way to conserve medical resources for COVID-19 patients.

“There is the potential that people could become co-infected with both flu and COVID-19,” Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike said in a statement. “Although a COVID-19 vaccine is still being developed and tested, we do have a vaccine to combat this season’s anticipated flu viruses. I want to challenge everyone to roll their #SleeveUp and show us you that you’ve received your flu shot and are committed to protect those around you.”

Although the seasonal flu is significantly less lethal than COVID-19, many of the initial symptoms of both illnesses are similar – coughs, fevers, chills and shortness of breath.

Increasing the number of people who are vaccinated for the flu, IDPH said, can help reduce the number of flu illnesses, hospitalizations and deaths. That, in turn, would help reduce the burden on the state’s medical system and save medical resources for COVID-19 patients.

That plea came as the number of people hospitalized for COVID-19 in Illinois as of Monday night rose to 1,673, an increase of 42 over the previous day, although that number often fluctuates widely on a daily basis. Of those, 384 patients were in intensive care units, including 159 who were on ventilators.

IDPH also reported Tuesday that 1,617 new cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed over the previous 24 hours out of 49,513 tests performed, making for a single-day positivity rate of 3.3 percent. The seven-day rolling average positivity

Continued on Page 8

FARMLAND AUCTION: 400± ACRES - 4 TRACTS

SAT, NOV 14, 2020 11:00 AM Farm Location: 3900 Howlett Rd, Paw Paw, IL Auction Location: VFW Post #540, 1560 IL-38, Dixon, IL

SEC 36 - WILLOW CREEK TWP - LEE COUNTY, IL

Tract 1: 125± Ac 139.0 PI - Tract 2: 80± Ac 134.8 PI
Tract 3: 95± Ac 133.5 PI - Tract 4: 100± Ac 138.6 PI
Tracts to be offered as “CHOICE” – 392 Total Tillable Acres

Owners: Kathleen Tryner & Elizabeth Mager

Auction conducted by Richard A. Olson & Assoc. Morris, IL - 815-942-4266

RO See website for Flyer, Terms, Maps and more info.

www.richardaolson.com

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY!

Recycle **THIS.**

KEEP MERCURY OUT OF THE ENVIRONMENT BY SAFELY DISPOSING OF YOUR OLD MERCURY THERMOSTAT

TO FIND A RECYCLING LOCATION, VISIT:
thermostat-recycle.org/zipsearch

Thermostat Recycling CORPORATION

ON BEHALF OF THE **U.S. ARMY**
ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL JOINT MANUFACTURING & TECHNICAL CENTER

ONLINE AUCTION OF INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT
Numerous Electric Carts and Trailers, Battery Chargers, Mills, Lathes, Grinders, Forklifts, Drills, Welders, Generators, Pallet Jacks and more.

ALL ITEMS SELL ABSOLUTE, REGARDLESS OF PRICE*

ONSITE INSPECTION: October 27, 2020 10am to 2pm
ONLINE BIDDING: October 19 to October 30, 2020
TERMS: Cashier’s Check or Wire Transfer

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR COMPLETE CATALOG & TERMS OF SALE.
*subject to terms of sale

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT
Rick Levin & Associates, Inc.
312.440.2000 • www.ricklevin.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public test of the automatic tabulating equipment and program to be used at the November General Election will be Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 10:30AM in the Boone County Board Room, 1212 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois. The public, press, candidates and political parties are invited to attend. Masks and social distancing will be required.

Julie A. Stapler,
Boone County Clerk
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Oct 9

Official Notice of Bid

Bids are now being accepted by the Boone County Conservation District for the purchase of native seed. Instructions, specifications, and bid forms may be viewed and obtained at 603 N Appleton Rd., Belvidere IL 61008, Monday-Friday 8:00am-noon and 1pm-4:30pm. Bids will be opened on November 16th at 9am 2020. The BCCD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Published in the *Boone County Journal* on Oct. 9, 2020

Assumed Names

**ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE**

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a upholstery and sewing business in said County and State under the name of MCM Upholstery and Sewing at the following post office address: 407 South State Street, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Marcelo Correa Sanchez, 1005 East 2nd Street, Belvidere, IL 61008; phone #815-519-6962

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 16th of September, A.D. 2020

Julie Stapler, County Clerk
Published in Boone County Journal October 2, 9, 16

**ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE**

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a farm business in said County and State under the name of Tierney Farm at the following post office address: 11532 Rt. 173, Capron, IL 61012 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Daryl E. Tierney, 11532 Rt. 173, Capron, IL 61012; phone #815-529-3939

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 29th of September, A.D. 2020

Julie Stapler, County Clerk
Published in Boone County Journal October 2, 9, 16

**ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION
STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY of BOONE**

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a flower and gift shop business in said County and State under the name of Poplar Grove Floral LLC at the following post office address: 128 Brandywine Drive SE, Poplar Grove, IL 61065 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Sarah Haywood and James Haywood, 128 Brandywine Drive SE, Poplar Grove, IL 61065; phone #847-766-7861

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 29th of September, A.D. 2020

Julie Stapler, County Clerk
Published in Boone County Journal October 2, 9, 16

Covid *Continued page 5*

rate held steady at 3.4 percent. There have now been 305,011 cases of the disease in Illinois since the pandemic began.

On a regional basis, Region 1 in northwest Illinois continued to have the highest positivity rate, at 8.5 percent, as of Oct. 3, the most recent date for which data was available. Public health officials imposed additional mitigation efforts in that region effective Saturday, Oct. 3.

In Region 4, which includes the Metro East area across the border from St. Louis, the positivity rate stood at 6.7 percent on Oct. 3.

Enhanced mitigation measures in those regions will only be lifted when they reach an average positivity rate of 6.5 percent for three consecutive days.

Officials also reported an additional 32 confirmed virus-related deaths on Tuesday, bringing the statewide total to 8,836 since the pandemic first appeared in Illinois. That means about 2.9 percent of those who have tested positive for the virus in Illinois have died, although the number of cases is likely understated as many can have the virus but be asymptomatic, meaning they would not get tested.

According to estimates from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the death rate from seasonal flu during the 2017-2018 flu season was less than 0.2 percent.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has already killed more than 200,000 Americans, the deadliest flu year since 2010, which occurred in 2017-18, claimed 61,000 lives, according to preliminary estimates from the CDC.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

AARP, Senior Groups Stump for Graduated Tax, Address Retirement Income Claims

Opposition group led by Illinois Chamber announces new alliances

by Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

A group of retirees organized through the senior advocacy group AARP held a virtual news conference Wednesday to express support for a graduated tax constitutional amendment and opposition to a tax on retirement income – two things that they note are mutually exclusive.

Many of the speakers, which included a former state director of the Department on Aging, took direct aim at recent claims by opponents of the tax amendment. Illinois is one of 12 states that do not tax retirement income. Of those 12, nine do not levy income taxes at all.

“The fair tax amendment would also protect our retirement income,” Chicagoan Carmen Betances, a member of the Jane Addams Seniors in Action, said at the news conference. “Illinois is one of the few states that does not tax retirement income. The fair tax will not change that. In order to protect retirement income in Illinois, we need more revenue to keep us afloat.”

The “fair tax” is a name proponents, including Gov. JB Pritzker, have given to the graduated tax constitutional amendment proposal. That measure, which will appear on the Nov. 3 ballot, would amend the state’s constitution to remove the requirement that any income tax be levied at a flat rate equally across all levels of income. If approved by voters, the amendment would allow lawmakers to impose different tax rates on varying levels of income.

Should the amendment pass, a rate structure that has already been approved by lawmakers would take effect in January. It would scrap the current 4.95 percent flat tax, creating six tax brackets for varying levels of income ranging from 4.75 percent under \$10,000 to 7.99 percent above \$750,000 for single filers.

Those earning more than \$250,000 annually would see rates increased under the structure, while those earning less than that amount would pay slightly less or the same under the new tax system compared to the current flat tax structure.

In estimates released prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Pritzker’s office said it expects the approved graduated tax rate structure to bring in about \$3.4 billion in state revenue once it is in place for a full fiscal year.

Speakers at the news conference Wednesday said state government has ongoing budget deficits in the billions of dollars, especially as revenues plummet amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and the graduated tax rates approved by lawmakers are one way to raise revenues without taxing middle income earners or retirement incomes.

Pritzker has estimated the budget shortfall for the current fiscal year at \$6.2 billion dollars. Without the graduated tax, which would only be in effect for half of the fiscal year, the shortfall could reach \$7.4 billion, he said in April.

“If Illinois doesn’t find a way to fix this budget crisis with steps in the right direction, such as passing the graduated income tax, that’s when state lawmakers may be forced to consider adding a retirement income tax or more drastic spending cuts,” Charles Johnson, AARP Illinois volunteer and former Director of the Illinois Department on Aging, said at the news conference.

Opponents of the amendment have seized on a June comment by Treasurer Michael Frerichs, a Democrat, who said at a local chamber of commerce event, “One thing a progressive tax would do is make clear you can have graduated rates when you are taxing retirement income... And, I think that’s something that’s worth discussion.”

Frerichs called a news conference this week

to address the statement, but abruptly canceled it, instead issuing a release saying he is against taxing retirement income.

While opponents have argued that allowing different tax rates on different levels of income would open the door for a future tax on high-dollar amount retirement incomes, the actual wording of the amendment does not create a retirement tax and does not make it any easier for the state to levy one.

Pritzker said in a separate news conference Wednesday he was opposed to taxing retirement income.

“I want to preserve the ban on retirement taxes, and I stand with all democrats opposed to raising retirement taxes,” he said. “But the people who are opposed to the fair tax want to put the burden on people who can’t afford it. I want to put the burden on the people who can most afford it. And that’s our millionaires and billionaires in Illinois.”

Opponents, however, have argued that even the \$3.4 billion from the graduated tax would not fill the state’s budget holes, meaning further increases would be needed in the future and rates could be adjusted. Opponents argue more structural spending and pension reforms are needed before taxpayers are tapped for more revenue.

The amendment does not change the simple majority vote threshold needed from lawmakers to raise taxes in Illinois, but opponents argue by allowing lawmakers to set tax rates for smaller sectors of the population at any one time, it makes it a politically easier move for future General Assemblies.

On Sept. 24, Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton said lawmakers “will be forced to consider raising income taxes on all Illinois residents by at least 20 percent, regardless of their level of income” if the graduated income tax fails. That would push the current tax rate to about 6 percent.

The Illinois Republican party quickly issued a statement following those remarks, calling them a “scare tactic” that will not sway Illinois voters.

A coalition led by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, the Illinois Farm Bureau and National Federation of Independent Business has been growing in opposition to the amendment since the beginning of the year, and on Wednesday they announced 40 new members opposing the tax, including 27 local chambers of commerce.

The approved rates also raise the corporate tax rate from 7 to 7.99 percent, and the Vote No on the Progressive Tax Constitutional Amendment coalition argues that, amid the COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic restrictions, now is not the time to raise corporate taxes.

“Like the rest of small businesses, our auto dealers are struggling to recover from major losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic,” Illinois Automobile Dealers Association Director of Government Affairs Joe McMahon said in a news release. “Now is the worst possible time to increase taxes on our businesses that are fighting to keep their doors open and their teams employed.”

Proponents, however, point out that small businesses earning less than \$250,000 per year will see taxes lowered if they are pass-through entities such as S-corporations or sole proprietorships.

The graduated income tax will need support from 60 percent of those voting on the ballot question or a majority vote of the total votes casts in the election in order to pass.

