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Belvidere's Norman Rockwell America

By David Larson

No stop light
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All reflective of mid-20th Century American life in Belvidere. Most of that is gone. It was not a foreign invader, the communists, or emigrants taking over America that caused the change. We will not mention the unmentionable because that would be too disturbing, but instead, let's reminisce about the past. It was organic and not corporate. Today this loss of identity is being restored by the efforts of a few who often fight against the wind and are forced to share the credit with mostly undeserving gatekeepers in order to restore the original buildings in Downtown Belvidere.

Dr. Stanley Smith, whose office windows we see above Hodel's pharmacy, was one of the last of the old country doctors in Belvidere. He was a white-haired gentleman who looked as if he could as easily been a conductor of an orchestra rather than a medical doctor. To get to his office, one entered the recessed door between the diner and the pharmacy and climbed a stairway to the second floor. All of the second floors in the downtown had a business of one sort or another accessible by this same kind of stairway. Not at all like today's elevator equipped multi-million-dollar buildings, where perfectly designed, hospital affiliated, practices are conducted. A visit to his office began with a rarefied moment of waiting for the doctor to enter the examination room. Today, an arsenal of tests and medications aid in the practice of medicine, that did not exist 80 years ago.

Dr. Smith was not a quack. Belvidere's early years had its share of itinerant doctors using electric shocks and tonics to bilk people in need of medical treatment out of their money. The so-called doctors would advertise their presence in a local hotel and take patients until the fleecing was finished and then move to the next town. Today things are different. Then, Dr. Smith was a part of the Belvidere community and lived a few short blocks from his office on Garfield Avenue. He was approachable and often attended community



social events like the Community Concert series, which brought string quartets, progressive jazz quartets, choral groups and other finer culture artists for performances in the Community Building on First Street in Belvidere.

George's Bakery, on the far right, was one of many special places in Belvidere. Pastries and general baked goods were fresh and sold out daily. Other locally owned enterprises did as well, like Kopp's, Jacks, Krubner's, and other bakeries. In a 1948 newspaper ad, George's Bakery pitched large cream pies 49 cents, birthday cakes one dollar, sweet rolls 49 cents a dozen, and coffee cake for 39 cents.

Hodel's pharmacy began in January of 1947, when Oscar Hodel purchased the pharmacy from J. Donald Lundin, who changed his plans and opened a pharmacy at the Canfield Clinic in the Empire Building in Rockford. Lundin owned the 601 South State Street location for fewer than 4 months, having purchased it from Otto Lise before he sold it to Hodel.

Oscar Hodel was a Rockford native who had been working as a registered pharmacist in his uncle's pharmacy in Rockford before going into business for himself. The uncle had been

running his pharmacy in Rockford since 1926. Hodel had educated himself in pharmacy at the knee of his uncle which is how he earned his license as a registered pharmacist. Hodel opened the pharmacy and moved to Belvidere with his two sons. Oscar's sons, Merwin and Ronald, were brought up in the pharmacy and attended the University of Colorado to become, college educated, registered pharmacists like their father and great uncle had through apprenticeships. By 1955, the brothers decided to open their own pharmacy in Denver in the new Bel-Caro shopping center. Merwin was an exceptional football player and played professionally for a time in addition to building a business with his brother.

As we enter the mid-21st Century, nearly 100 years after this photograph was taken, in the 1940's, it strikes us that Belvidere has changed, and in many ways for the worse. But like those who built the city in the first 100 years, before this picture was taken, we hope the next 100 years will become the product of what we want the city to become rather than what someone else wants from us as we look back on so many of these home-grown businesses and buildings.

Opposing Groups Ready for Battle Over Tax Amendment

Pritzker funnels \$50 million to pro-graduated tax group; opposition launches coalition and vows 'there will be resources'

by Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

Days after the governor donated \$51.5 million of his personal fortune to a committee supporting a graduated income tax constitutional amendment, a new coalition has begun an effort to defeat the measure.

At stake is Gov. JB Pritzker's signature policy proposal – a constitutional amendment scrapping the state's protection of a flat-rate income tax for a new structure allowing lawmakers to tax different levels of income at fluctuating tax rates. A rate structure that would take effect if the amendment passes is expected to bring in more than \$1 billion in additional state revenue this fiscal year and more than \$3 billion annually when it is implemented for a full fiscal year.

Pritzker's whopping check, reported over the July 4 holiday weekend, went to the Vote Yes for Fairness ballot initiative committee, to which he had already donated \$5 million. The only other donation to the committee was for \$250, so the governor is basically self-funding the

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 Knott-Simon, "Sherry", 73, Belvidere, June 20
 Mustafa, Janice, bke, 63, poplar Grove, July 2
 Schwebke, Margaret, 95, Belvidere, July 1
 Voss, Gary, 62, Belvidere, July 3

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Tax *Continued page 1*

committee's push for the constitutional change from his estimated \$3.4 billion fortune.

On Tuesday, in four cities, a group of business-tied organizations—including the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, Illinois Farm Bureau, National Federation of Independent Business-Illinois and the Technology and Manufacturing Association—called concurrent news conferences in four cities to make their case against the proposal.

Todd Maisch, president of the Illinois Chamber, said at the news conference the coalition—which he is hopeful will grow to include several more business groups—was "not prepared" to address how much it was willing to spend on the fight.

"However, there will be resources," he said. "But again, the important thing is we don't need to match the proponent spending. We only have to go ahead and be competitive. We don't need to spend dollar for dollar because this is, frankly, an unpopular idea once voters figure out what's really going on. ... If the proponents were certain that they had this in the bag, would they have written a \$51 million check? I don't think so."

The news conference prompted a swift pushback from pro-amendment groups, including from Vote Yes for Fair Tax, another committee backed by community and advocacy groups, labor organizations and faith groups.

"Working people overwhelmingly support the fair tax amendment because everyone who makes under \$250,000 will get a tax cut or pay no more," John Bouman, the group's chairman, said in a news release.

The Rate Structure

Ultimately, it will be up to the voters whether the flat tax—which currently taxes all income at a flat rate of 4.95 percent—will remain enshrined in the state's governing document as it has been since the 1970 constitutional convention. If more than half of those voting in the November election or three-fifths of those voting on the ballot question approve the measure, the way will be paved for a graduated rate structure to take effect.

Lawmakers have already approved the rates that will become law on Jan. 1 should voters approve the constitutional change. Rates would remain flat or decrease for those making \$250,000

or less, while they would increase for those making above that amount.

Per the rate structure, single filers would pay the maximum rate of 7.99 percent on all income once their taxable income tops \$750,000. For joint filers, that rate takes effect on all income when it

exceeds \$1 million.

For the rest of the brackets, each varying tax rate would apply to only one specific margin of income.

The rates for all filers are 4.75 percent on taxable income from \$0 to \$10,000; 4.9 percent from \$10,001 to \$100,000; 4.95 percent from \$100,001 to \$250,000.

For joint filers, a 7.75 percent rate would kick in on margins from \$250,001 to \$500,000; and 7.85 percent from \$500,001 to \$1 million. For single filers, the 7.75 percent rate applies from \$250,001 to \$350,000, while the 7.85 percent rate applies from \$350,001 to \$750,000.

The bill also includes an increase in the property tax credit from 5 percent to 6 percent, and up to a \$100 per-child tax credit for couples earning less than \$100,000 and single persons earning less than \$80,000.

The corporate tax rate would go from 7 to 7.99 percent, not including an existing corporate property replacement tax of 1.5 to 2.5 percent that is not changed by the bill.

The Arguments

The main argument for the opposition is not about what the rate structure will do upon the amendment's passage, but rather focuses on whether Illinois politicians can be trusted with the power to set varying tax rates on differing levels of income.

For proponents, including Pritzker, passage of the measure is about raising revenue from the state's highest earners without having to rely on middle class Illinoisans to balance state books. Financial strains from the COVID-19 pandemic make it even more necessary, he has said.

Illinois Farm Bureau President Richard Guebert, however, said the revenue projected to come from the graduated tax will not balance the state's books, considering the pandemic's effects and rising pension and debt obligations. That means, he argued at the news conference, that adjustment to the already-passed rate structure

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would be imminent.

Unspecified spending cuts and reforms to the state's pension payment plan should take precedence over attempts to raise more tax revenue, the opponents argued.

"Illinoisans are rightfully concerned that the progressive tax will lead to future tax increases," Guebert said. "If enacted, this proposed tax increase will not meet the projected deficits and debt obligations that are coming in the next few years. ... It's a farce to believe that we can just tax the top 3 percent of income earners over and over again."

The graduated tax structure would not change the number of votes in the General Assembly needed to raise taxes – the necessary threshold would remain a simple majority. Opponents, however, argue that it's politically easier for elected officials to vote for a tax hike when it applies to only some of the state's residents, not all of them.

Another opponent, Cindy Neal of NFIB Illinois, said property tax relief should be a greater focus than revenue hikes.

While opponents argue that the increased corporate rate would hurt job creators and small businesses, proponents have argued the vast majority of small business owners will see a tax reduction under the plan if they are pass-through entities such as S-corps or sole proprietors.

Among those proponents is Quentin Fulks, a former Pritzker top campaign staffer who heads the Vote Yes for Fairness committee to which the governor has funneled his millions.

"Since the truth isn't on their side, this press conference was filled with lies from start to finish," he said in a statement immediately following the opposition news conference. "Contrary to what they say, the fair tax will only affect small businesses that make more than \$250,000 a year in profit, while at least 97 percent of Illinoisans will see no income tax increase or a tax cut."

Similar arguments will be sent to every household in the state in the form of a pamphlet explaining the amendment later this year. A secretary of state spokesman said the pamphlet, which the state is required by law to send, will be mailed starting Sept. 21. The arguments for the change were written by Democrats, while Republicans wrote the arguments against.

Downstate Judge Rules Pritzker's Covid-19-Related Orders are Void

Governor's office says Phase 4 of reopening plan remains in effect

by *Rebecca Anzel Capitol News Illinois*

All of Gov. JB Pritzker's executive orders since April 8 pertaining to the novel coronavirus pandemic are void because he exceeded his authority when he used his emergency powers for more than 30 days, a Clay County judge ruled Thursday.

The Illinois Department of Public Health instead has "supreme authority" to close businesses and restrict residents' activities in a public health crisis, Circuit Court Judge Michael McHaney added.

His decision, which he expanded to apply to all Illinoisans, is the latest ruling in Xenia Republican Rep. Darren Bailey's lawsuit. He argued in his April 23 filing that the governor could not issue successive disaster proclamations to manage COVID-19.

The attorney general's office is likely to ask a higher court to reconsider the order. Thomas DeVore, Bailey's attorney, said business occupancy limitations and other restrictions can no longer be enforced.

An official in the governor's office, though, said the judge's ruling is one "contradicted by multiple other" judges. She added "it is not a final judgement and has no injunction." Phase 4 of the reopening plan is in effect, she said.

McHaney did not agree with all of the points Bailey alleged, however. He rejected the argument that COVID-19 did not satisfy the definition of a "disaster," as outlined in the law Pritzker cited in his executive orders.

"One problem with the governor's approach was that he acted as though he knew better how people should behave," Bailey said in a statement. "Instead of presenting facts and calling on people to respond in a collaborative way, hard and fast rules were imposed."

Bailey entered the court Thursday afternoon and walked out to applause from a group of supporters who, the representative said, came from across Illinois. Several were wearing grey shirts that said, "My governor is an idiot."

The ruling in his lawsuit, he told reporters after the hearing, is beneficial for all Americans — governors' COVID-19 responses should not be unilateral. Instead, he suggested, local departments of health should make determinations "county by county."

"Every other court — both state and federal — that has considered these exact issues has agreed with the administration that executive orders protecting Illinoisans' health and safety are well within the governor's constitutional authority," a Pritzker spokesperson said in an email. "... While this one county circuit court has gone a different direction from all of the other cases,

the administration will ultimately seek to appeal this ruling, and the governor will continue to urge the people of Illinois to exercise constant vigilance and keep doing what has worked: wash your hands, watch your distance and wear your face covering."

DeVore said the attorney general's office, which represented Pritzker in this case, could have asked the judge to suspend enforcement of his order but did not. Unless a higher court overturns McHaney's order, it will stand, he said.

A spokesperson for Attorney General Kwame Raoul said officials are

"reviewing" McHaney's order and "evaluating our options."

DeVore said the attorney general is "supposed to be representing the people of Illinois," and he is "disappointed" that Raoul has been "fighting 13 million people that he's supposed to have a duty to protect."

Bailey's case was in Clay County court because a federal district court judge returned it there Monday, denying a request for it to be heard in federal court made in late May by the attorney general's office.

Accepting jurisdiction of the lawsuit would amount to "judicial overreach," U.S. Magistrate Judge Gilbert Sison wrote.

He noted in his 16-page ruling he was analyzing only whether Bailey alleged his U.S. constitutional rights were violated and therefore his case could be decided by a federal judge, not whether "the enormity of the issues raised" in the case had merit.

"The stakes are high on both sides of this litigation," the judge wrote. "There is no easy balance between protecting the public from a silent, fast-spreading, novel virus and preventing great social upheaval and the heavy strain of economic and financial uncertainty."

When the attorney general's office moved Bailey's case from Clay County to a federal court, it argued the representative claimed his freedoms of religion, due process, interstate travel and "a Republican form of government" were violated by Pritzker's successive disaster proclamations.

Bailey's attorney responded in a court document that the venue shift was a "delay tactic" that was not supported by the lawsuit's facts.

Sison, in his opinion, wrote that while "at first blush" the representative did not explicitly cite the U.S. Constitution in his case, the state's lawyers could infer that "to a certain degree."

He also admonished Bailey's attorney for writing an ambiguous argument. The representative seems to "acknowledge" Pritzker's actions violated his constitutionally-protected rights, but did not specify whether he

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Lawsuit

Continued from page 3

was referring to the U.S. or Illinois constitutions.

Bailey's "argument that this is a case that clearly raises no federal claims is too confidently stated," the judge wrote.

Ultimately, Sison decided that the "crux" of the representative's lawsuit "clearly...is the scope of the governor's power under the statutory scheme established by the Illinois Legislature."

He also denied Bailey's request that the state pay "reasonable fees and costs" associated with its venue shift.

Reach of Downstate Judge's Thursday Ruling Unclear

Bailey says it applies to all Illinoisans, governor's office disagrees

by *Rebecca Anzel Capitol News Illinois*

An order Thursday by a downstate judge nullifying each of the COVID-19-related executive orders issued by Gov. JB Pritzker the past three months is quickly causing friction between the state and a Republican lawmaker.

Clay County Circuit Court Judge Michael McHaney also expanded his ruling beyond Xenia Republican Rep. Darren Bailey, who filed a lawsuit at the end of April alleging the governor overstepped his authority. That case, as filed, would lift public health-related restrictions for only the representative.

But as they exited the courthouse Thursday, Bailey and his attorney, Thomas DeVore, touted the order as freeing the people of Illinois right before the Independence Day weekend.

"This is a good day for accountability,"

Bailey told reporters.

DeVore said business occupancy limitations, social gathering restrictions and other elements of Pritzker's orders were immediately void.

But the governor's office interpreted the ruling differently — Pritzker's orders are still valid, a spokesperson said in an email, which means provisions in the state's reopening plan are still enforceable.

McHaney's ruling in Bailey's case is only one decision among multiple related lawsuits filed across the state, the spokesperson pointed out. But, DeVore responded, In many of those cases judges in state and federal courts ruled only on the question of whether to temporarily suspend enforcement of restrictions.

The state's two Illinois constitutional law professors told Capitol News Illinois on Friday that both sides are right, and wrong.

"Based on what's been seen," University of Illinois professor Scott Szala said, McHaney's decision Thursday "certainly leaves the law uncertain." As indicated by a statement from Pritzker's administration, the attorney general's office will likely appeal the order on Monday.

The judge wrote he "declares any executive orders in effect after April 8, 2020, relating to COVID-19, and finding their authority under the

emergency powers of ... the (Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act) are void."

But, Ann Lousin, professor at the John Marshall Law School, said McHaney has authority in only his judicial district, not the entire state. At the very least, his ruling applies to residents in Clay County.

This issue of competing court orders in response to lawsuits challenging the legality of Pritzker's response to COVID-19 will need to be addressed by the Illinois Supreme Court, she added.

Szala agreed that the state's highest court "is going to have to sort this out."

On Friday, Pritzker and Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike urged Illinoisans to follow safety guidelines.

"The virus is not taking the holiday weekend off, and neither can we," the governor said in a news release.

According to his office, the Illinois Liquor Control Commission and Illinois Gaming Board alerted local officials and business owners to follow health recommendations. The State Police also has worked with local police departments to outline "fines and suspension or revocation of licenses" if residents or businesses violate regulations, especially in the case of "the small minority of business owners who have chosen to put themselves and others at risk."



State Rep. Darren Bailey, R-Xenia, talks with protestors outside the Bank of Springfield Center after he was removed by a House vote for refusing to wear a face covering during the session going on inside the arena May 20. photo by Neal Earley of Chicago Sun-Times

AG Asks Clay County Judge To Rule On Last Issue in Bailey

Without the ruling, the state cannot appeal McHaney's order

by *Rebecca Anzel Capitol News Illinois*

The Illinois attorney general's office on Tuesday night asked a downstate judge to address the one outstanding issue in Rep. Darren Bailey's lawsuit challenging Gov. JB Pritzker's executive orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Until Clay County Circuit Court Judge Michael McHaney decides whether Pritzker's April 30 emergency declaration correctly defines COVID-19 as a disaster, the state is procedurally barred from asking a higher court to reconsider the Xenia Republican representative's lawsuit.

On July 2, the judge sided with Bailey on two of the four arguments he presented in his case, nullifying all of the governor's executive orders related to the novel coronavirus pandemic since April 8. His ruling also declared that the Illinois Department of Public Health has the "supreme authority" to close businesses and restrict

residents' activities in a public health crisis.

Bailey, Pritzker's office and legal experts disagree on the scope of the order — some assert it applies statewide while others maintain it affects only Clay County.

In a court document filed around 10:30 p.m. Tuesday, the attorney general's office also raised a question about whether McHaney had authority to rule in the case. The federal court that denied the state's request to take over the lawsuit did not formally hand the case back to the Clay County circuit court until July 6, four days after McHaney handed down his order.

The one active issue in Bailey's lawsuit is "moot" and should be dismissed, the attorney general's office argued, because any ruling "would not have any practical effect."

The points raised in the representative's arguments were "incorporated" into the two issues he won, and the judge's order effectively rendered the April 30 disaster proclamation void, the attorney general's office wrote.

McHaney denied Bailey's request to issue a ruling without a trial that COVID-19 did not meet the definition of a disaster, but the judge never formally ruled on that matter. This last issue could result in a full legal proceeding, depending on what the judge decides.

With McHaney having "expressed (his) views on the merits of this case," the attorney general's office wrote, the governor requests a quick ruling so the state has a chance to make a prompt appeal.

A hearing is set for July 17 to address the state's request.

Unemployment Claims Dip Slightly as State Reopens

More than 675K receiving continued unemployment benefits

by *Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois*

The number of Illinois workers receiving state unemployment benefits fell by more than 29,000 during the last week of June as many businesses resumed operations after 14 weeks under a stay-at-home order brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The U.S. Department of Labor said Thursday there were 676,338 people in Illinois receiving continuing unemployment benefits during the week that ended June 27. That was 29,511 fewer than the previous week.

First-time unemployment claims also fell to 45,249, a decrease of 1,027 from the previous week, but still a 463 percent increase over the same week a year ago when only 8,038 initial claims were filed.

In addition to those workers who qualify for traditional unemployment benefits, another 32,587 Illinoisans filed first-time claims for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, more than triple the number from the week before. PUA is a program funded entirely by the federal government under the CARES Act to extend benefits to independent contractors who aren't normally covered under traditional state-funded unemployment.

The Department of Labor also reported figures for the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation program for the week that ended June 13, two weeks earlier than the other unemployment numbers. PEUC is another federally-funded program that extends benefits for up to 13 weeks for people who have exhausted their state-funded benefits. That was down 15 percent from the week before.

First-time PEUC claims during that week in mid-June totaled 32,604, a decrease of 14 percent from the prior week.

On Friday, June 26, Illinois entered Phase 4 of Gov. JB Pritzker's reopening plan. That allowed

many retail establishments to reopen. Bars and restaurants also were allowed to open for indoor dining while schools were allowed to reopen for in-person summer learning programs, all subject to capacity limits and social distancing requirements.

Nationally, just more than 1.4 million Americans filed first-time claims during the final week of June, an 8.2 percent decrease from the week before. The Department of Labor reported a seasonally-adjusted 19.3 million Americans receiving continuing jobless benefits, an increase of 55,000 from the week before, while the national unemployment rate held steady at 13.2 percent.

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.

Pritzker Lays Out Federal COVID-19 Response Wish List

It includes mask mandate, contact tracing, testing support, aid to states

by Jerry Nowicki *Capitol News Illinois*

Testifying before the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security Wednesday, Gov. JB Pritzker said he would like to see a coordinated national COVID-19 containment strategy that requires people to wear masks, and he reiterated the need for a federal financial support package for states.

He was once again critical of the White House's response in the early days of the pandemic's arrival in the U.S., pointing to "broken promises on testing supplies and PPE (personal protective equipment) deliveries."

"We were in a bidding war for life-saving supplies against each other and against our international allies," Pritzker said of the effort to purchase supplies as other states were bidding on the same stock. "We were paying \$5 for masks that should have cost 85 cents... In the midst of a global pandemic states were forced to play some sort of sick 'Hunger Games' game show to save the lives of our people."

When asked about the response later, Pritzker said the president should have used the Defense Production Act earlier in the pandemic to compel U.S. companies to produce PPE and testing supplies.

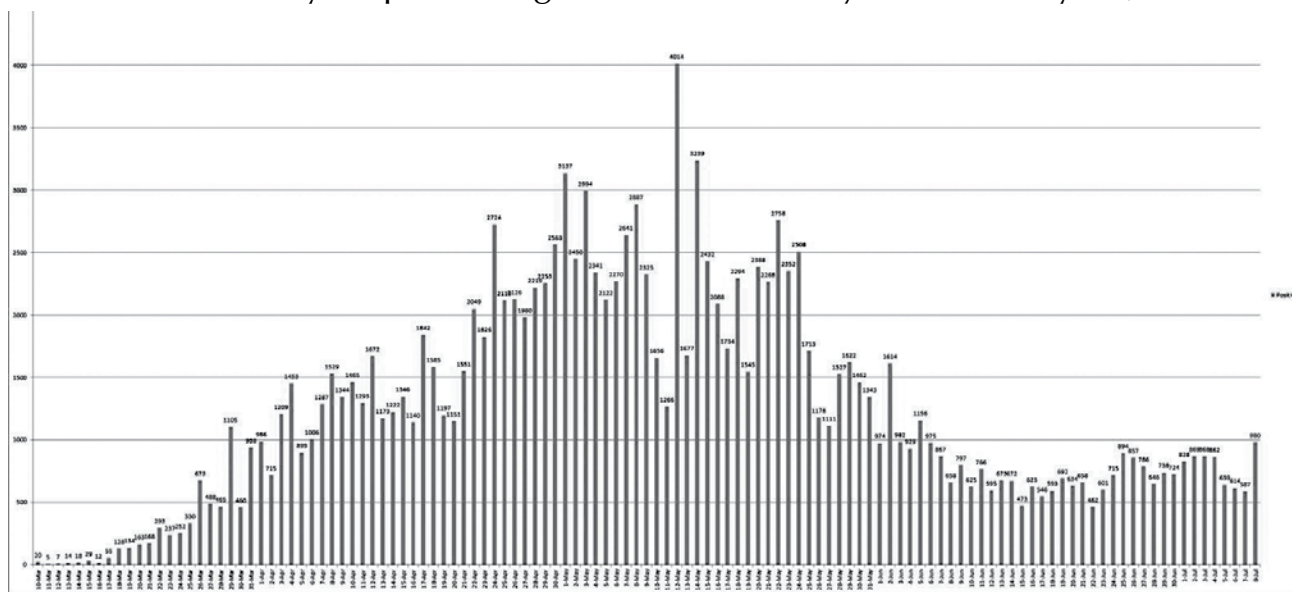
The governor also suggested President Donald Trump has consistently contradicted guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or muzzled public health officials. He also criticized the president's recent call to open schools for the fall term without providing proper guidance.

Pritzker testified with local government and health officials from other states at the virtual hearing, and all of them said masks should be mandatory and a more unified federal response is needed.

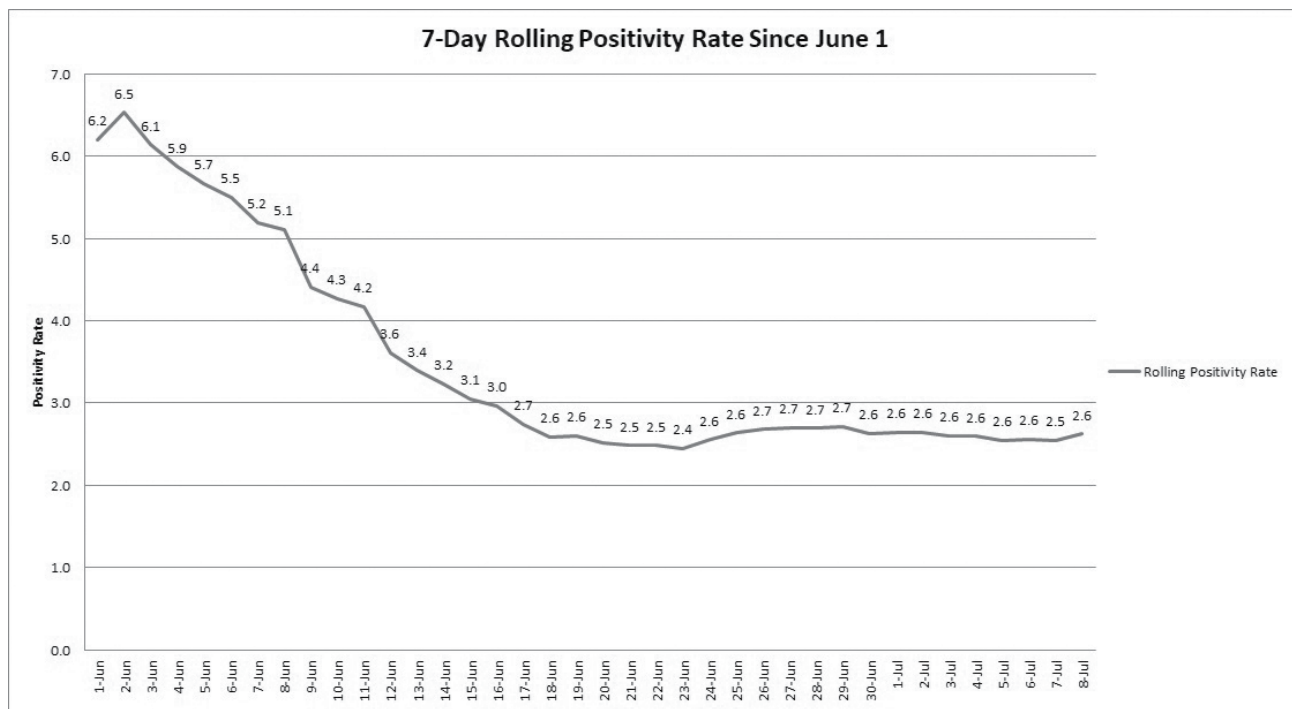
While Democrats on the committee often criticized the White House's virus response, Republicans were more defensive of the president, noting officials at all levels of government — from federal leaders to local ones — are dealing with an unprecedented crisis.

Rep. Dan Crenshaw, a Texas Republican, pointed to "dishonesty" among those testifying without offering any specifics as to who or what claims were purposely untruthful.

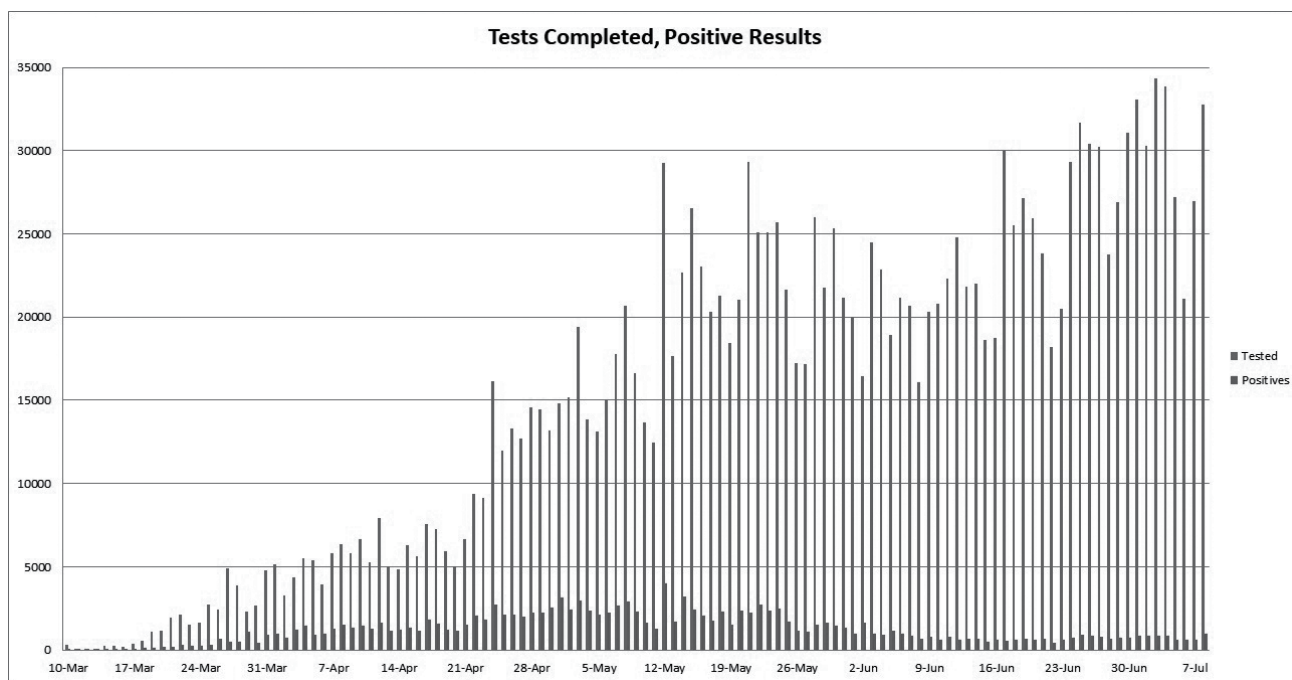
Pritzker's testimony came as Illinois' positivity rate for COVID-19 tests and hospitalizations for the virus remained low Wednesday. He touted the state's effort to decrease cases before outlining a wish list for future federal response measures.



The graph shows the number of new confirmed COVID-19 cases reported each day by the Illinois Department of Public Health.



The graph shows the rolling, 7-day positivity rate for tests completed starting on June 1. Illinois Department of Public Health data was used to calculate the averages.



The graph shows the number of COVID-19 tests completed each day (blue), next to the number of positive cases those tests yield (red), according to the Illinois Department of Public Health.

First is a coordinated federal mitigation effort: "That means more testing and more contact tracing. And it may even mean national restrictions that will be followed in every state," he said.

He also urged federal aid for states, warning of impending "massive layoffs of public servants, teachers and firefighters" across the country if financial help does not materialize. He said "a bipartisan coalition of governors" was thankful to the U.S. House for passing the HEROES (Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions) Act, which awaits action in the U.S. Senate.

The feds also need to provide clarity on insurance coverage for COVID-19 testing, Pritzker said.

"Testing is not a one-off tactic. We need regular testing across our population. And that means people need to know that their insurance

will cover their testing every time," he said.

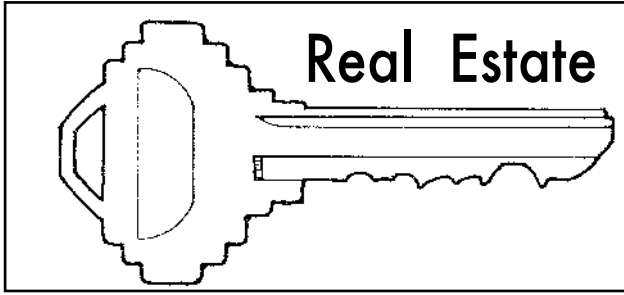
Later in the day, Pritzker announced the state — which was averaging around 30,000 test results reported daily — would increase its mobile testing capacity. He said 12 teams will offer mobile testing in hard-hit communities and visit facilities such as homeless shelters and nursing homes.

Another federal ask was for continued funding of National Guard operations "through next year in the face of a possible, maybe even likely, second wave."

But the number one life-saving measure the federal government can take, Pritzker said, is a national mask mandate.

"We instituted ours in Illinois on May, 1... and it aligns with our most significant downward shifts in our infection rate," he said. "It's not too late for the federal government to make an

Continued on page 7



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
 U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE FOR NRZ INVENTORY TRUST Plaintiff,
 -v- 2018 CH 68
 ANGELA A. TAILLET et al Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE
 PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 11, 2018, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on August 5, 2020, at the NLT Title L.L.C., 530 S. State, Suite 201 (Logan Avenue entrance), Belvidere, IL, 61008, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 130 HEATH CLIFF DRIVE SE, POPLAR GROVE, IL 61065

Property Index No. 03-26-151-016
 The real estate is improved with a residence.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

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

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

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

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
 One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100
 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527
 630-794-5300

E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com
 Attorney File No. 14-18-07717
 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002
 Case Number: 2018 CH 68
 TJSC#: 40-1814

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

13152454
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* July 10, 17, 24, 2020

LEGAL NOTICES Foreclosures

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
 U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE FOR NRZ INVENTORY TRUST Plaintiff,
 -v- 2018 CH 68
 ANGELA A. TAILLET et al Defendant

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LOT THIRTY-FOUR (34) IN CANDLEWICK LAKE UNIT NO. 10 ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NO. 72-3475 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 130 HEATH CLIFF DRIVE SE, POPLAR GROVE, IL 61065

Property Index No. 03-26-151-016
 The real estate is improved with a residence.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse

to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

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

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You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

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

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CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100
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 630-794-5300

E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com
 Attorney File No. 14-18-07717
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NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

13152454
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* July 10, 17, 24, 2020

LEGAL NOTICES Public Notices

To: David Luna Luna, Juan Tapia, Silva Sanchez, Daniel Boisvert, Kenia Sanchez, Juan Luna, Marica Sanchez, Itzel Garcia, Kenya Garcia, Damaris Garcia-Sanchez, Brandon Peterson, Theresa Balk as RA for Candlewick Lake Association, Inc, Julie A. Stapler, County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois, Unknown Occupants of 106 Staffordshire Drive NE, Poplar Grove, IL 61065, Unknown Owners and Parties Interested, Generally of 106 Staffordshire Drive NE, Poplar Grove, IL 61065

TAX DEED NO.: 17TX1 (P5)
 FILED: 6/21/2020

TAKE NOTICE
 County of Boone

Date Premises Sold: 10/26/2017
 Certificate No. 2016-00052

Sold for General Taxes of: 2016
 Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality): N/A And Special Assessment Number: N/A Warrant No. N/A INST. NUMBER: N/A

THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES

Property located at: 106 Staffordshire Drive NE, Poplar Grove, IL 61065

Legal Description or Property Index No.: 03-22-404-031

This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 10/23/2020.

The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming.

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 10/23/2020.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Boone County, 601 N. Main Street, Courtroom 4, Belvidere, Illinois, 61008 at 10:00 A.M. on 11/3/2020.

You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time.

YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY.

Redemption can be made at any time on or before 10/23/2020 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Belvidere, Illinois.

For further information contact the County Clerk.

ADDRESS: 1212 Logan Ave, Suite 101
 Belvidere, IL 61008

TELEPHONE: (815) 544-3103

AUCTION Z-1, INC
 Purchaser or Assignee

Dated: June 18, 2020

Published in *The Boone County Journal* June 26, July 3, 10

To: Unknown Heirs and Devises of Dante Ventura, Unknown Heirs and Devises of Iva V. Ventura, Gina Ventura, Deno Ventura, Cherie Bartelt, Unknown Heirs and Devises of Tina L. Ventura, Theresa Balk as RA for Candlewick Lake Association, Inc, Illinois Corporation Service C as RA for Aqua Illinois, Inc, The Belvidere National Bank & Trust Company, Midland States Bank as Successor in interest to The Belvidere National Bank & Trust Company, Julie A. Stapler, County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois, Unknown Occupants of 626 Candlewick Drive NE, Poplar Grove, IL 61065, Unknown Owners and Parties Interested, Generally of 626 Candlewick Drive NE, Poplar Grove, IL 61065

TAX DEED NO.: 17TX1 (P4)
 FILED: 6/17/2020

TAKE NOTICE
 County of Boone

Date Premises Sold: 10/26/2017
 Certificate No. 2016-00091

Sold for General Taxes of: 2016
 Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality): N/A

And Special Assessment Number:

N/A
 Warrant No. N/A INST. NUMBER: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES
 Property located at: 626 Candlewick Drive NE, Poplar Grove, IL 61065

Legal Description or Property Index No.: 03-27-226-004

This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 10/23/2020.

The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming.

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 10/23/2020.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Boone County, 601 N. Main Street, Courtroom 4, Belvidere, Illinois, 61008 at 10:00 A.M. on 11/3/2020.

You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time.

YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY.

Redemption can be made at any time on or before 10/23/2020 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Belvidere, Illinois.

For further information contact the County Clerk.

ADDRESS: 1212 Logan Ave, Suite 103
 Belvidere, IL 61008

TELEPHONE: (815) 544-3103

AUCTION Z-1, INC
 Purchaser or Assignee

Dated: June 18, 2020

Published in *The Boone County Journal* June 26, July 3, 10

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

DATE: July 10, 2020

PROJECT: Fire Alarm Replacement Project at Belvidere South Middle School and Washington Academy for Belvidere CUSD #100 Belvidere, Illinois

LOCATIONS: Belvidere South Middle School 919 East 6th Street Belvidere, Illinois, 61008 Washington Academy 1031 5th Avenue Belvidere, Illinois, 61008

OWNER: Belvidere Unit School District #100 1201 5th Avenue Belvidere, Illinois 61008

ARCHITECT: Richard L. Johnson Associates, Inc. 4703 Charles Street Rockford, Illinois 61108 Tel: 815/ 398-1231 Fax: 815/ 398-1280

SCOPE: Bids will be received for a single contract for all Fire Alarm Replacement Work.

DATE DUE: Sealed bids will be received until 11:00am on Wednesday, August 5, 2020, at the office of the Business Manager, Belvidere Community Unit School District No. 100, 1201 Fifth Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois, and will be publicly opened and read aloud at that time.

PRE-BID MEETING: All prospective contractors are urged to attend a pre-bid meeting at 3:30pm on Tuesday, July 21, 2020, at the office of the Business Manager, Belvidere Community Unit School District No. 100, 1201 Fifth Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois.

PRE-BID SITE VISIT: Contractors are required to survey the existing conditions prior to bidding.

ACCESS TO BIDDING Bidding Documents are on file for reference at the following

DOCUMENTS: location: Office of the Architect Rockford, Illinois

NIBCA (N. Ill. Bldg. Contractors Assn). Rockford, Illinois Bidding Documents may be secured from the office of the Architect.

Plans and Specifications are available for download at www.rljarch.com under "Contractors".

DEPOSIT REQUIRED: Bidders may secure up to two (2) sets of bidding documents by submitting a non-refundable check for \$50.00 per set, or \$60.00 per set if documents are to be mailed.

BID FORM: Bids shall be submitted in duplicate on forms issued by Architect.

PERFORMANCE BOND: A performance and payment bond for the full amount of the Contract will be required of the successful bidder. All costs associated with the bond shall be included in the bid amount.

BID SECURITY: Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of at least 5% of the total amount of the base bid and all additive alternate bids. This may be in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or bid bond, payable to the Owner as a guarantee that should the bidder be awarded the Work, the bidder will enter into a contract with the Owner and will furnish the proper performance and payment bond within the time limit set by the Owner. Bid securities will be returned to all other bidders when the successful bidder files a proper performance and payment bond and the contract is executed by the Owner. If the successful bidder fails to file such contract and performance and payment bond, the amount of his bid security shall be forfeited to the Owner as liquidated damages.

WAGE RULES: Each craft, type of worker and mechanic needed to execute the Contract shall be paid the prevailing wage rate for the locality in which the work is performed, in accordance with all federal laws and laws of the State as well as local ordinances and regulations applicable to the work hereunder and having force of law.

RIGHTS RESERVED The Owner reserves the right to waive any irregularities

BY OWNER: and/or reject any or all bids when, in the opinion of the Owner, such action will serve the best interests of the Owner.

WITHDRAWAL OF BIDS: No bid may be withdrawn for a period of 60 days after the opening of bids without written consent of the Owner. By order of the Board of Education for Belvidere CUSD #100

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF BOONE
LAUREN A. ENGLE, a/k/a LAUREN A. PULLAN, a/k/a DAWN PULLAN, Plaintiff,
vs. Case No. 2009-D-170
STEVEN ENGLE, Defendant.
NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
Notice is given you, LAUREN A. ENGLE, a/k/a LAUREN A. PULLAN, a/k/a DAWN PULLAN, that this cause has been commenced against you in this Court asking for Revival of 3 Judgments and other relief.
Unless you file your response or otherwise file your appearance in this case with the Circuit Clerk of Boone County, Belvidere, IL 61008 on or before the 29th day of July, 2020, at 9:00 A.M., a Revival of 3 Judgments may be granted as prayed for by the Guardian ad Litem.
Circuit Clerk of Boone County, Ray Mitchell
DEBORAH S. LOOS, P.C.
Attorney at Law
130 South State Street, Suite 210
Belvidere, IL 61008
Phone: (815) 544-5418
Published in *The Boone County Journal* June 26, July 3, 10

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF BOONE - IN PROBATE
In the Matter of the Estate of MIKEL J. OTXOA, SR., Deceased.
No. 2020-P- 42
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION-WILL AND CLAIMS
NOTICE is given of the death of Mikel J. Otxoa, Sr, who died November 14, 2011. Letters of Office were issued on June 3, 2020, to Mikel J. Otxoa, Jr. and Maurice Z. Otxoa, who are the legal representatives of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Attorney Charles G. Popp, P.C., 215 South State Street, Belvidere, Illinois.
Claims against the estate may be filed on or before December 31, 2020, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by 755 ILCS 5/18-3, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk--Probate Division at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, or with the estate legal representative, or both.
Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office--Probate Division, must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to his/her attorney within ten days after it has been filed.
Published in *The Boone County Journal* July 3, 10, 17

PUBLIC NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that at 6:00 P.M. July 27th 2020, 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* 7-3, 10, 17, 24

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
In the Matter of the Estate of JON J. KEISTER, Deceased.
2020-P-44
PUBLICATION NOTICE
TO CREDITORS and CLAIMANTS
Notice is given of the death of JON J. KEISTER, who died on February 24, 2020, a resident of Belvidere, Boone County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on June 24, 2020, and the Representative for the estate is AMANDA K. LOVELL, 3234 Grand Cape Court, Rockford, IL 61109. The attorney for the estate is Amanda J. Martinez, 5732 E. Riverside Blvd., #201, Loves Park, IL 61111.
Claims against the estate may be filed on or before December 4, 2020, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of the first publication. Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court, 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, IL 61008, or with the Representative, or both. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
The estate will be administered without Court supervision unless an interested party terminates independent supervision administration by filing a petition to terminate under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4).
Attorney Amanda J. Martinez ARDC#: 6287970
The Law Office of Amanda Adams Martinez LLC
5732 E. Riverside Blvd., #201, Loves Park, IL 61111
815-491-8065
amartinez@adamsmartinezlaw.com
Published in *The Boone County Journal* 7-3, 10, 17, 24

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BOONE COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
Notice is hereby given that the Boone County Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Board Room, 1212 Logan Ave, Belvidere, IL 61008 upon the following petitions:
The applicant, Roger Freeman, 3515 Cleveland Ave. Brookfield, IL 60513, is requesting a variance pursuant to Section 3.5.4 (Lot Development Standards) of Section 3.2 (Agricultural Preservation District) of the Boone County Zoning Ordinance to allow a decrease in rear setbacks for an existing accessory structures of approximately 20 feet, a 20 foot reduction and a decrease in rear setback for an existing accessory structure to approximately 11 feet, a 29 foot reduction at 905 Irene Road Cherry Valley, IL 61016, unincorporated Flora Township, Boone County, IL on a future created lot of approximate 5.11 acres. 905 Irene Road Cherry Valley, IL 61016. PIN: 07-33-100-013. Legally described:
NW (EX SE NW & EX BEG 157.76' S NW COR S 380.44' W 262' TO POB & BEG 818' S NW COR S 409' E 639' N 409' W 639' TO POB)
The applicant, Eric Gronwick (GRNE Solar) on behalf of The DeLong Company, 5230 N Hicks Pl, Palatine, IL 60067, is requesting a variance pursuant to Section 3.2.4 (Lot Development Standards) of Section 3.11(Light Industrial District) of the Boone County Zoning Ordinance to allow a reduction in the required side setback from 40 feet to approximately 10 feet, a reduction of 30 feet, and a reduction in the front setback from the required 75 feet to approximately 60 feet to install solar panels at 6182 Garden Prairie Rd. Garden Prairie, IL 61038 in unincorporated Bonus Township, Boone County, IL. 6182 Garden Prairie Garden Prairie, IL 61038 PIN: 06-35-400-018 Legally Described as: PT E1/2 SE - BEG 1188.51' S NE COR, W 306', NW 147.18', W 269.5, 709.5', E 700', N 631' TO POB
All persons interested may appear at the hearing and be heard at the stated time.
Tony Savino, Chair, Boone County Zoning Board of Appeals
Published in *The Boone County Journal* on July 10, 2020

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL COURT BOONE COUNTY
ROBIN HIGGS, Plaintiff -VS- SHAMEKIN HIGGS, Defendant
NOTICE OF PUBLICATION 2020-D-42
Notice is given to you, SHAMEKIN HIGGS, Defendant that this cause has been commenced against you in this Court asking for DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE and other relief.
Unless you file your response or otherwise file your appearance in this cause in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Boone County, Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main St., Belvidere Illinois, 61008 on or before the 12th day of August , 2020 at 3:00p.m., a Judgment or other relief as prayed for by the Plaintiff may be granted.
Dated: 7/2/2020
Linda J. Anderson, Clerk of the Circuit Court
17th Judicial Circuit Boone County, Illinois
Published in *The Boone County Journal* July 10, 17, 24

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 residential/commercial building maintenance & inspection business in said County and State under the name of Fair Trades Home Maintenance & Inspection PLLC 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: Virginia L Chorney, Brad A. Chorney 316 White Oak Dr. Poplar Grove, IL 61065 Signed: Virginia L Chorney, Brad A. Chorney 7/1/2020 Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 1st day of July 2020.
Julie A. Stapler, County Clerk,
By Giselle R Lenover, Deputy
Published in the Boone County Journal July 3, 10, 17

Pritzker *Continued from page 5*

impact. In fact, it's more important than ever." While the state reported 980 new cases of COVID-19 Wednesday, the seven-day rolling positivity rate ticked back to 2.6 percent from 2.5 percent. It has remained below 3 percent since June 17.

The one-day positivity rate for Wednesday was 3 percent, as there were 32,742 test results reported in the previous 24 hours.

The 36 additional deaths reported Wednesday brought the number of fatalities related to the virus in Illinois to 7,099 among 149,432 confirmed cases. There have been 1.84 million tests completed in the state.

Hospitalization metrics also increased by the end of Tuesday, according to Illinois Department of Public Health data. As of 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, there were 1,518 hospital beds in use by COVID-19 patients, an increase of more than 130 from the day prior.

Intensive care unit beds being used by COVID-19 patients increased to 331 from 320, while ventilator use remained steady at 151.

Illinois, Regional Economies Shrink in First Quarter

Economic slowdown might have begun before pandemic

by Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

The Illinois economy shrank at an annual rate of 5.4 percent during the first quarter of 2020 compared to the previous quarter, according to federal data released Tuesday, an indicator of just how severely the COVID-19 pandemic affected commercial activity.

The gross domestic product figures for the January-through-March period represent the total value of goods produced and services provided during the quarter.

University of Illinois economist Fred Giertz said in an interview that virtually all of the decline occurred in the final weeks of March, after Gov. JB Pritzker issued a statewide stay-at-home order that forced many businesses, schools and other employers to shut down or scale back operations.

"All the evidence suggests that the first two months of January-February were not impacted very much by the virus issue, but then they have a huge impact and in March even though the formal shutdown didn't begin until the last week or so of March," he said.

Nearly all sectors of the economy took significant hits during the quarter led by arts, entertainment and recreation, which took the biggest hit with a 36 percent rate of decline. Accommodations and food service fell at a rate of more than 27 percent.

Other sectors taking big hits included finance and insurance, down 10.6 percent, and transportation and warehousing, which includes airline and rail transportation, which fell at a 9.8 percent rate.

The only bright spot in the report was the agricultural sector – one area of the economy that was not affected by the stay-at-home order – which grew quarter-to-quarter at a rate of 183 percent.

The overall decline in Illinois was greater than the national average of 5 percent but smaller than the average for the Great Lakes region, which was 5.7 percent.

Neighboring states Iowa, Missouri and Wisconsin all fared better than Illinois, while Indiana and Kentucky fared slightly worse.

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, which produces the GDP numbers, is scheduled to issue its first estimate of second-quarter activity – April through June – later this month, but state-level GDP figures won't be available until October.

However, some early indicators of what's likely to be in the second-quarter report came out recently from the Commission on Government Reform and Accountability, or CoGFA, the Illinois General Assembly's fiscal monitoring arm.

That agency reported this week that during the fiscal year that ended June 30, general fund revenues received by the state were \$1.1 billion below last year's revenues, and that virtually all of the dropoff occurred during the April-through-June quarter.

Much of that was due to declines in personal income tax collections, which were down by a net \$765 million due to a combination of mass layoffs and delaying the tax filing deadline to July 15. Corporate income taxes and sales taxes were also below last year's levels.

There were also big declines in revenue from riverboat casinos and the state lottery, although there was nearly a 3 percent increase in liquor taxes.

The report also said June showed signs of improvement as the state gradually began to reopen its economy.

Personal income tax collections during the month were up \$173 million, or 9.4 percent, as many people returned to work and began filing their 2019 tax returns. Corporate income and sales taxes remained below June 2019 levels but overall state tax collections were off by only 0.1 percent.

Giertz said he sees similar trends in his monthly Flash Index, a general measure of economic activity that shows whether the state's economy is growing or contracting, and by how much.

A Flash Index value greater than 100 indicates a growing economy while a value less than 100 reflects economic contraction.

That index had been over 100 for 96 consecutive months, dating back to March 2012 when Illinois began pulling out of the Great Recession. It fell to 99.8 in March, 94.2 in April and 92.8 in May as effects of the economic lockdown began to be felt. But it ticked up slightly in June to 93.1, indicating the economy was still weak, but improved from May.

"Things are clearly turning around now but that turnaround could be halted almost any time we had another kind of outbreak," he said. "I suspect, though, that even if we do have a resurgence of the virus, ... we're going to be more open about that and not have a complete shutdown the way we did back in March."

Community News

Alcoholics Anonymous 12-step groups have moved their meetings to Zoom - Although there are in-person meetings that continue in the area and they are following the guidelines provided by the Winnebago County Department of Public Health, many of the members of A.A. are choosing to practice safe social distancing by attending meetings online.

A list of Zoom meetings can be found on our websites and members of the community who are struggling with a substance abuse or drinking problem can find help 24/7 by visiting: www.rockfordaa.org and www.district70aa.org or by calling 815-968-0333. Sober members of AA are available to take calls and provide guidance around the clock.

Burpee Museum offers FREE Virtual Reality Field Trips - Thanks to generous community support and donations from foundations and individuals, we are pleased to offer a limited number of virtual field trips at NO COST to school groups this spring! Using the teacher's choice of a simple web browser, students will enter the "museum" through their home devices. Clicking on the floor, students can "walk" the 360-degree virtual reality environment and click on "hot spots" for additional activities, videos, and more. Burpee will have a live stream with the class to complete a 30-45-minute field trip. Please contact nicole.hayes@burpee.org for more to reserve your spot while supplies last. For more information see Burpee.org or email Burpee@burpee.org

State's Blood Supply "Critically Low"; Blood Centers In Dire Need For Organizations To Host Blood Drives- Officials from the Illinois Coalition of Community Blood Centers (ICCBC) gathered today to make the public aware of Illinois' dwindling blood supply and the dire need for organizations to step up and continue to host blood drives in their communities, especially as Illinois advances to Phase 4 of Restore Illinois. Following the national trend, Illinois Blood Centers are currently running on 2 day or less supply of blood, putting them at a "critically low" level. To donate blood, please go to www.americasblood.org to find a donor center near you to schedule a donation time. Donor requirements include being at least 17 years old (16 with parental permission), in good health and weigh at least 110 lbs. The donation process takes about an hour, consisting of a health screening, donating time and snack. Individuals can donate whole blood once every 56 days.

Curbside Grilled Pork Chop Dinner Fundraiser:-Flora Grange's Curbside Pickup Grilled Pork Chop Dinner is Sunday, July 19th, 11:30am to 1:00pm at Flora Grange Hall, 2105 Stone Quarry Rd, 3 miles south of Chrysler (Appleton Rd). Two pork chops for \$12. One chop for \$10. Ages 8 and under \$6. Dinners include your choice between two types of potato and vegetable along with applesauce and a dinner roll. Must preorder by 5:00pm, Friday, July 17th. To order call 815-543-2721 or go to our Facebook Page 'Flora Grange #1762'. Click on the easy to use link there to place your order online. Cash or check only when you pick up. The dinners will be brought to you in your car. Enjoy a taste of the Boone County Fair and help Flora Grange fund their various community service projects.

Zoom Programs to Enhance Health:-Womanspace will be hosting two programs on Zoom in July facilitated by Dr. Elisha Robinson that will help people to improve their health and well-being. Many are struggling with the "quarantine 15" and looking to bounce back and get in better shape. Both programs offer some practical solutions.

On Monday, July 20th, from 7:00-8:00

PM, she will lead a program on "The Vegan Ketogenic Diet". This diet can help those suffering from a lack of energy, excessive tummy fat, insomnia, high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, fibromyalgia, PCOS, arthritis, fibroids, and weight issues. The keto vegan diet is anti-inflammatory, helps regulate hormones, improves cardiovascular health, promotes insulin sensitivity, and improves central nervous system and brain health. During this session, participants will learn what the keto vegan diet is and how to follow it effectively. Register here: <https://womanspace-rockford.org/event-3878789>

womanspace-rockford.org/event-3878789

On Monday, July 27th, from 7:00 – 8:00 PM, she will lead a program on "The Benefits of Fasting". The program will discuss different types of fasting, from intermittent to prolonged, as well as how to implement fasting and make it work for your life and schedule. Register here: <https://womanspace-rockford.org/event-3876517>

Community Building Complex Committee Regular Board Meeting: Thursday July 16, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Building Board Room.

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

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

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



Tax Returns are due Wednesday.

File and Pay by July 15 to avoid penalties.

Call if you need help filing or other assistance.



CHARLES HERBST, J.D., LL.M.

LAW, PLANNING AND TAX

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