

Friday • March 15, 2019 Vol. 23, Issue 47 • No. 1190



Women and Children Wanted

by David C. Larson

A sale by local musical instrument dealer J.R. Balliet of 12 Belvidere city lots on the corner of Allen Street and Columbia Ave were at a bargain price of one dollar each to the H. W. Gossard Company of Chicago as reported by a legal notice in Belvidere's Republican-Northwestern newspaper, January 1904. Noticing the price of the lots was such a low price, perhaps Balliet, an investor in the National Sewing Machine and local utility companies as well, became a partner in the new business through this transaction. That sale marks the beginning of a chapter in Belvidere business history and world history as well. H. W. Gossard was a Chicago-based importer of expensive French women's corsets. The company began as the exclusive, licensed dealer of the French Countess L'irresistable corsets, which sold for \$25 in Chicago at a time when a high price for a quality foundation was \$5. This was undoubtedly the crème de la crème of women's corsets and the best that Chicago had to offer. It was truly a mark of first class wealth and status if madam was wearing a Countess L'irresisable. The H. W. Gossard Company had a good reputation. It had business connections and had plans for what to do with them. The company also knew quality from its years of experience as a corset broker. The Belvidere factory was a vertical expansion within the Gossard corset business and the firm had plans to push it as far

as possible by supplying an affordable highquality front lacing, French styled corset, with all its virtues. No one else was doing this and Belvidere became the manufacturing center of this revolution in fashion.

Charles A. Stevens & Brothers, a Chicago retail firm, featured the Gossard line under the label Classic Corset. J. D. Marmaduke, the Gossard salesman, traveled the Midwest, marketing the Classic Corset and expanding sales rapidly. By February, an advertisement had appeared in the Belvidere Daily Republican, reading: "Help Wanted, girls 14 to 16 years of age, light work and steady employment. Apply to the H. W. Gossard factory at once." 150 employees were expected to be on staff by the end of 1904. The Belvidere Daily Republican was a newspaper published by Frank T. Moran, of Rockford, who came in 1893 to Belvidere and started Belvidere's first and only daily newspaper. The Belvidere Daily Republican, was published until about 2000. Moran also owned the Republican-Northwestern a semi weekly newspaper. By May 1905, after a shipping strike had left larger orders of corsets bound for Chicago backed up on the shipping dock in Belvidere, H. W. Gossard shipped the largest order ever for this upstart. \$12,000 wholesale in corsets were shipped to Chicago, and demand was increasing month by month.

Public Comment Rules and Procedures

Each regular business meeting of the County Board and its commitiees includes a Public Comment period in which any citizen may make a statement regarding an item on a past, present, or future County Board open-session agenda, or a matter of general policy over which the County Board has jurisdiction. 30 minutes will be set aside for public comment. The following is a set of rules and procedures under consideration by the County Board and will most likely be on the agenda for the March 20th meeting where public comment will be welcomed regarding. • Requests to address the County Board shall be submitted in writing prior to the meeting. Forms shall be made available at each meeting, in the County Administration Office, and on the County's website. A speaker must complete a speaker slip prior to the start of the meeting. • Comments shall be limited to five minutes per person. Total time allotted to public comment shall not exceed 30 minutes without the consent of the County Board Chair. • Comments shall be directed to the County Board and not to individual members • Comments shall be presented in a professional demeanor and not in a threatening, profane, vulgar or abusive manner.

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Gossard Continued from page 1

In July 1905, the company raised an additional \$50,000 in capital stock, of which \$25,000 was sold through the company's local financial agent, Omar H. Wright at the Second National Bank in Belvidere. The total capital stock value of the company had then grown to \$300,000, and was primarily owned by members of the Gossard family and other Chicago investors. The new capital was used to add onto the Columbia Avenue factory in Belvidere. The average dividend was 12% to 15%, and the next goal was to enter the east coast fine corset market.

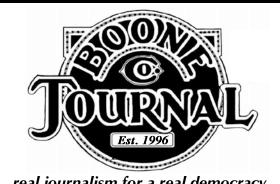
In March of 1907, the Vicksburg Evening Post in Vicksburg, Mississippi carried an advertisement calling for women and girls to come to Belvidere and work for Gossard, where living accommodations with room, board and laundry would be provided, plus a beginning pay rate of \$6 to \$12 per week, based on skills. The company wanted to expand to 250 workers. At the same time Gossard began to look at expanding beyond Belvidere. This was because, in all likelihood, it had exhausted the local labor supply. It put out feelers to many Illinois cities: Freeport, Decatur,

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Sterling and others according to the Freeport Journal-Standard. Most cities declined, because they only wanted new businesses that brought jobs for men, not women, to town.

By 1930, H. W. Gossard had evolved the corset design. After World War I, there was demand for less restrictive corsets. The company removed ridged implants and replaced them with elastic construction to emphasis the female hip line and bosoms. By the 1930s, the company had become international, with 7,000 employees and had built four additional manufacturing plants, two of which were overseas and one in Logansport, Indiana. J. W. Gossard, a member of the family, and company manager was a patrician from Chicago, for whom guiding the poor and downtrodden from their wretched condition became his Christian duty and a reputation he carefully cultivated. Both the Belvidere Daily Republican and the Chicago Tribune wrote stories about his personal philosophy and his method of reforming the downtrodden. It was reported that he often would give away money to someone who was given to drink and make him or her sign a contract to not drink for a year in exchange for a sum of money. Using a contract was in Gossard's wisdom, what made his method successful. The Boone County Journal would like to recognize the Boone County Museum and Newspapers.com for their contributions to this article.



· Comments shall be limited to topics that are relevant to the business matters of the County Board.

• Any materials to be distributed to County Board members shall be submitted to the County Administration Office prior to the meeting (preferably at least 24 hours in advance).

• It shall be the decision of the County Board Chair if it is appropriate to respond to a question and which County Board member will respond. Individuals who engage in repetitive comments/questions will be asked to refrain and/or yield the floor.

• In the interest of allowing all viewpoints to be heard the County Board Chair may ask speakers expressing similar viewpoints to elect one person from the group to speak on their behalf.

• Public comment shall not be allowed on those agenda items coming to the County Board from a public hearing where sworn testimony was taken. Those wishing to comment on these items should attend and speak at the public hearings.

Sworn testimony is regularly seen at Zonning Board of Appeals meetings. That testimony which is a submission of evidence is not limited. Contact county administration for further information.



Pritzker Launches Fair Tax Calculator Showing Relief for 97 Percent of Taxpayers

Chicago—After unveiling his fair tax proposal that gives relief to 97 percent of taxpayers, Gov. Pritzker launched a Fair Tax Calculator today to let Illinoisans see how the fair tax will affect their families.

The Fair Tax Calculator is available at: www.illinois.gov/FairTaxCalculator.

"As I said throughout the campaign, Illinois" flat tax system is regressive and unfair to the middle class and those striving to get there," said Gov. JB Pritzker. "People like me should pay more and people like you should pay less. Simple. That's what the fair tax will do.

"As we negotiate this proposal with the General Assembly and ultimately ask the people of Illinois to decide, my administration is committed to being fully transparent and giving residents the tools they need to understand this proposal. To that end, I'm proud to introduce the Fair Tax Calculator. This calculator will allow every taxpayer in Illinois to calculate exactly what the fair tax will mean for them and their family."

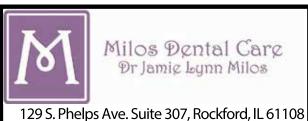
In addition to shifting from a regressive flat tax to a fair tax, Governor Pritzker's proposal would increase the property tax credit by 20 percent and institute a new \$100 per child tax credit.





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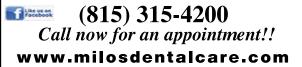
David Grimm April 1938 - Dec. 2000 Richelle Kingsbury Aug. 1955 - June 2013

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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



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Users can input their income, filing status, exemptions, dependents, property tax paid and



K-12 expenses to calculate how the fair tax compares to the current flat income tax.

Using that information, the calculator determines how much the total tax bill changes. For 97 percent of Illinois taxpayers, the amount will go down. In some cases the reduction will be nominal; in others, it will result in several hundred dollars.

"Illinois' unfair tax structure forces the lowest earners to shoulder a greater tax burden than higher earners, but Gov. Pritzker's plan will make the wealthy pay their fair share," said William McNary, c0-director of Citizen Action/ Illinois. "When the top 1 percent who make more than \$537,800 a year pay just 7.4 percent of their income in taxes while the lowest 20 percent of earners making less than \$21,800 a year pay 14.4 percent, the time for change is now."

"Working families across the state will benefit from Gov. Pritzker's fair tax plan that gives 97 percent of taxpayers relief and returns fiscal stability to Illinois," said Bob Reiter, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor. «We must put the days of governing by crisis behind us and institute a fair income tax that ensures state government can adequately serve the people.»

"Gov. Pritzker is making good on his promise to make our state a better place to live for working families," said Carole Pollitz, a business agent with IBEW Local 134. "Raising wages and reducing taxes on the middle class gives the average Illinoisan a break and benefits our entire state in the process."



Boone County Government Looks Volunteers

Boone County Board of Health Remainder of Term (3) Year Term Boone County Sanitary District Term Expires May 1, 2021 (3) Year Term May 1, 2019Remainder of Term Boone County Regional Planning Commission Term Expires December 31, 2021 (3) Year Term Boone County Conservation District Term Expires June 30, 2023 Remainder of Term

Interested parties are asked to send a letter and/or resume expressing your interest and qualifications along with your contact information to Boone County Board Chairman Karl Johnson, Administration Campus, 1212 Logan Ave., Suite 102, Belvidere, IL 61008. Please respond by March 24, 2019 to assure being considered.

Convenience Store Group Warns Increasing Cigarette Taxes Could Cost Jobs

By Greg Bishop | Illinois News Network

An association that represents convenience stores throughout the state says the governor should find budget efficiencies instead of increasing taxes on products they sell.

Gov. J.B. Pritzker wants to increase the tax on a pack of cigarettes by 32 cents. That's expected to raise \$55 million in revenue, the administration said.

Illinois Association of Convenience Stores Executive Vice President Bill Fleischli represents thousands of convenience stores around the state. He said Pritzker proposal will make Illinois' taxes on cigarettes about \$2.30 a pack in Illinois. He said that would push Illinois' taxes on cigarettes to the highest in the region, behind Wisconsin.

"I'm not sure with our sales tax in combined that'd we be higher than Wisconsin," Fleischli said.

Fleischli said the tax will affect the poorest Illinoisans who smoke the hardest. He also said it would encourage consumers that live close to Illinois' borders to shop in other states for tobacco and other goods like gas, milk, bread and more.

Fleischli said the governor's plan won't work.

"Every time we've raised it, it doesn't meet the projections that they wanted to raise," Fleischli said. "So when that does backfire, the state won't get enough money, but retail won't get enough money and facilities will be in trouble."

It's not just tobacco taxes Pritzker hopes to increase. He also wants to increase taxes on vaping products to raise an additional \$10 million.

Matt Fortin owns Upper Limits, a vape shop down the street from the state capitol. He hopes the proposed tax increase on vaping products is done fairly. But he said increasing taxes on products he sells will make his shop less competitive to online retailers.

"Online shoppers, they want value," Fortin said. "It's value shopping and people want deals and pricing matters and that really will price us out of a lot of sales."

Fleischli said the increased tax proposed for tobacco and e-cigarettes or vapor products could have unintended consequences.

"Anything that you tax and get it ... a competitive disadvantage will cost you customers and eventually cost you money and that's usually jobs," he said.

Instead of increasing taxes, Fleischli said the

state should find other ways to shore up the budget. "Look at anything, look at a reduction in spending," Fleischli said. "Look at other areas, not just the sins. We ought to go someplace else."

Pritzker has dismissed looking at service taxes in Illinois. While he was promoting his progressive income tax proposal in Chicago on Tuesday, the governor said taxes on services are flat taxes and put the bulk of the burden on the poor and middle class.



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Opposition Flips, **Illinois House Passes Tobacco 21 Law**

By Cole Lauterbach | Illinois News Network

Illinois is one step closer to becoming the eighth state to raise the legal age for buying and using tobacco and vaping products to 21.

House Representatives passed the bill Tuesday afternoon. State Rep. Camille Lilly, the Oak Park Democrat who sponsored the bill, said Medicaid in Illinois spends about \$2 billion a year for treatment of tobacco-related diseases.

"It is important that we move forward here in the state of Illinois and give our youth a living chance," she said.

After previously opposing the change, Republican Minority Leader Jim Durkin, R-Western Springs, said his teenage daughter changed his mind.

"She said 'You guys need to do something,' and I said 'Caroline, I'm doing something. I'm changing my mind and I will be voting for this bill," "he said.

Others were still skeptical, saying that people who are legally able to vote for president should be able to make the decision whether or not to use tobacco products.

"I think there's a point at which you have to say you're either an adult or you're not," said state Rep. C.D. Davidsmeyer, R-Jacksonville.

Republican Toni McCombie said the law is likely to have unintended consequences.

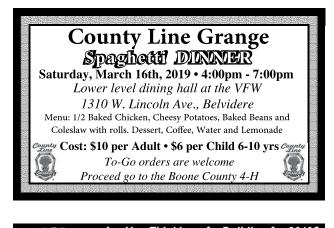
"We have got to quit chipping away at our personal liberties and our tax bases," she said.

Estimates on the bill say the state would lose up to \$40 million per year in tobacco tax revenue, but Lilly said that estimate isn't accurate because it assumes everyone would suddenly abide by the law.

Seven states have set the legal age for purchasing and using tobacco and other nicotine products at 21.

In Illinois, 38 municipalities had already raised the minimum age to 21, Lilly said.

Former Gov. Bruce Rauner vetoed a similar bill in 2018. He said that raising the age people can purchase tobacco products would push



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residents to buy from non-licensed vendors or stores in neighboring states.

"Since no neighboring state has raised the age for purchasing tobacco products, local businesses and the State will see decreased revenue while public health impacts continue," he said at the time.

A number of public health organizations supported the bill.

"Research shows that Tobacco 21 laws can make a tremendous impact on the health of our communities as well as reduce healthcare costs from tobacco-related diseases," said Kathy Drea from the Lung Association. "This law is proven to protect children, reduce smoking rates, save on healthcare costs and save lives. In fact, Chicago saw a 36 percent decline in the use of tobacco products among teens after passing Tobacco 21 in 2016."

E-cigarette maker JUUL Labs CEO Kevin Burns said the company supported the change.

"Tobacco 21 laws fight one of the largest contributors to this problem - sharing by legal-age peers – and they have been shown to dramatically reduce youth-use rates," he said in a statement.

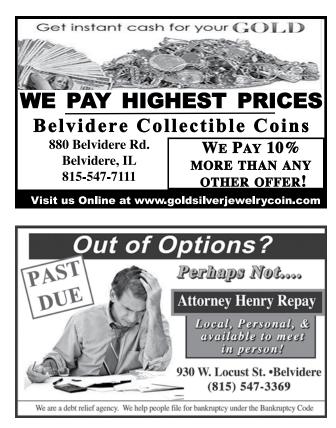
The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration.



Bipartisan Law On What Age Kids Can **Be Left Home Alone**

By Greg Bishop | Illinois News Network

A bipartisan push is underway to get a measure to the governor to change a child neglect law



that could land parents in hot water for leaving someone younger than 14 home alone.

If an Illinois parent is found to have left a 14-year-old child home alone, they could face a child neglect investigation. State Rep. Joe Sosnowski, R-Rockford, said Illinois has the highest minimum age in the nation and that needs to change.

"Most states set it at 12 or 10, some don't have any age at all, some go all the way down to 8," Sosnowski said.

Sosnowski's bill, House Bill 2334, made it out of committee last week to allow 12-year-olds to be home alone, or do other independent activities without parental supervision, including traveling to and from school; traveling to and from nearby commercial or recreational activities; engaging in outdoor play; remaining in a vehicle unattended; remaining at home unattended; or engaging in a similar independent activity.

The measure also says 14-year-old baby sitters can watch children older than 12, rather than 13.

State Rep. Anne Stava-Murray, D-Naperville, signed on to the bill. She said it was important for parents in her district.

"There's worry that 'oh, am I going to be arrested, am I going to be investigated by [Department of Children and Family Services],' and then once that investigation starts it's incredibly difficult if you're unfamiliar with the



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Includes Searchable Archive www.boonecountyjournal.com process to navigate that," Stava-Murray said. "So there's a lot of fear around this topic for normal parenting behaviors."

Sosnowski and Stava-Murray said the measure was an overreaction to a situation from a few decades ago.

"Some of that came from a case 30 years ago where a family went on vacation and left two kids," Sosnowski said. "Today even if this law were to be changed, if there's a neglectful situation there's a variety of other things that prosecutors can do to charge a family in that situation."

"[Current law] was so reactionary to such an extreme circumstance and that's actually not a best practice for creating a law," Stava-Murray said. "You're supposed to look at what are the average situation and so this corrects that overreaction that happened a couple of decades ago."



Illinois Taxpayers Could Cut Back Local Governments Under Bipartisan Bill

The Citizens Empowerment Act would let taxpayers cut local government at the ballot box. Illinois lawmakers from both parties are backing it.

A bipartisan measure in the Illinois House of Representatives would empower Illinois taxpayers to trim local government – a needed tool in the state with, by far, the nation's most government layers.

State Reps. David McSweeney, R-Barrington Hills, and Jonathan Carroll, D-Northbrook, are chief co-sponsors of House Bill 307, which would create the Citizens Empowerment Act. The bill would allow Illinoisans to dissolve or consolidate any unit of local government by voter referendum,

and transfer that unit's services to a bigger government body. Under the proposed Act, Illinoisans could collect signatures equal to 5 percent of ballots cast in the last general election and put the consolidation question before voters in the next general election. Those pursuing consolidation would file petitions with both the targeted government and the government that would absorb its services at least 122 days before the election.

For a referendum to succeed it would receive approval from voters in both the dissolving and receiving government units. Approval by each group would require either three-fifths of those voting on the referendum or over 50 percent of total votes in the election.

Illinois has nearly 7,000 units of government, more than any other state in the nation. Maintaining that much bureaucracy is costly, and it's one of

the main drivers of Illinois' high property tax burden. Fortunately, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle in Springfield have

spearheaded taxpayer-friendly consolidation efforts in recent years. In 2018, state Rep. Sam Yingling, D-Grayslake, proposed the Township Modernization and Consolidation Act, which would have allowed Illinois counties to dissolve their townships by voter referendum, brought either by citizen petition or county ordinance. Hundreds of townships filed witness slips opposing the bill, which eventually died in the Rules Committee.

Taking note, Yingling returned in February with a bill that would prohibit local taxing bodies from using tax dollars to fight consolidation efforts. McSweeney and Carroll are both chief co-sponsors on that measure.

McSweeney introduced a separate proposal last year that would have eased the process for residents looking to abolish their townships in McHenry County. Former Gov. Bruce Rauner vetoed the bill, arguing that its scope should extend beyond just McHenry County. McSweeney revived that bill in January, and chief co-sponsorships include state Reps. Jonathan Carroll, D-Northbrook; Sam Yingling, D-Grayslake; Mark Batinick, R-Plainfield; and Allen Skillicorn, R-East Dundee.

Across Illinois, overburdened taxpayers have looked to consolidation as a

means to reduce tax bills, slash waste and improve efficiency. In McHenry County, high property taxes have sparked revolution among а residents determined to cut local government bloat. Illinoisans are up to their necks in high tax bills and overabundant government layers. Lawmakers should send taxpayers relief by sending the Citizens Empowerment Act to the governor's desk.





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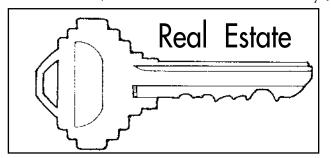
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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

STATE BANK, Plaintiff, vs. No. 2018 CH 78

CURT A. BOTTCHER, THE DELONG COMPANY, INC., BYRON BANK,

HOMEOWNERS= ASSOCIATION, if any, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD LIEN CLAIMANTS, Defendant.

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure herein entered, the Sheriff of Boone County, Belvidere, Illinois, or his deputy, will on Tuesday, the 23rd day of April, 2019, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., at the Main Entrance of the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Boone County, Illinois sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder the property commonly known as 11823 Route 173, Capron, Boone County, Illinois.

The property is residential property. This property will not be open for inspection. Terms of Sale: This real estate is being sold in an "As Is Condition" for cash and the successful bidder is required to deposit 10% of the bid amount at the time of the sale with the Boone County Sheriff and the balance to be paid within twenty-four hours of the sale.

Dave Ernest

Sheriff of Boone County

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Published in The Boone County Journal March 15, 22, 28 - 2019

LEGAL NOTICES Foreclosures

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF BOONE

MIDLAND STATES BANK, as successor in interest to ALPINE BANK & TRUST COMPANY,

Plaintiff,

Case No. 2019 CH 26

JORGE A. VALDEZ, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

PUBLICATION NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE

To:UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, defendants in the above-entitled cause, that the above suit has been commenced in the Circuit Court for the 17th Judicial Circuit, Boone County, Illinois, by the said plaintiff against you and other defendants, praying for foreclosure of a mortgage and other relief on the following described property in which you have or claim an interest:

Lots Nine (9), Ten (10) and Eleven (11) in Block Fourteen (14) of William H. Gilman's First Addition to the Town of Belvidere, Boone County, Illinois; situated in the County of Boone and State of Illinois.

Commonly known as 504 Whitney Boulevard, Belvidere, IL 61008-3731

Property Code / PIN: 05-25-361-001

Lot Five (5) EXCEPTING the Southerly 8 ¹/₂ feet thereof, in Block Seven (7) of Joel Walker's Addition to the Town (now City) of Belvidere; situated in the County of Boone and State of Illinois.

Commonly known as 309 N. State St., Belvidere, IL 61008-3224 Property Code / PIN: 05-26-427-002

Title Holder of Record: JORGE A. VALDEZ

Identification of Mortgage: Two mortgages from Jorge A. Valdez to Alpine Bank & Trust Co. both dated May 16, 2017 and both recorded May 24, 2017 as Document No.'s 2017R02609 and 2017R02610 to secure \$101,545.00.

Now, therefore, unless you, the said defendants, "Unknown Owners" and "Non-Record Claimants" file your answer in said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein in the said Circuit Court for the Judicial Circuit, Boone County, Illinois, on or before April 12, 2019, default may be entered against you and each of you at any time after that day and a decree entered in accordance with the prayer of ord new heits. Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Boone County, Illinois sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder for cash and all singular, the following described premises and real estate in said judgment mentioned, situated in the County and State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said judgment to wit:

PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (1/4) OF SECTION TWELVE (12), TOWNSHIP FORTY-FIVE (45) NORTH, RANGE FOUR (4) EAST OF THE THE THIRD (3RD) PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLÓWS, TO-WIT: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION; THENCE SOUTH 01° -00' -58" WEST, ALONG THE EAST LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION, 1149.39 FEET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTH THIRTY-FIVE ACRES OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION, THENCE NORTH 89° -22'-37" WEST, ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTH THIRTY-FIVE ACRES OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION, 568.49 FEET; THENCE NORTH 01° -00'-58" EAST, PARALLEL WITH THE EAST LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION, 1149.39 FEET TO THE NORTH LINE OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION; THENCE SOUTH 89° -22'-37" EAST, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION, 568.49 FEET TO THE DONTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION, 568.49 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SUBJECT TO THE RIGHTS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE STATE OF ILLINOIS IN AND TO THOSE PORTIONS THEREOF TAKEN, USED OR DEDICATED FOR PUBLIC ROAD PURPOSES. SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

PIN No.: 04-12-200-013

Together with all buildings and improvements thereon, and the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging.

This property is commonly known 11823 IL Route 173, Capron, Illinois 61012, Boone County, Illinois, and is residential property. This property will not be open for inspection. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act.

Terms of Sale: This real estate is being sold in an "As Is Condition" for cash and the successful bidder is required to deposit 10% of the bid amount at the time of the sale with the Boone County Sheriff and the balance to be paid within twenty-four hours of the sale.

FRANKS, GERKIN & McKENNA, P.C. Attorney for Plaintiff Our File No: 110.985

19333 E. Grant Highway

Marengo, Illinois 60152 (815) 923-2107

Published in The Boone County Journal March 15, 22, 28 - 2019



Early Voting for the April 2, 2019 Consolidated Primary Election will begin on Friday, March 8, 2019 and end April 1, 2019. Early Voting for Boone County residents will be conducted at the Boone County Clerk's Office, 1212 Logan Ave, Suite 103, Belvidere, IL 61008. The office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30AM to 5:00PM. The office will also be open on Saturday, March 30, 2019 from 9:00AM to 12:00PM

For more information about Early Voting please contact the Boone County Clerk's Office at 815-544-3103.

Julie A. Stapler Boone County Clerk & Recorder

Published in *The Boone County Journal* March 8, 15, 22, 28, 2019

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Boone County Agricultural Areas Committee will be holding a public hearing on Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in the Boone County Boardroom located in the Boone County Administration Campus, 1212 Logan Ave., Belvidere, IL 61008.

The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the Agricultural Area that was created in 1992 and amended in 2000 and 2002. Under state law, the County is required to review the Agricultural Area at this time.

A map of the agricultural areas is on file and available for public review at the Boone County Planning Department at 1212 Logan Ave., Suite 102, Belvidere, IL 61008. This public hearing will discuss any concerns property owners within the Agricultural Area might have as well as the recommendations of the Committee and Regional Planning Commission.

Published in The Boone County Journal March 15, 2019

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH

JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS BRENDA ALEJANDRA VAQUEZ TORRES and EDGA R RAMIREZ , P la int i f f s vs.

N o . 19 AD 1

URIEL ALEJANDRO VAZQUEZ VAZQUEZ ,M inor . URIEL ISIDRO VAZQUEZ MACIAS, Defendant.

ADOPTI ON PUBLICATION NOTICE NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU, ADOPTION NOTICE - STATE OF ILLINOIS, County of Boone, ss - Circuit Court of Boone County. Peition for the Adoption of URIEL ALEJANDRO VAZQUEZ VAZQUEZ, a male child. Adoption No. 2019AD1. To unknown putative father (whom it may concern or the named parent) Take notice that a petition was filed in the Circuit Court of McHenry County, Illinois for the adoption of a child named URIEL ALEJANDRO VAZQUEZ VAZQUEZ. UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the office of the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, on or before 4/15/2019, a judgment or decree by default may be taken against you for the relief asked in the complaint. Witness: February 27, 2019 Linda J. Anderson, Clerk of the Circuit Court by: Heather Austin, Deputy Joseph C. Ponitz Attorney for the Plaintiff 19333 E Grant Hwy Marengo, IL 60152 815-923-2107 Published in The Boone County Journal March 1, 8, 15, 2019-p

IN THE Matter of the Petition for Adoption of O.J.A, a male child, Adoption no. 2019-AD-2

To: Anthony Thomas Adair

TAKE NOTICE that a Petition was filed in the Circuit Court of Boone County, Illinois, for the adoption of a child named O.J.A.

NOW THEREFORE, unless you, ANTHONY THOMAS ADAIR, and all whom it may concern, file your Answer to the Petition in said suit or otherwise file your appearance therein, the said Circuit Court of Boone County, 601 N. Main St, in the City of Belvidere, Illinois on or before the 30 day of April, 2019, a default may be entered against.you at any time after that day and judgment entred in accordance with the prayer of said Petition.

DATED at Belvidere, Illinois, this 27 day of February, 2019.

Linda J. Anderson

Clerk of the Circuit Court

by Christine K. Miller, Deputy

Attorney Nathan J. Noble, P.C. 504 North State Street Belvidere, IL 61008

815.547.7700

ARDC 6290348

nnoble@attomeynoble.com

Published in *The Boone County Journal* March 15, 22, 28 - 2019

SECTION 000035 - BID NOTICE NOTICE TO BIDDERS FOR NORTH BOONE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200

The following bid notice was published by North Boone Community Unit School District 200:

The North Boone Community Unit School District 200 Board of Education is accepting bids for the removal and replacement of existing roofing.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Scope of Work includes removal of existing roofing and the installation of new single-ply roofing at the Manchester Elementary School, as indicated in Bid Documents.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The work is to be performed at Manchester Elementary School, 3501 Blane Road in Poplar Grove, Illinois. Work is scheduled to take place between **June 2019 through August 2019**.

Complete sets of the Bid Documents may be obtained beginning **March 21, 2019** from the District's Architect, Cashman Stahler Group, Inc. by emailing a request to Gregory Stahler at gstahler@cashmanstahler. com. Bid Documents will be made available to all Bidders who confirm they meet or exceed the District's bid qualifications.

No Mandatory Pre-Bid meeting is scheduled for this project. All Prospective Bidders are required to visit the project site prior to the submission of a Bid Proposal.

The public bid opening is anticipated at **2:00 P.M., Thursday, April 11, 2019**, in the District Administrative Offices located at 6248 N. Boone School Road, Poplar Grove, Illinois. Prior to the public bid opening, sealed bids will be received by **2:00 P.M., Thursday, April 11, 2019** at the District Administrative Offices.

Each bid submission must include a **Bid Form, Bid Security** in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the base bid, a fully executed **Contractor Qualification Statement (AIA Form A305)** and all requested documentation confirming the Contractor meets all District bid qualifications. The successful Bidder will be required to furnish construction performance and payment bonds in the full amount of the contract.

The North Boone Community Unit School District 200 Board of Education is not obligated to accept the lowest or any other bid and reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informalities and irregularities in bidding procedures and to award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder, or to accept any bid that in it's sole opinion best serves the interests of the School District, as determined by the District.

In evaluating bids, the Owner shall consider the qualifications of the Bidders, conformity with the Bid Documents, terms of delivery, quality and serviceability, or any other factors when considered the award of the bid.

The District may conduct such investigations as deemed necessary to assist in the evaluation of any bid and to establish the responsibility, qualifications and financial ability of the bidders to furnish the goods and special services in accordance with the Contract Documents to the District's satisfaction within the prescribed time.

Published in The Boone County Journal March 15, 2019

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

To the legal voters, residents of the Town of ForaTownship in the County of Boone and State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of Flora Township will take place on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 6:00p.m. Flora Township Building 3100 Townhall Road

Belvidere, IL 61008

Published in the Boone County Journal 03/15/2019

NOTICE OF PUBLIC TEST

The public test of the automatic tabulating equipment and program to be used at the April 2, 2019 Consolidated Election will be Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 10:00AM in the Boone County Clerk's Office, 1212 Logan Avenue #103, Belvidere, Illinois. The public, press, candidates and political parties are invited to attend

said complaint.

Dated: February 28, 2019 WILLIAMSMcCARTHYLLP Thomas P. Sandquist Its Attorneys Prepared By: Thomas P. Sandquist - #06198232 WILLIAMSMcCARTHYLLP 120 West State Street P.O. Box 219 Rockford, Illinois 61105 (815) 987-8900 tsandquist@wilmac.com Published in The Boone County Journal 3/8, 15, 22/2019

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS STATE BANK, Plaintiff, vs. No. 2018 CH 78 CURT A. BOTTCHER, THE DELONG COMPANY, INC., BYRON BANK,

HOMEOWNERS= ASSOCIATION, if any, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD LIEN CLAIMANTS, Defendant.

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S FORÉCLOSURE SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure heretofore entered by said Court in the above entitled cause, Dave Ernest, Sheriff of Boone County, Illinois will on Tuesday, the 23rd day of April, 2019, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., at the Main Entrance of the STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF BOONE

A.M. and G.M. vs. OJ.A., a minor, Petitioners,

CASE NO. 2019-AD-2

)and ANTHONY THOMAS ADAIR, Respondents ADOPTION NOTICE political parties are invited to attend. Julie A. Stapler Boone County Clerk Published in the Boone County Journal 03/15/2019



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 Woman's Boutique in said County and State under the name of Nicci's at the following post office addresses: 115 E 4th St, Belvidere, IL 61008 and that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with the respective residence address of each, are as follows: NAME AND ADDRESS OF RESIDENCE: Nicci's 115 E 4th St, Belvidere IL, 61008. Signed: Nicole M Lee 2/27/2019 Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me this 27th. day of February, 2019. Julie A. Stapler, County Clerk, by Christine Gardner, Deputy Published in the Boone County Journal 3/1, 8, 15/2019

Legal notices published in the Boone County Journal also available on-line at www.Boonecountyjournal.com and Statewide at www.Publicnoticeillinois.com

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 General Construction Business in said County and State under the name of H.A.R General Construction 515 E 8th St., Belvidere, IL 61008 and that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with the respective residence address of each, are as follows:

NAME AND ADDRESS OF RESIDENCE: Heraclio Aparicio 515 E 8th St. Belvidere IL, 61008. Signed: Heraclio Aparicio 3/4/2019 Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me this4th. day of March, 2019. Julie A. Stapler, County Clerk, by Christine E Gardner, Deputy Published in the Boone County Journal 3/8, 15, 22/2019

Change in Certificate of Ownership of Business Publication Notice Public Notice is hereby given on February 25, 2019 a certificate was filed in the office of the County clerk of Boone County, Illinois, concerning the business known as Haggerty Small Engine Service located at 305 W Locust St, Belvidere, IL 61008 which sets forth the following changes in the operation thereof: Change in ownership

Former owner: Jason Haggerty new Owner Haggerty Equipment Services LLC Dated February 25, 2019

Julie Stapler, Boone County Clerk

Published in the Boone County Journal 3/1, 8, 15/2019

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 Bait Shop Business in said County and State under the name of Dick's Bait Shop at the following post office addresses: 1135 Warren Ave , Belvidere, IL 61008 and that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with the respective residence address of each, are as follows: NAME AND ADDRESS OF RESIDENCE: Richard L Burns II 1135 Warren Ave. Belvidere IL, 61008. Signed: JRichard Burns 3/4/2019 Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me this4th. day of March, 2019. Julie A. Stapler, County Clerk, by Christine E Gardner, Deputy Published in the Boone County Journal 3/8, 15, 22/2019

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 Meeting and Event Planning Business in said County and State under the name of On Point Planning at the following post office addresses: 3037 Fairchild St. Poplar Grove, IL 61065 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: Latricaia Foss 3037 Fairchild St. Poplar Grove, IL 61065. Signed: Latricia Foss 3/11/2019 Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me this 11th. day of March, 2019. Julie A. Stapler, County Clerk,

Published in the Boone County Journal 3/15, 22, 28/2019

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 Beauty Shop Business in said County and State under the name of My Hair Lady at the following post office addresses: 145 S State St Belvidere, IL 61008 and that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with the respective residence address of each, are as follows NAME AND ADDRESS OF RESIDENCE: Grendida Perez 145 S State St

Belvidere, IL 61008. Signed: Grendida Perez 3/13/2019 Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me this 11th. day of March, 2019. Julie A. Stapler, County Clerk,

Published in the Boone County Journal 3/15, 22, 28/2019

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 Power Equipment Repair and Service Business in said County and State under the name of Haggerty Small Engine Service at the following post office addresses: 305 W. Locust St, Belvidere, IL 61008 and that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with the respective residence address of each, are as follows:

NAME AND ADDRESS OF RESIDENCE: Haggerty Equipment Service LLC 305 W. Locust St, Belvidere IL, 61008. Signed: Jason Haggerty 2/25/2019 Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me this 25th. day of February, 2019.

Published in the Boone County Journal 3/1, 8, 15/2019

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

State of Illinois County of Boone) ss This is to certify that the undersigned . to conduct and transact a Lawn Care and Snow Removal Business intend in said County and State under the name of DJ's Snowplowing and Removal at the following post office addresses: 2221 Derby Lane, Belvidere, IL 61008 and that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with the respective residence address of each, are as follows:

NAME AND ADDRESS OF RESIDENCE: Darius and Jakara Pendleton 2221 Derby Lane, Belvidere IL, 61008. Signed: Darius Pendleton, Jakara Pendleton 3/4/2019 Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me this 6th. day of March, 2019.

Julie A. Stapler, County Clerk, by Christine E Gardner, Deputy Published in the Boone County Journal 3/8, 15, 22/2019



Census explainer: Hard to Count **Communities**

Existing obstacles made worse for rural, *immigrant communities*

By GRANT MORGAN Capitol News Illinois gmorgan@capitolnewsillinois.com

SPRINGFIELD - With up to two Illinois congressional seats and \$1 billion or more in federal funding on the line if Illinois' population is not correctly counted in the 2020 census, nonprofit groups warn that changes to the census format this year could exacerbate an undercount in already hard-to-reach communities.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 16 percent of Illinoisans live in "hard to count," or HTC, communities, which require greater resources for the Census Bureau to reach and are the most likely to be undercounted.

While HTC communities can be found across the state, they each have defining characteristics that make an undercount likely, and include rural, low-income, high-immigrant and homeless populations, as well as children, renters, and ethnic or racial minorities.

These communities are prevalent in large pockets of Chicago and surrounding Cook County; urban centers around the state including Springfield, Bloomington-Normal, Peoria. Decatur and Metro East; and more rural areas, especially in southern Illinois, like Carbondale, Cairo and various southern counties, according to an article by Shawn Healy, head of the Robert R. McCormick Democracy Program.

Advocates warn that a number of national factors - including moving the census online and adding a question about a resident's citizenship status – could make full participation even more difficult to achieve.

The census goes online

In 2020, for the first time, the U.S. Census Bureau will accept responses online. While every household will still be sent mailings, 80 percent of them will be invitations to complete the census online, rather than census forms to fill out and send back.

More traditional outreach methods, including mailed forms and in-person visits, are planned for the other 20 percent.

Griselda Vega Samuel, an attorney at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund who also sits on the state's Complete Count Commission for census outreach, said lack of internet access and fear of data breaches could make online participation less likely across the state, not just in hard-to-count areas.

"Given our current climate, people are really scared to put their personal information online. And in the more rural parts of the state, broadband undercount. Still, for those who do get it online, "there are thousands of cybersecurity risks that are out there as well," Banerji said. "The Bureau needs to spend time making sure the data is well protected and safe."

That's a tall task, Banerji added, considering the Census Bureau's funding has been flat or underfunded since 2010, causing the cancellation of two out of three test runs for the online format leading up to the real thing.

The citizenship question

Since communities with high immigrant populations are often considered hard to count, the potential addition of a question asking about a resident's immigration status is another obstacle to full participation.

"The question causes fear in many immigrant communities, mixed-status families, communities of color," Banerji said. "And not just in Chicago, either. Think about the orchard fields in Carbondale, the undocumented communities around Peoria - those folks will be impacted too."

Two federal judges have already ruled against the Trump administration's inclusion of the question on the 2020 census, and the U.S. Supreme Court is set to hear one of these cases on April 23.

While this will likely decide the matter, Banerji said until the decision is final, it is difficult for her group to plan specific outreach efforts in communities that will be most adversely affected by low turnout numbers.

"Forefront would not like for the question to be on the form," Banerji said. "But we need to know what those questions are, sooner rather than later, so that communities are armed with the right and the best information."

Still, Banerji said, "there's a huge mistrust of government, and that sentiment across the country is so strong," so outreach efforts will need to focus on the fact that personal data, including citizenship status, is mandated to be kept private under law.

The state's own census outreach commission also acknowledged this problem in its first report from November 2018, saying that "the need to clarify that participation in the census will not result in the further investigation of an individual's life is the greatest obstacle facing the Commission and its members."

Other factors

National factors are not the only thing threatening an undercount of Illinoisans in 2020. According to Vega Samuel, the top three HTC communities, in general, are renters, children ages 0-5, and low-income families.

"So that's a big chunk of the state," she said. "And it doesn't matter if you're in Chicago or the southern parts."

According to Banerji's data from Forefront, about 100,000 children up to age 5 were not counted in the 2010 census in Cook County alone. This matches up to the U.S. Census Bureau's own data, which says 4.6 percent of children aged 0 to 4 were missed in the 2010 census nationally.

"When they get the census form in their household, a lot of folks don't always think about the children being accounted for," Banerji said. "They don't think about everybody that's under that roof – they usually think it's only themselves and their significant other." Other communities, including racial and ethnic minorities and young mobile persons, have been historically undercounted as well. In 2010, for example, the Census Bureau estimates that 1.5 percent of African-Americans were not counted.

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Includes Searchable Archive www.boonecountyjournal.com is an issue," she said.

Samuel's fears seem to be corroborated by a City University of New York study which shows 18 percent of Illinoisans have no internet or have only dial-up access.

In southern Illinois' Pope County, for example, 41 percent of residents have no or poor internet access. While only 54 percent of county households returned initial census forms in 2010, an internetbased census could further limit response rates, depending on how the Bureau approaches mailings there.

This will increase the need for outreach in southern Illinois, said Anita Banerji, director of the Democracy Initiative at the nonprofit Forefront, which is leading a coalition of more than 40 local and statewide organizations on census outreach in Illinois.

"We need to focus a little more on central and southern Illinois for these reasons," Banerji said, adding that Chicago already has some "groups and lawmakers that are really in the fight" against an



Op-Ed: Illinois **Republicans Need** to Recruit Better **Candidates**

By Rep. David McSweeney

"You can't be for big government, big taxes and big bureaucracy and still be for the little guy." – Ronald Reagan

The most recent election night was not kind to Republicans in Illinois. Former Gov. Bruce Rauner, who didn't accomplish anything as governor and presided over a massive tax hike and more out-ofcontrol spending, was defeated in a landslide. The election was not a repudiation of Republican ideas - it was a repudiation of Raunerism.

The Democrats, led by Gov. J.B. Pritzker, may be pushing Illinois to become the California of the Midwest, but we still are a long way from that. There is a path to victory for Republicans in Illinois.

The Republican Party always will lose statewide in Illinois if it doesn't give voters a clear choice on economic issues. The Republican Party must stand united for lower taxes, less spending and real reform.

Republicans have made significant gains in the rural parts of Illinois. Districts that once were Democratic strongholds are becoming Republican districts, but the gains in downstate Illinois are not enough to overcome big losses in the suburbs. If the Republican Party is going to turn its election fortunes around, the party must be able to win in both downstate Illinois and in the suburbs.

Republicans first must focus on advancing a positive agenda for Illinois. Only talking about House Speaker Michael Madigan is not a cohesive message. The best way to weaken Madigan is for Republicans to pick up legislative seats. Republicans must make the case that big government and high taxes are hurting, not helping, regular people.

We must show how these taxes are hurting real families and make an appeal to stop driving families out of Illinois by continuing to raise taxes. Republicans must go on the offensive.

The progressive income tax, the linchpin of the Pritzker plan, wouldn't hurt the wealthy a lot - they easily can move out of Illinois. It would harm the middle class. There is a reason we do not see a tax rate schedule from those supporting the progressive income tax. They do not want voters to see exactly who the progressive income tax will affect. Do you really trust Illinois career politicians to set your tax rates?

The Illinois Republican Party also needs to stand united for cutting property taxes. Specifically, the General Assembly should extend the statewide property tax cap to all units of government (including home rule units of government) and then mandate a 10 percent cut in property tax levies over two years (5 percent a year). Property

spending is to do a much better job of managing the state's Medicaid program. In addition to eliminating Medicaid waste and fraud, Illinois should be actively pursuing multiple innovative waivers that would save money and make the program more efficient.

We also should be aggressively fighting to increase the federal government's unfairly low 50 percent Medicaid matching percentage for Illinois. Many other states are receiving a far higher percentage of federal support.

In addition, Republicans need to present a positive agenda on health care. Republicans must strongly make the case for keeping coverage for pre-existing conditions at the state and national levels. Republicans must promote cost-savings ideas such as allowing health care to be purchased on a national basis, providing vouchers for lowincome families to purchase health insurance and enacting meaningful medical malpractice reforms.

Finally, Illinois Republicans must recruit better candidates to run, and that recruiting process must begin now - not later. Republicans must look for candidates who can connect with voters and offer fresh ideas. These candidates must be inclusive and must be diverse and, most importantly, must stand for something. Republicans Party leaders also must focus on better integrating the use of technology and vote-by-mail programs in their campaign strategies. Most importantly, Republican candidates need to work harder to keep up with their well-organized Democratic opponents.

Illinois Republicans must rally around lower taxes and meaningful reforms as the only way to save the middle class and stop the mass exodus from Illinois. As Ronald Reagan said, "Simple fairness dictates that government must not raise taxes on families struggling to pay their bills."

It is time for Republicans to rally around the message of standing up for the people of Illinois by supporting sound economic policies that can turn our state around. If we do that, we can win again.

David McSweeney is a Republican state representative from Barrington Hills.

Democrats Back Bills to Rein in Prescription **Drug Prices in Illinois**

Illinois News Network

With the cost of prescription drugs continuing to rise, Illinois lawmakers are stepping in with new bills aimed at controlling those increases.

Several bills call for measures such as regulating drug prices like utilities or allowing Illinois to be a wholesaler for less expensive prescription drugs imported from Canada.

Illinois Pharmacists Association Executive Director Garth Reynolds testified at a House hearing that one concern is the safety of prescription drugs from foreign countries.

"We have some concerns about the safety of bringing medications that are outside the established safety net," Reynolds said. "And we worry about counterfeit medications getting it into the mix as well."

Another issue is pharmacy benefits managers acting as middlemen between drug companies and insurers, which Reynolds said "has had a significant negative impact on the increased cost of medications and really lowering the overall health outcomes of patients by increasing and erecting barriers."

Reynolds said there are several factors at work.

"We helped with showing them some of those factors that we feel are the biggest manipulators into the rise of medication costs in the country," he said. "I think there's a good start with some components of the legislative packages that have been brought forward. But I think there needs to be further discussion on some of them to really take a look at why medication costs have been going up and to see where the major manipulating factors really need to come to light."

Democrats unveiled the package of legislation that was developed with input from the group Families USA, a consumer health advocacy organization.

Republicans are voicing opposition to the measures. They say the state legislature is not the place to take up the issue of prescription drug pricing and that the ideas in the bills could backfire and cost consumers more money.





taxes then would be permanently frozen unless local voters approve an increase.

Local governments would be forced to cut administrative expenses and make hard spending decisions, just like Illinois families are required to do every day. Illinois has 7,000 units of local government. The key to long-term lower property taxes is to give voters the right to consolidate many local governments.

Republicans must oppose tax increases and offer solutions to reduce the cost of government. The most meaningful way to reduce spending is to enact meaningful pension reform. Arizona, similar to Illinois, has a Constitution that makes changing pension benefits very difficult.

The best path for Illinois is to follow the Arizona model and, as part of an overall negotiation with unions on other issues, pass a constitutional amendment to limit annual benefit increases. Also, all new state workers should participate in a 401(k) plan.

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