

County Debates Equity Regarding Gravel Pit Road Upgrade.

By David Larson

William Charles Construction and Beverly Materials LLC (owned by Plote Construction, Inc.) are the likely beneficiaries of a \$246,000 grant to improve Irene Road and several other blacktopped access roads in Flora Township. Both of these firms use these roads to transport aggregate from their gravel pits to market. These roads would be improved to Class II Highway standards in order to withstand the amount and nature of the traffic they currently receive.

The township blacktops were suitable for the amount of traffic that existed on these roads prior to the reopening of a long-abandoned quarry in 2005 by Plote. Plote filed a lawsuit against the county and received a non-standard special use permit to operate the quarry as part of an out-of-court settlement.

According to County Engineer Justin Krohn, who wrote the grant proposal, the total cost of the project is expected to be \$750,000. Speaking at the February 10 Board County Board Committee of the Whole, Krohn reported that this money must be used this year.

Under current agreements with the city of Belvidere and Boone County, William Charles and Plote are responsible for the maintenance of Irene Road and the other access routes. To properly maintain the roads in their present form, Krohn estimates that \$200,000 worth of repair work is needed. If the road is to be updated to Class II Roadway status, an additional amount of approximately \$300,000 will be needed beyond the grant and the quarries' portion to fund the \$750,000 estimated expense. If updated future maintenance costs could conceivably be minimized.

The debate at the February 10 Boone County Board Committee of the Whole meeting took many directions. Several members believed that these roads are not Boone County's, but Flora Township's responsibility.

Bill Robertson (R), District 3, who is also the Belvidere Township Supervisor, said, "Did not the county at some point in time allow those quarries to go in out there? And didn't anybody know those trucks were going to be hauling 80,000 pounds? So, why do you lay it all on the Township?"

Both companies pay a tipping fee in the form of a tax per ton of aggregate taken from the Boone County pits on Irene Road. Boone County and the City of Belvidere (who has a pre-annexation agreement with William Charles), receive those funds. Boone County receives \$60,000+ on average per year. According to the permit terms, the tipping fees are not required to be used to build an adequate road for the quarries. Flora Township does not receive any tipping funds.

County Administrator Kevin Catlin stated that a request for money cannot occur in this fiscal year, because the budget has already been established, and no money has been allocated. He further noted that the county does not traditionally fund township projects.

David Wiltse (R), District 1 said that the discussion is premature until the board members can review the special use agreement and other relevant documents that would help define the parameters of responsibility. State's Attorney Tricia Smith promised to provide the documents,

and summarize them for the Board's next meeting.

Several members explored the idea of the county picking up the tab in whole or in part, to be shared with the township and the mining businesses, who will be the primary users of an 80,000-pound-capable roadway.

The Tollway and Bypass intersection was created 7 years ago, observed Sherry Giesecke (R) District 1, who expressed a hope that someday the county would be able to collect revenue from a development at the intersection.

County Board Chairman Karl Johnson, who is also an employee of William Charles, led the debate, "I would like to sit down and think up something out of the box," he said. He went on to express that the county should consider using the tipping fees to pay for the road upgrade and that the township should be also contributing. But he added that a precedent should not be established for the county to bail out township responsibilities. "I would like to put smarter heads together," he said.

Steve Schabacker (R) made the observation that both companies are in the road building business.

Flora Township's meeting is March 8th.

State Revenues \$4.6 Billion Higher For Current Fiscal Year Than Initially Projected

Consumer habits, federal unemployment increases helped drive tax revenues upward

By Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

A House revenue committee on Thursday heard projections of an Illinois economy that is steadily moving back toward a level of pre-pandemic normalcy, which means revenue spikes realized due to temporary changes in consumer spending habits and federal stimulus packages are expected to subside.

Illinois Department of Revenue Director David Harris characterized the COVID-19 pandemic as a "black swan event" which sent state revenues tumbling by \$400 million in 2020.

"A black swan is very rare, and rare events can happen and upset the financial apple cart," Harris told the House Revenue and Finance Committee.

But in response to that so-called black swan event, consumers nationwide shifted to purchasing more goods than services, and the federal government provided direct financial payments to Americans and expanded unemployment insurance benefits.

That sparked a near two-year period of substantial state revenue growth, partially because Illinois taxes goods, but not most services, so the redistribution of spending correlated directly to a rise in sales tax revenue. As well, unemployment benefits are taxable by the state, and many individuals who collected enhanced federal benefits saw greater income levels than before the pandemic.

Corporations have made out OK as well,

according to Harris.

"To give you an example, in December alone, just in December, we received \$961 million in corporate income tax receipts," he said. "That's in one month. In a given year, a normal year would be \$3.5 billion or thereabouts in corporate income tax receipts for the entire year."

The windfalls in the big three revenue sources – individual and corporate income tax and sales tax – created unprecedented, at least in modern times, flexibility for Gov. JB Pritzker to craft a budget for the upcoming year that dedicates surpluses to paying down old debts. Negotiations on a final budget continue in the General Assembly.

Specifically, revenues for the fiscal year ending on June 30 are expected to be about \$4.6 billion greater than were projected when the governor signed the budget into law last year, according to a presentation by the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability.

COGFA expects state coffers will have taken in \$48.5 billion by the end of the fiscal year, up from a \$44.4 billion projection in the budget that lawmakers approved in May. The base state revenue sources actually grew by \$4.6 billion, however, because the governor's office amended its planned use of federal funds to offset General Revenue Fund spending downward by \$500 million due to the surplus.

The updated FY 22 estimates include a \$1.6 billion increase in personal income tax from

Continued on Page 4

Police Dog Retires And Department Scouts For Shep's Replacement

By David Larson

On February 28, the Belvidere City Council approved the sale of a police dog, "Shep." Shep has been an essential part of the Belvidere Police Department and sustained an injury to a leg ligament.

Last year, the Council approved surgical work at the University of Wisconsin Madison Veterinary Hospital on Shep's torn ligament. A metal plate was implanted in the dog to assist the healing process, but further complication developed from the injury. The disability led to ligament damage to his other leg, which required a similar implant. According to Police Chief Woody, an infection developed. Shep had one of the plates removed in Madison to control the infection, but the other remains, and could likely need further treatment. The city has spent \$10,800 for Shep's recovery.

A friend of Shep's handler is willing to purchase Shep from the city and take responsibility for Shep's health care. The city approved the sale of Shep for \$300 by voice vote.

It is estimated that a replacement for Shep will run between \$12,000 to \$15,000. Officer Koslowski, who has experience as a handler, will be the replacement's handler once the new police dog has been purchased. Officer Koslowski will receive special training with the new dog.

A donor has come forth with a gift of \$15,000 to purchase a replacement police dog.



To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing about a very serious road condition that has existed for over 10 years and one that I personally reported to local government almost 5 years ago. To date, nothing has been done to correct the situation and on February 9, 2022, there was a three-car accident sending one person to the hospital by ambulance.

The problem road is Business 20 bypass within Belvidere, also known as the Jim Gang bypass. Going North bound the road goes from 2 lanes to 1, back to 2 lanes then to 1 and finally back to 2 lanes. The National Safety Council will tell you this situation alone is a hazard. However, South bound starts out being 2 lanes but it goes down to 1 lane. At the intersection of Wycliffe and the Business 20 bypass it is 1 lane and cars are allowed to make a left turn off of Business 20 onto Wycliffe. It being 1 lane when a car is making a left turn vehicles coming from behind insist

on trying to go around the vehicle waiting for a safe opportunity to make a left turn. However, SUV's, large pickup trucks and semis insist on going around the car waiting to make a left turn despite the fact there isn't sufficient room (no passing lane or wide shoulder) to go around the waiting vehicle. The speed limit at this location is 45 mph, however, it just reduces to 45 mph from 55 mph at this location.

Since I have lived here, Boone County has only received 75 cents for every dollar it sends to Washington. I think it is time some money gets spent where it is needed in Boone County.

I never complain about something without a solution which is to make the entire Business 20 bypass two lanes in each direction starting from Grant Highway 20 all the way to Fairground Road with a fifth lane for turns at each intersection. I also recommend the speed of South bound vehicles be reduced to 40 mph at Lawrenceville Road.

I am the Precinct Committeeman for this area and I have personally received numerous complaints. After the February 9 accident, Facebook and Nextdoor Wycliffe social media lit up with many people stating they have reported this problem many times with no action taken.

Sincerely,
Wayne Borchardt

Farm Bureau Opposes Nutrient Pollution Bill Negotiations Continue

Calls current language confusing and bureaucratic

By Beth Hundsdorfer Capitol News Illinois

A bill meant to stem nutrient pollution resulting from farm runoff has met opposition from a formidable foe – the Illinois Farm Bureau – as negotiations on a final package continue.

Nutrient loss is one of the most serious pollution threats in the country, creating a dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico, poisoning local lakes and streams and causing serious health problems for people and domesticated animals.

Illinois, a major contributor to nutrients in water, pledged to develop strategies to reduce the nutrient loads leaving the border.

The state aimed to reduce nitrates and nitrogen by 15 percent and phosphorus by 25 percent by 2025, but the latest Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Implementation Report showed that nutrient loss increased by 13 percent and phosphorus losses increased by 35 percent, compared with a baseline period from 1980 to 1996.

The bill, Senate Bill 3471, was introduced in January, but was amended in early February, changing substantively from its original form that funded a program incentivizing the planting of cover crops by offering discounts on crop insurance.

The amended bill creates the Healthy Soils and Watershed Initiative that would be administered by the Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the state's soil and water conservation districts, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and the University of Illinois Extension program.

The Department of Agriculture would create guidelines to help with soil and water conservation districts to create a plan and establish funding levels with "measurable, cost-effective and technically achievable goals" to reduce nutrient loss.

The Initiative would then produce a study every two years, beginning in 2023, outlining efforts to combat nutrient loss and their overall effectiveness. It would also measure the overall picture of nutrient loss and whether the state was moving towards goals set out in the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy.

Supporters say the bill creates a baseline to gauge the scope of the problem and identify appropriate spending limits and strategies that work, and it also provides accountability to taxpayers.

The information collected by the agencies would also make it easier to obtain federal monies set aside to combat nutrient loss, said Maxwell Webster, Midwest Policy Manager for America Farmland Trust, a proponent of the bill.

The Illinois Farm Bureau voiced opposition to the bill in committee hearing because they say it is duplicative, complicated and bureaucratic.

The Farm Bureau said the bill put various state and federal agencies, authorities, and programs under one umbrella, making it difficult to implement. Adding provisions to already existing laws, like the Soil and Water Conservation Act, would make the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategies less confusing and eliminate bureaucracy, said Lauren Lurkins, Director of Environmental Policy for the Illinois Farm Bureau.

"We believe that the current NLR program is moving us in the direction of protecting the environment and helping farmers better manage their land and resources," Lurkins wrote in an email. "SB 3471 has some great ideas in the proposed language, but does it in a way that is awkward and duplicative. We feel that there are many laws in place that can be changed to include the goals that

Experts Say Changing Attitudes Key to Nutrition Pollution

State has struggled to reach nutrient reduction goals

By Taylor Vidmar Capitol News Illinois

Editor's Note: Taylor Vidmar is a student in the Public Affairs Reporting program at University of Illinois Springfield. She is a reporting intern at the Capitol for Lee Enterprises.

Illinois has, for decades, laid out a nutrient reduction strategy aimed at reducing the amount of nitrogen, phosphorus and other nutrients that run off into its waterways.

The nutrient loss reduction effort is outlined in the regular Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Implementation Biennial Report, which showed this year that Illinois is far from living up to its goals, especially when it comes to runoff from agricultural fields.

As a short-term goal, the state aimed to reduce nitrates and nitrogen by 15 percent and phosphorus by 25 percent by 2025, but the latest update showed that nutrient loss increased by 13 percent and phosphorus losses increased by 35 percent, compared with a baseline period from 1980 to 1996.

Experts say a mixture of state policy shortfalls and the challenging nature of adopting new farming practices are contributing factors to Illinois' inability to meet nutrient reduction goals.

Some of the key agricultural practices to combat nutrient loss and help reach a longer-term goal of a 45 percent reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus pollution are conservation tillage, testing the soil before applying phosphorus fertilizer, using the maximum return on nitrogen rate for nitrogen fertilizer, putting grass buffers on waterways, and using cover crops.

Through cover planting in the fall, farmers can plant certain crops, like cereal rye, clover, and radishes, to protect from erosion, improve soil quality and reduce fertilizer runoff. These plants hold soil and scavenge surplus fertilizer during the early rainy months before cash crops emerge.

Illinois farmers planted 1.4 million acres of cover crops in 2019, according to the report. This marked a 135 percent increase from 2011.

But the report also showed that number should be 21 million acres in order to meet the EPA's nutrient loss reduction goals.

Quidnunc



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Embry, Michelle, Belvidere
Fisk, Eldon, 95, Belvidere, February 19
Guevara, Humberto, 54, Belvidere, February 26
Kelley, Trudy, 66, Belvidere, February 26
Lee, Thelma, Belvidere
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OP-ED

Danny Boy

By Scott Reeder

I glanced at the calendar and the date Feb. 26 stared back at me. It was my brother Danny's birthday.

He would have turned 65.

A milestone birthday. At 13 you are a teenager. At 16, a driver. At 18, a voter. At 21, an adult. And at 65 you're a senior citizen.

But there is no Social Security check coming in the mail. His life came to an end too soon.

I'd almost forgotten the significance of the day. Earlier in the week, I chatted with a friend who had donated a kidney to a stranger. I mentioned I had a brother who benefitted from a liver transplant.

But even that conversation wasn't enough to jog my memory. The mind doesn't like being reminded of tragedy. Losing a sibling at age 48 ranks right up there among life's losses.

For months Danny had teetered atop the Mayo Clinic's transplant list waiting for a liver.

For years he suffered from a rare liver disease — primary sclerosing cholangitis. His liver was giving out. Death was near — unless a transplant liver was found.

While there are some excellent living donor programs, my brother's transplant surgeon determined he was not a good candidate to receive portion of a liver from a living donor.

So, I found myself in the perverse situation of hoping someone would die so that my brother would live.

His prospects grew dimmer as he waited.

Each day, 20 Americans die waiting to have an organ transplant. The waiting list for folks seeking transplants exceeds 100,000.

Not enough people have signed up to be organ donors.

For my brother, his situation was more dire than most. Not only did physicians need to find a good genetic match but also someone who had never had mononucleosis.

Danny had never had mono. Our mother, a registered nurse, drilled in us the importance of good hygiene. We never shared cups, lollipops or dishes with friends. And mono, a common infection, never came our way.

But this careful attention to cleanliness became a

detriment. If Danny received an organ from someone who had been infected anytime in their life, he could have life-threatening complications.

So, the potential donor pool was small. And all we could do was wait and pray.

I was at an investigative reporting conference in Atlanta when I received the early morning call.

It was my mother and she was crying.

Mom didn't weep easily.

But that day her tears were happy ones.

A donor liver had come through.

A middle-aged woman in Rochester, Minnesota, had died of a brain aneurysm. Sometime earlier, she'd signed an organ donor card.

That small act saved my brother's life.

On Father's Day 2004, he began his path to recovery. With the gift of a new liver his yellowing skin returned to a healthy peach color. His weakened body regained energy.

But this isn't an "and they lived happily ever after" story. I wish it were. Cancer began to grow in his transplanted liver and by December 2005, he was dead.

My brother, a man who lived 48 years without tasting alcohol, died of liver failure. It's not fair. It's not right. It just is.

At age 57, I still see my

big brother's influence.

He's the reason I studied

at Iowa State, why I love

John Prine music and

why I shoot free throws

in the same stiff awkward

manner he taught me.

I see his legacy in his

adult son and daughter.

Still, I wonder what

might have been.

I can't help but ask

was it worth it? He only

lived a year and one half

after his transplant. Well,

when you don't know

if your next breath will

be your last, 18 more

months is a blessing.

It gave Danny time

to reconcile wounded

relationships, love and

look eternity squarely in

its face.

Some woman, whose

name we will never

know, gave him a year

and a half that he never

would have had.

My brother was not

a man prone to much

introspection. He was

a farmer. Most things

were black and white:

crop yields, commodity

prices, hog weights.

Idle intellectual

reflection was not

something for which he was known. But when it came to the unknown woman who gave a part of herself to him, he became quiet and contemplative.

"I wonder what she was like. Did she have kids?" he said shortly before he died.

I wonder if her family misses her as much as I miss him.

We do know this much about the woman: She cared enough to give.

Scott Reeder, a staff writer for Illinois Times, can be reached at: sreeder@illinoistimes.com.



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Revenue

from page 1

initial expected levels, a \$1.2 billion increase in corporate income tax, and a \$926 million increase in sales tax revenue.

The revenues for January alone were \$1.2 billion greater than the prior year, according to COGFA.

Upcoming budget year

Harris and other fiscal prognosticators projected that Fiscal Year 2023, which begins July 1, will continue to see a solid revenue performance, but it will also begin a period of leveling, where the last two years of fiscal breathing room trend back to normal.

COGFA's FY 23 revenue estimate is \$671 million lower than its updated FY 22 estimate, not including federal funding. Federal American Rescue Plan Act funding accounts for \$1.5 billion of the FY 22 budget but no such expenditures are anticipated for FY 23 in terms of GRF replacement funding.

But representatives of IDOR, COGFA and the Governor's Office of Management and Budget noted the picture for the upcoming fiscal year could change quickly as tensions continue amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which was escalating quickly at the time of the Thursday morning hearing.

"Will Russia's invasion of Ukraine be a black swan event that causes disruptions that ripple across revenue streams? We do not know," IDOR director Harris said. "But again, the trends so far are positive. And the forecasts presented today for FY 23 are positive ones."

Republican lawmakers also inquired about inflation, and the budgeteers said projections generally anticipated "several months" of continued upward inflation before the trend reverses, and their current projections anticipate the inflation rate to be 7.9 percent.

Sustained Russian sanctions could impact anything from energy prices to the cost of wheat, so projections will be updated as needed, according to IDOR.

As the projections stand now, according to House Majority Leader Greg Harris, who is a chief budgeteer in the chamber, the governor and the General Assembly will have the

flexibility to pay down old debt and prepare the state for future fiscal downturns.

Rep. Harris, who is not related to the IDOR director, said the preferred course is to use the major windfalls for one-time expenditures.

Included in the governor's plan is an infusion of \$600 million to the "rainy day" fund from the surplus in the current fiscal year, as well as \$279 million from the upcoming fiscal year. That fund had been spent down to almost nothing during the budget impasse of 2015 to 2017.

The governor also proposed dedicating \$898 million to pay down overdue health insurance bills. His proposal also includes spending \$300 million of the surplus to pay down pension debt, with \$200 million added to the statutory payment in the upcoming budget.

ARPA funding

The House committee, and Harris at the news conference, also discussed the state's plan for the remaining American Rescue Plan Act funding. Illinois directly received \$8.1 billion from President Joe Biden's stimulus plan, and about \$3.5 billion remains, Rep. Harris said.

He added that a working group made up of both parties as well as business and labor interests is currently discussing the plan for retiring \$4.5 billion in debt to the federal government that the state incurred to keep its unemployment system running at the height of the pandemic. That borrowing has accrued \$36 million of interest due by Sept. 30, according to the U.S. Treasury.

Republicans at the Thursday hearing suggested the governor reappropriate his planned \$1.5 billion in ARPA spending for FY 22, using it to pay down trust fund debt instead of replenishing state coffers for COVID-19-related spending.

Rep. Harris said the working group is coming up with a "menu of options" for paying down the backlog which could include ARPA funds. Generally, such a solution includes some combination of decreases to benefits, increases to employer premiums or some infusion of state, federal or private funding.

While Pritzker's proposed FY 23 budget is largely not reliant on ARPA funds, one major proposed expenditure – \$250 million for violence intervention funding – would be funded primarily by a \$235 lump sum from ARPA.

Rep. Harris said the intervention funding is often "short-term," but the state will monitor the violence prevention program's efficacy over the

next few years as ARPA funding remains available and consider future expenditures in future budget years.

The governor's plan to pay down debt with the one-time surplus this year could free up funds in the future, he said.

"Tens and tens of millions or hundreds of millions of dollars have been going out to repay debt that could otherwise be going to fund programs like that in future years," he said of recently enacted budgets. "So being fiscally responsible now, it's going to pay us a lot of dividends in the coming years."

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Lawmakers Unveil Bills Aimed at Addressing Teacher Shortage

GOP Unveils Measures Focusing on K-12 Education Transparency

Grace Kinnicutt Capitol News Illinois

Illinois Senate Democrats outlined legislation during a Thursday news conference that aims to address the ongoing teacher shortage throughout the state.

The bills would extend the number of days retired and substitute teachers would be able to teach in a school year, waive substitute teaching licensing fees, and lower the minimum age for a person who can become a paraprofessional.

While the package of legislation is a short-term fix, Senate Democrats said, it is intended to help provide immediate relief to the teaching shortage.

Courtney Goss, who works as a social and emotional support professional at Washington Middle School in Springfield, said it's difficult to do her job because she often gets called to sub when teachers are absent and not enough substitutes are available.

As a support specialist, Goss said she works with students and teachers who have social and emotional concerns. But, she said, she is unable to provide that needed support when she fills in as a substitute. Something must be done, she said, because her students don't receive the help they need when she cannot provide it.

"I can't just tell people how to take care of
Continued on Page 5



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Teachers

from page 4

themselves, how to prioritize things in their life, if I'm not doing the same," Goss said.

Illinois State Board of Education data show there are 4,120 teaching and support vacancies across 852 school districts, including 1,703 full-time teaching vacancies, as of October.

Overall, 88 percent of the districts responding to a recent survey by the Illinois Association of School Administrators said they had a shortage of full-time teachers, while 96 percent said they had a shortage of substitute teachers.

Senate Bill 3907 allows short-term substitute teachers to teach for 15 consecutive days instead of five. Sen. Doris Turner, D-Springfield, said that it will provide schools an extra two weeks to find a long-term solution to their staffing issues.

During floor debate, Turner said the bill is in response to staffing shortages caused by the pandemic and it will be phased out in June 2023. The bill passed the Senate unanimously this week and will await a vote in the House.

Sen. Patrick Joyce, D-Essex, introduced Senate Bill 3893 that will extend the number of days substitute teachers can teach from 90 to 120 days for the next two years. That bill passed the Senate as well and is awaiting action in the House.

Sen. Napoleon Harris, D-Harvey, introduced SB 3201 that would allow retired teachers to return to the classroom for 140 paid days through the 2023 school year without affecting their retirement benefits. Currently, retired teachers are only allowed up to 120 days in the classroom. Only 100 of those days could come in a single classroom under the new bill.

Harris said the best way to tackle the shortage is by retaining veteran teachers and encouraging young leaders to join the profession. His bill awaits Senate action.

"This is a massive burden on our educational system and allowing retired teachers to return to school for a long period of time will help ease that burden," Harris said.

According to ISBE, there are 1,242 vacancies for paraprofessionals statewide. Sen. Cristina Pacione-Zayas, D-Chicago, introduced Senate Bill 3988 that lowers the age from 19 to 18 for individuals seeking to receive a paraprofessional license. It passed the Senate unanimously and awaits House action.

Sen. Robert Martwick, D-Chicago, said Senate Bill 3465 is similar to a bill that was created for downstate teachers and allows Chicago Public Schools the option of hiring retired teachers without affecting their retirement annuity. It passed the Senate unanimously and awaits House action.

Democrats also proposed to waive the application fee for short-term substitute teaching licenses during a governor-declared public health emergency.

The Senate Democrats called their news conference a few hours after Senate Republicans unveiled a legislative package that they say promotes transparency and provides parents a voice in their child's education.

In Senate Bill 4179, Republicans aim to require school districts to post school curriculum on the district website at least twice per year.

Sen. Neil Anderson, R-Andalusia, said he believes parents have a right to know what materials are being taught in schools in order to better understand what their child is learning.

"I have school-aged kids," Anderson said. "I want to be able to adopt the same teaching method that instructor is using to help that student."

Sen. Terri Bryant, R-Murphysboro, introduced Senate Bill 4180 that creates five new seats on the Illinois State Board of Education. One board member per judicial district would be elected by voters.

Bryant said parents have a say in electing local school board officials, but she feels they also deserve a say on the state board level, because of the power the body has over education standards.

Republicans also proposed strengthening and improving the state's "Invest in Kids" program that

provides scholarships to help low-income students. Scholarships are funded by private donations, the donors of which are eligible for tax credits.

Under Senate Bill 4181, Sen. Jil Tracy, R-Quincy, said the program would become permanent and provide educational stability for students.

The Republican bills had not moved in the Senate as of Friday afternoon, a legislative deadline for bills to move to final passage in the chamber.

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's Gas Tax Relief Plan Faces Opposition

Engineering group warns of long-term impact on infrastructure

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

Gov. JB Pritzker's plan for pausing a scheduled automatic increase in the state's motor fuel tax is facing opposition from several quarters, including engineering companies that design road and bridge projects.

On Thursday, officials from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois said pausing the scheduled increase could have long-term consequences that could endanger funding for future transportation projects.

"We're open to working with all parties to find options for relief," ACEC Illinois president Kevin Artl said during a news conference. "But I think the history here in Illinois is that when you skip payments, it only makes things worse. And in this instance, skipping this adjustment will lead to a half a billion dollars in lost funds for infrastructure projects over five years."

The automatic, inflation-adjusted increase in the tax was part of the funding package for the \$45 billion "Rebuild Illinois" capital improvements plan that lawmakers approved in 2019. Proceeds of the tax are used for transportation projects such as road and bridge repairs.

Administration officials have estimated this year's increase would be a little more than 2 cents

per gallon. But in his budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal year, Pritzker called for a one-year pause in that increase, which would save consumers about \$135 million over the year.

That was part of a nearly \$1 billion package of tax relief measures that Pritzker

offered to help soften some of the impact of inflation on Illinois consumers. Administration officials have said the one-year pause in the tax increase would not affect funding of any future projects or the state's ability to repay bonds that are backed by motor fuel tax revenues.

But P.J. Fitzpatrick, with the firm HR Green Inc., said the inflationary increases in the motor fuel tax were an important element of the Rebuild Illinois program because without it, revenue from the tax could not keep up with the rising cost of construction projects

"HR Green works on quite a few IDOT-related projects, in addition to some local agency projects. And some of the projects we've worked on have experienced some delays in funding over the years," he said. "This delay in funding has created what we'll call a backlog of projects, and that backlog prior to the Rebuild Illinois program was created because as inflation increased, the funding stayed flat and the ability to fund those projects didn't exist."

Other groups that benefit from state transportation funding have come out against the proposed tax freeze as well, including road construction companies and the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150, which represents road construction workers.

State lawmakers are still working on a budget package for the upcoming fiscal year, and they have not yet acted on Pritzker's proposed one-year pause on the gas tax hike.

"There've been different groups who've had differing opinions pro and con on that," House Majority Leader Greg Harris, D-Chicago, said during a separate news conference Thursday. "So that'll be one of the topics both the House and the Senate are going to discuss. Do you keep it as the governor introduced in his budget? Do you do a modification? Or is there a better alternative somewhere?"

Continued on Page 7

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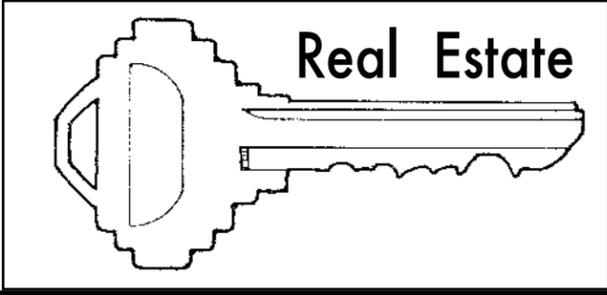
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Tiffany Spates and Unknown Owners, and Non Record Claimants, file your Appearance and Answer to the Complaint in said action in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Boone County, Chancery Division, on or before March 28, 2022, default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a judgment entered in accordance with the prayer for relief in said Complaint.
 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
 Kluever Law Group, LLC
 225 West Washington Street Suite 1550
 Chicago, IL 60606
 (312) 236-0077
 courtresults@klueverlawgroup.com
 Atty. No. 6275308
 6088-921202
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 24, Mar 3, 10-SW

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
 BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR SECURITIZED ASSET BACKED RECEIVABLES LLC TRUST 2006-WM4 Plaintiff,
 -v-
 20 CH 58
 GREGORY ARMSTRONG A/K/A GREGORY A. ARMSTRONG, CITIBANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR CMLTI ASSET TRUST 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 17, 2021, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on March 18, 2022, 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 1406 16TH AVENUE, BELVIDERE, IL 61008
 Property Index No. 05-35-303-016
 The real estate is improved with a single family residence.
 The judgment amount was \$133,078.72.

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/or 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, The sales clerk, LOGS Legal Group LLP Plaintiff's Attorneys, 2121 WAUKEGAN RD., SUITE 301, Bannockburn, IL, 60015 (847) 291-1717 For information call between the hours of 1pm - 3pm. Please refer to file number 20-093986.

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.

LOGS Legal Group LLP
 2121 WAUKEGAN RD., SUITE 301
 Bannockburn IL, 60015
 847-291-1717

E-Mail: ILNotices@logs.com
 Attorney File No. 20-093986
 Case Number: 20 CH 58
 TJSC#: 42-33

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.
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 17, 24, Mar 3-SW

LEGAL NOTICES

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

DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR J.P. MORGAN MORTGAGE ACQUISITION TRUST 2007-CHI, ASSET BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-CHI, PLAINTIFF

VS. Case No: 2022FC6
 LEONARD R SPATES A/K/A LEONARD SPATES, TIFFANY SPATES, CANDLEWICK LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC., UNKNOWN OWNERS GENERALLY, AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS.

DEFENDANTS

Property Address:
 243 Briar Cliff St SW
 Poplar Grove, IL 61065

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to: Leonard R Spates, Tiffany Spates and Unknown Owners, and Non Record Claimants, Defendants in the above-entitled action, that a Complaint for Foreclosure and Other Relief has been commenced in the Circuit Court of Boone County, by said Plaintiff against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of certain mortgages conveying the premises legally described as follows:

LOT TWENTY-NINE (29) IN CANDLEWICK LAKE UNIT NO. 8 ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NO. 72-3073 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

P.L.N.: 03-27-153-035
 COMMON ADDRESS: 243 Briar Cliff St SW, Poplar Grove, IL 61065

And which mortgages were made by Leonard R Spates a/k/a Leonard Spates, as Mortgagor(s); and given to Chase Bank USA, N.A. as Mortgagee; to wit: that certain "Mortgage" dated (a) 04/26/2005, and recorded as Document No.05R04684, that Summons was duly issued out of said court against you as provided by law, and that the said Complaint is now pending for foreclosure of said mortgages and for other relief.

Now, therefore, unless you Leonard R Spates a/k/a Leonard, Spates

NOTICE

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that on the 16th day of March, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., the PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION for the Village of Cherry Valley, Illinois, shall convene at the Village Hall, 806 East State Street, Cherry Valley, Illinois, to address the following request:

1.A request upon annexation for zoning of IL - Light Industrial District under Section 82-281 to allow for a warehousing and distribution center for the property commonly known as PINs: 07-06-151-004 and 07-06-151-001 (Mango Creek). The exact location can be viewed on a Site Plan on file at the Village of Cherry Valley, 806 E. State Street, Cherry Valley, Illinois.

2.A request upon annexation for zoning of IL - Light Industrial District under Section 82-281 to allow for a warehousing and distribution center for the property commonly known as PINs: 07-06-176-001; 07-06-176-002; and 07-06-151-005 (Zepelak). The exact location can be viewed on a Site Plan on file at the Village of Cherry Valley, 806 E. State Street, Cherry Valley, Illinois.

Any interested party may attend said meeting and be heard.
 Published in the Boone County Journal Feb 24, 2022

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, March 22, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Board Room, 1212 Logan Ave, Belvidere, IL 61008 upon the following petitions:

The applicant, Cyndy Wagner, 16550 II RT 76 Poplar Grove, IL 61065, seeking a special use permit in the A-1, Agricultural Preservation District for accessory relative living quarter pursuant to section 2.7 (Special Use) and Section 3.16.1 (Table of Permitted Uses) of Boone County Zoning Ordinance, at 16550 IL RT 76, in unincorporated Poplar Grove Township. PIN: 03-11-100-008.

The applicant, Gustavo Nevarez Jr. 942 Courtney Drive Carpentersville, IL 60110, seeking a special use permit to allow indoor and outdoor events as an accessory use at 10813 Spring Rd. Garden Prairie, IL 61038 pursuant to section 2.7 (special use) and 3.16.1 (table of permitted uses) of Boone County Zoning Ordinance. Unincorporated Spring Township, PIN: 08-02-200-012

The applicant, Boone County, 1212 Logan Ave, is seeking a text amendment pursuant to section 2.10 of the Boone County Zoning Ordinance to amend section 3.3.3 to change the conditions to rezone to A-2, Agricultural Preservation District.

The applicant, Boone County and Boone County Fairgrounds, 1212 Logan Ave, is seeking a text amendment pursuant to section 2.10 of the Boone County Zoning Ordinance to amend section 3.16.1 to allow electronic messaging signs in A-1, Agricultural Preservation District.

The applicant, BC Fairgrounds 8791 IL RT 76 Belvidere, IL 61008, seeking a special use permit in the A-1, Agricultural Preservation District for an electronic messaging sign pursuant to section 2.7 (Special Use) and Section 3.16.1 (Table of Permitted Uses) of Boone County Zoning Ordinance, at 8791 IL RT 76 Belvidere, IL 61008 Unincorporated Belvidere Township. PIN: 05-23-100-004

The applicant, Howard Misener, 1246 Pingar Rd. Garden Prairie, IL 61038, seeking a special use permit in the A-1, Agricultural Preservation District for accessory relative living quarter pursuant to section 2.7 (Special Use) and Section 3.16.1 (Table of Permitted Uses) of Boone County Zoning Ordinance, at 1246 Pinegar Rd. in unincorporated Spring Township. PIN: 08-25-300-004.

Brad Fiddler, Chair, Boone County Zoning Board of Appeals
 Published in the Boone County Journal on March 3, 2022

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

IN RE THE MATTER OF: A.P. (DOB 9/9/2017), Minor.
 CASE NO. 2021-P-70

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

Notice is hereby given to Respondent father, MATTHEW CROOP, that Petitioner, SUSAN CROOP, has caused to be filed a Petition for Guardianship of a Minor Child and other relief in the above-captioned cause of action. You are further notified that if you fail to file an answer or an appearance by March 31, 2022 at the Boone County Courthouse located at 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 a judgment by default may be entered against you at any time thereafter for the relief requested in the Petition for Guardianship of a Minor Child.

By: /s/Susan Croop

Prepared by:
 Thomas C. Laye - ARDC #6320977
 HAMPILOS & ASSOCIATES, LTD.
 308 West State Street, 210
 Rockford, IL 61101
 Telephone: 815/962-0044
 Fax: 815-962-6250
 thomas@hampiloslaw.com
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* March 3, 10, 17

NOTICE

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that on the 16th day of March, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., the PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION for the Village of Cherry Valley, Illinois, shall convene at the Village Hall, 806 East State Street, Cherry Valley, Illinois, to address the following request:

1.A request upon annexation for zoning of IL - Light Industrial District under Section 82-281 to allow for a warehousing and distribution center for the property commonly known as PINs: 07-06-151-004 and 07-06-151-001 (Mango Creek). The exact location can be viewed on a Site Plan on file at the Village of Cherry Valley, 806 E. State Street, Cherry Valley, Illinois.

2. A request upon annexation for zoning of IL - Light Industrial District under Section 82-281 to allow for a warehousing and distribution center for the property commonly known as PINs: 07-06-176-001; 07-06-176-002; and 07-06-151-005 (Zepelak). The exact location can be viewed on a Site Plan on file at the Village of Cherry Valley, 806 E. State Street, Cherry Valley, Illinois.

Any interested party may attend said meeting and be heard.
 Published in the Boone County Journal Feb 24, 2022

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
 BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
 In The Interest of: Caiden Hendrix, minor No. 19-JA-19
 CLARISSA HEUBERGER/ To whom it may concern/All unknown natural Fathers

ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Take notice that on September 19, 2019, a petition was filed under the JUVENILE COURT ACT by Atty, Tricia Smith, State's Attorney, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, in the Circuit Court of Boone County entitled "In the Interest of Clarissa Heuberger, minor; and that in the County Courthouse in Belvidere, Illinois, at 1:30 P.M. central daylight time on 3/17/2022; or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a termination of parental rights will be held upon the petition to have the child declared to be a ward of the Court under that Act. THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THE PROCEEDING TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS, AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH THE POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHT TO THE CHILD. Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amend petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.

Dated: February 8, 2022
 Pamela Coduto, CIRCUIT CLERK
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb. 17, 24, March 3 - C

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
 BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR SECURITIZED ASSET BACKED RECEIVABLES LLC TRUST 2006-WM4 Plaintiff,
 -v-
 20 CH 58

GREGORY ARMSTRONG A/K/A GREGORY A. ARMSTRONG, CITIBANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR CMLTI ASSET TRUST 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 17, 2021, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on March 18, 2022, 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:

LOT TWENTY-SEVEN (27) AS DESIGNATED UPON PLAT NO. 2 OF SHEFFIELD HILLS, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (1/4) OF SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, THE PLAT OF WHICH WAS RECORDED JUNE 21, 1993 AS DOCUMENT NO. 93-5227 AND FILED IN PLAT INDEX FILE 128A IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 1406 16TH AVENUE, BELVIDERE, IL 61008
 Property Index No. 05-35-303-016
 The real estate is improved with a single family residence.
 The judgment amount was \$133,078.72.

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/or 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, The sales clerk, LOGS Legal Group LLP Plaintiff's Attorneys, 2121 WAUKEGAN RD., SUITE 301, Bannockburn, IL, 60015 (847) 291-1717 For information call between the hours of 1pm - 3pm. Please refer to file number 20-093986.

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.

LOGS Legal Group LLP
 2121 WAUKEGAN RD., SUITE 301
 Bannockburn IL, 60015
 847-291-1717

E-Mail: ILNotices@logs.com
 Attorney File No. 20-093986
 Case Number: 20 CH 58
 TJSC#: 42-33

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.
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 17, 24, Mar 3-sw

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
 Probate Division

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF (DECEDENT):

Name: Promise K. Slater
 Address: 127 W. 2nd St.
 City, State, Zip: Belvidere, IL 61008
 Date and Place of Death: 06/19/2021
 Case No. 2022 PR 9

PUBLICATION NOTICE INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION TO: CREDITORS, CLAIMANTS, AND SHAWN SLATER,

1. Notice is hereby given of the death of Promise K. Slater who died on 06/19/2021, a resident of Boone County, Illinois.
 2. The Representative for the estate is: Amanda Slater, 1426 Douglas Court #381 Belvidere, IL 61008
 The Attorney for the estate is: Faviola Ramirez, 2275 Church Rd., Aurora, IL 60502
 3. Claims against the estate may be filed on or before AUGUST 17, 2022. Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court, 601 N. Main St., 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 10 days after it has been filed.
 4. On 02/10/2022 an Order Appointing the Representative was entered.
 5. The estate will be administrated without Court supervision unless an interested party terminates independent administration by filing a petition to terminate under Article XXVIII 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4).
 Law Hesselbaum LLP
 Law Elder Law, a division of Law Hesselbaum
 Office of the Kane County Public Guardian & Administrator
 Office of the Kendall County Public Guardian & Administrator
 2275 Church Road, Aurora, IL 60502
 Phone: 630-585-5200
 Fax: 630-566-0811
 6088-921043
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 17, 24, Mar 3

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
 Probate Division
 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF (DECEDENT):
 Name: Stanley R. Follis II
 Address: 127 W. 2nd St.
 City, State, Zip: Belvidere, IL 61008
 Date and Place of Death: 06/18/2021
 Case No. 2022 PR 8
 PUBLICATION NOTICE INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION TO: CREDITORS, CLAIMANTS, AND DAWN BREWER
 1. Notice is hereby given of the death of Stanley R. Follis II who died on 06/18/2021, a resident of Boone County, Illinois.
 2. The Representative for the estate is: Tina Follis, 1324 Pearl St., Belvidere, IL 61008
 The Attorney for the estate is: Faviola Ramirez, 2275 Church Rd., Aurora, IL 60502
 3. Claims against the estate may be filed on or before AUGUST 17, 2022. Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court, 601 N. Main St., 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 10 days after it has been filed.
 4. On 02/10/2022 an Order Appointing the Representative was entered.
 5. The estate will be administrated without Court supervision unless an interested party terminates independent administration by filing a petition to terminate under Article XXVIII 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4).
 Law Hesselbaum LLP
 Law Elder Law, a division of Law Hesselbaum
 Office of the Kane County Public Guardian & Administrator
 Office of the Kendall County Public Guardian & Administrator
 2275 Church Road, Aurora, IL 60502
 Phone: 630-585-5200
 Fax: 630-566-0811
 6088-921042
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 17, 24, Mar 3

Public Notice
 Garden Prairie Organics, located at 11887 US Route 20, Garden Prairie, Illinois in Boone County is submitting an application to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for a permit renewal to continue to operate an existing landscape waste compost facility. The facility will continue to accept landscape waste, such as leaves, grass clippings, and brush. Questions regarding the application can be directed to the Manager of Garden Prairie Organics, Michael DiMucci, at 815-597-1318. Written comments may be mailed to the IEPA at the address provided below. The deadline for submission of comments to the IEPA is March 24, 2022.
 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
 Permit Section, Division of Land Pollution Control
 1021 North Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19276
 Springfield, IL 62794-9276
 217-524-3300
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 17, 24, March 3

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
 NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
 In The Interest of: JULIUS SANCHEZ, minor
 No. 22-JA-2
 DIEGO SACHEZ/ To whom it may concern
 ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
 Take notice that on JANUARY 7, 2022, a petition was filed under the JUVENILE COURT ACT by Atty, Tricia Smith, State's Attorney, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, in the Circuit Court of Boone County entitled "In the Interest of Julius Sanchez, minor; and that in the County Courthouse in Belvidere, Illinois, at 3:00 P.M. central daylight time on 3/24/2022; or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a termination of parental rights will be held upon the petition to have the child declared to be a ward of the Court under that Act. THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THE PROCEEDING TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS, AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH THE POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHT TO THE CHILD. Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amend petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.
 Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.
 Dated: February 16, 2022
 Pamela Coduto, CIRCUIT CLERK
 Published in *The Boone County Journal*; Feb. 24, March 3, 10 - C

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
 NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
 In The Interest of: GRACELYNN WILLER, DAVID WILLER, LANDON WHITE, minors
 No. 20-JA-9, 10, 11
 SYDNEY STAVEL/ To whom it may concern
 ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
 Take notice that on February 27, 2020, a petition was filed under the JUVENILE COURT ACT by Atty, Tricia Smith, State's Attorney, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, in the Circuit Court of Boone County entitled "In the Interest of Gracelynn Willer, David Willer, Landon White, minors; and that in the County Courthouse in Belvidere, Illinois, at 1:30 P.M. central daylight time on 3/17/2022 & 4/7/22; or as soon thereafter

as this cause may be heard, a termination of parental rights will be held upon the petition to have the child declared to be a ward of the Court under that Act. THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THE PROCEEDING TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS, AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH THE POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHT TO THE CHILD. Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amend petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.
 Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.
 Dated: February 15, 2022
 Pamela Coduto, CIRCUIT CLERK
 Published in *The Boone County Journal*; February 24, March 3, 10 - C

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
 NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
 In The Interest of: Celenia Garcia, minor
 No. 22-JA-1
 To whom it may concern
 ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
 Take notice that on January 7, 2022, a petition was filed under the JUVENILE COURT ACT by Atty, Tricia Smith, State's Attorney, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, in the Circuit Court of Boone County entitled "In the Interest of Celenia Garcia, minor; and that in the County Courthouse in Belvidere, Illinois, at 3:00 P.M. central daylight time on 3/24/2022; or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an pre-trial hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared to be a ward of the Court under that Act. THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THE PROCEEDING TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS, AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH THE POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHT TO THE CHILD. Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amend petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.
 Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.
 Dated: February 16, 2022
 Pamela Coduto, CIRCUIT CLERK
 Published in *The Boone County Journal*; February 24, March 3, 10 - C

ASSUMED NAMES

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION
 STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE
 This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a lawn care business in said County and State under the name of DOANE'S TURF CARE at the following post office address: 2523 Gustafson Road, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Kyle Doane, 2523 Gustafson Road, Belvidere, IL 61008; phone # (815) 543-1929.
 Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 11th day of February, A.D. 2022
 Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk
 Published in Boone County Journal 2/17/22, 2/24/22, 3/3/22

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION
 STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE
 This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a bridal and formal wear alterations business in said County and State under the name of RYNN BRIDAL at the following post office address: 320 Church Street, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Christine Seaver, 320 Church Street, Belvidere, IL 61008; phone # (414) 828-8531.
 Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 14th day of February, A.D. 2022
 Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk
 Published in Boone County Journal 2/17/22, 2/24/22, 3/3/22

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION
 STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE
 This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a home inspections business in said County and State under the name of AP HOME INSPECTIONS at the following post office address: 532 Prairie Point Drive, Poplar Grove, IL 61065 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Aaron Powers, 532 Prairie Point Drive, Poplar Grove, IL 61065; phone # (815) 558-7300.
 Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 1st day of March, A.D. 2022
 Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk
 Published in Boone County Journal 3/3, 3/10, 3/17/22

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION
 STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE
 This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a beauty salon business in said County and State under the name of THE INDIGO ROOM at the following post office address: 110 Lovesee Road, Roscoe, IL 61073 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Michele Hansel, 110 Lovesee Road, Roscoe, IL 61073; phone # (815) 543-6050.
 Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 23rd day of February, A.D. 2022
 Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk
 Published in Boone County Journal 2/24/22, 3/3/22, 3/10, 20/22

CHANGE IN CERTIFICATE OF OWNERSHIP
 Public Notice is hereby given that on March 1, A.D. 2022, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois, concerning the business known as POWERS HOME INSPECTION, located at 532 PRAIRIE POINT DRIVE, POPLAR GROVE, IL 61065, which certificate sets forth the following changes in the operation thereof:
 DISSOLUTION OF BUSINESS
 Dated this 1st day of March, A.D. 2022
 Julie A. Bliss
 Boone County Clerk
 Published in the Boone County Journal 3/3, 3/10, 3/17/22

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 Cleaning Service business in said County and State under the name of State Line Cleaning Service at the following post office addresses: 1126 W. 9th 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: Miguel A. Moctezuma, 1126 W. 9TH ST., Belvidere, IL, 61008. Signed: Miguel A. Moctezuma, 03/01/22
 Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me this 1st. day of March, 2022,
 Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk,
 Published in the Boone County Journal 03/03,10,17

Gas Tax Continued page 5

Artl noted one option that's been floated in the General Assembly is to replace some the revenue that would have come from an increase in the gasoline tax with a portion of the revenue from the state sales tax on motor fuel purchases.
 State law already provides for an incremental shift of the sales tax charged on motor fuel from general revenues to the road fund. For the upcoming budget year, road fund's share of motor fuel sales tax will increase from 16 percent to 32 percent, making for a \$109 million increase to the road fund.
 Artl said the engineering profession would prefer to leave the motor fuel tax program in place.
 "At the end of the day, we wanted the adjustment for inflation in the package in Rebuild Illinois because we learned the lessons of the past," he said. "And when you don't have that automatic index to reflect the current state and cost of living, you automatically fall behind."
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.

New Legislative Watchdog Moves into Empty Office

McCuskey inherited no staff from outgoing inspector general
By Beth Hundsdorfer Capitol News Illinois

When Michael McCuskey walked into his new office at the Stratton Building that overlooks the Illinois State Capitol which he is charged with investigating, he had two complaints in his inbox, some empty desks and no staff.
 "I've got nothing. No staff. No investigator. No nothing," McCuskey said Wednesday in an interview with Capitol News Illinois.
 The new legislative inspector general is primarily tasked with investigating complaints, violations, abuse of authority or other forms of misconduct by members of the General Assembly and the employees who work for them.
 He'll have a budget of \$920,000 to fill out a staff that currently has a head count of zero. Those working for former LIG Carol Pope vacated the office when she did earlier this year.
 McCuskey was appointed by lawmakers last week to serve the balance of Pope's unfulfilled term. That ends on June 30, 2023 – McCuskey's 74th birthday.
 Pope called the office a "paper tiger."
 McCuskey said he needs the essentials, like someone to answer the phone, before he can surmise how to improve the technical workings of the office.
 "I keep telling the press come back next year just before it becomes retention time or retirement time and ask me," McCuskey said. "How would I know how the job is going to function when I don't

Watchdog*Continued from page 7*

even have staff? I don't have an investigator. I am starting from ground zero. Absolutely."

Before she vacated the office, Pope blasted lawmakers, saying they demonstrated "true ethics reform is not a priority." She resigned in July and said her last day would be Dec. 16, but she delayed her departure into early January to allow more time for her position to be filled.

"Basically, nobody's been here since end of December," McCuskey said.

McCuskey doesn't blame Pope, he said. If lawmakers would have filled the vacancy more quickly, Pope's staff might have chosen to stay on board, he added.

McCuskey said he's spoken with Pope and former inspector general Tom Homer and sought their advice.

When he faces lawmakers to make his budget request in the coming days, he said, he'll state his intent to hire an investigator and seek to determine whether the office is up to date on its bills.

McCuskey has his own hiring authority, so filling in staff should go faster than typical state employment hiring.

One of the first positions on his list of new hires will be a secretary, he said.

Because McCuskey doesn't type.

If anyone asks about the status of the two complaints pending in McCuskey's office, he said, he may have to respond in a written longhand letter.

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Pollution*Continued from page 2*

Cover crops cost about \$30 to \$50 an acre to plant. Some require special equipment to plant and require planning and testing to be successful.

A state program, called "Fall Cover Crops for Spring Savings," offers a \$5-per-acre discount on crop insurance, but demand for the program is far outpacing the availability even as its funding was doubled this year.

But besides the costs, it will take a major cultural shift for more farmers to adopt cover planting, said Cliff Schuette, district sales manager in southern Illinois for Stine Seed Company.

Some farmers fear that the soil alone won't provide enough nutrients to sustain cash crops like corn and soybeans, Schuette said. It can also be daunting to embrace new strategies when it seems like the old ones are working.

In reality, he said, increased fertilizer use can facilitate soil loss. Most farmers lose anywhere from two to five tons of soil per acre each year, which is about the thickness of a dime.

According to Schuette, this change might not be noticeable at first but can have lasting impacts on soil quality over time.

Schuette works one-on-one with his customers to help them select the best cover crops.

"Basically, what I'm trying to do is mimic the prairie before we got here," he said.

But fertilizer use is still necessary for many farmers, said Jeff Kirwan, who farms about 2,500 acres south of the Quad City area.

Planting cover crops can also help fertilizers work more efficiently.

"I look at it as kind of a symbiotic relationship," Kirwan said. "The cover crops provide us cover on the ground all the time. We're sequestering nutrients. We're holding nutrients so that when we do apply things, they don't immediately leave the farm."

Other farmers like Kirwan are looking to maximize the effects of fertilizer application while still preventing nutrient loss and fertilizer runoff.

Josh Sullivan, a farmer from Morrisonville,

said 2021 was the first year he used a banding approach to fertilizer application instead of the more common broadcast method.

Banding fertilizer is a more time-consuming method of spreading fertilizer all around the crops, so it's actually in the soil as opposed to just on top of it. Broadcasting, the other more widespread method of distributing fertilizer, can lead to soil erosion and runoff, he said.

In addition to preventing soil loss, there can be multiple other benefits for farmers planting more cover crops. Less fertilizer use means less pollution in the environment, and it also means money saved for farmers using costly fertilizers.

Some farmers still might not see enough incentive to rethink their planting strategies.

Inclement weather—like this year's rains, which caused many farmers to push back their harvests—can make it difficult for farmers to successfully grow cover crops, Kirwan said.

Another obstacle farmers face is the amount of planning cover planting requires. Schuette recommends planning over a year in advance based on what cash crops will be planted in the future.

Increasing government-funded incentives tied to crop insurance, Schuette said, could help encourage more farmers to increase their cover crop acreage despite these challenges.

That's something that lawmakers are trying to accomplish this year through Senate Bill 3471, the latest measure aimed at increasing resources for nutrient reduction efforts and extending the state programs that make up the bulk of the nutrient reduction effort.

That includes increasing funding from \$14 million to more than \$25 million for conservation efforts by 2027.

"Though this isn't an issue that hits the front page, it is an important one and one that we should make sure we make a priority," Sen. Ram Villivalam, a Chicago Democrat who sponsors the measure, said of the program.

Still, for many, the biggest challenge to overcome is their own mindsets.

"This has to change, and change is hard," Schuette said. "But change is going to have to happen, otherwise, I feel that mandates will be coming down the road."

Catie Gregg, Agricultural Program Specialist for Prairie Rivers Network, agreed that participation in voluntary incentive programs, like the cover crop program, may not be enough to meet the goals in the NLRs.

"If we continue to not see improvements, or things are getting worse, as seen in the 2021 NLRs report, we will need to look at a broader range of strategies that may include both voluntary programs and requiring certain best management practices," Gregg said.

Capitol News Illinois reporter Beth Hundsdorfer contributed to this report.

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Pollution Bill*from page 2*

this bill lays out in a more efficient and workable format."

The Farm Bureau also voiced its opposition to mandates, stating that voluntary implementation will make the programs more palatable to farmers.

The bill is not designed to increase regulation and it does not create additional mandates. It is focused on making sure the state maximizes existing resources and successfully attracts additional investment from the federal government, Webster said.

"Mandates are not the answer to this problem. Farmers are our greatest stewards of the land and the focus needs to be on getting more resources in their hands to implement conservation practices," Webster said. "That's why this bill seeks to update our existing voluntary conservation programs so that they are more responsive to the needs of farmers and the goals of the nutrient loss reduction strategy while also addressing emerging challenges like climate change."

The bill states "the initiative shall promote voluntary and incentive-based conservation efforts. No part of this act shall be used to impose mandates or require practice adoption."

The original bill proposed an increase in funding for nutrient loss reduction policies over the next 10 years from \$10 million to more than \$25 million in 2027, extending through 2032, but that language was removed in the latest Senate amendment.

The original bill would also have expanded the eligible uses for the Partners for Conservation Fund, including funding the Fall Covers for Spring Savings Program. But that language was also stripped from the bill in Senate Amendment 1.

The funding mechanism of that program will now be spread out across IDOA, IDNR and IEPA in wider appropriation discussions, but the funding request for the cover crop program is the same as in the last bill.

"We look forward to working with Sen. Ram Villivalam (D-Chicago) and the other stakeholders of this legislation to work out all the technicalities of the legislation," Lurkins said.

Advocates for the bill said they are hopeful it will be able to move when the Senate returns next week, as the deadline for its passage was extended to March 11.

It passed the Senate Agriculture Committee on an 8-6 vote last month, with only Democratic support. Committee chair Patrick Joyce, D-Essex, was the lone Democrat to oppose the bill in committee, joining Republicans in voting against it.

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