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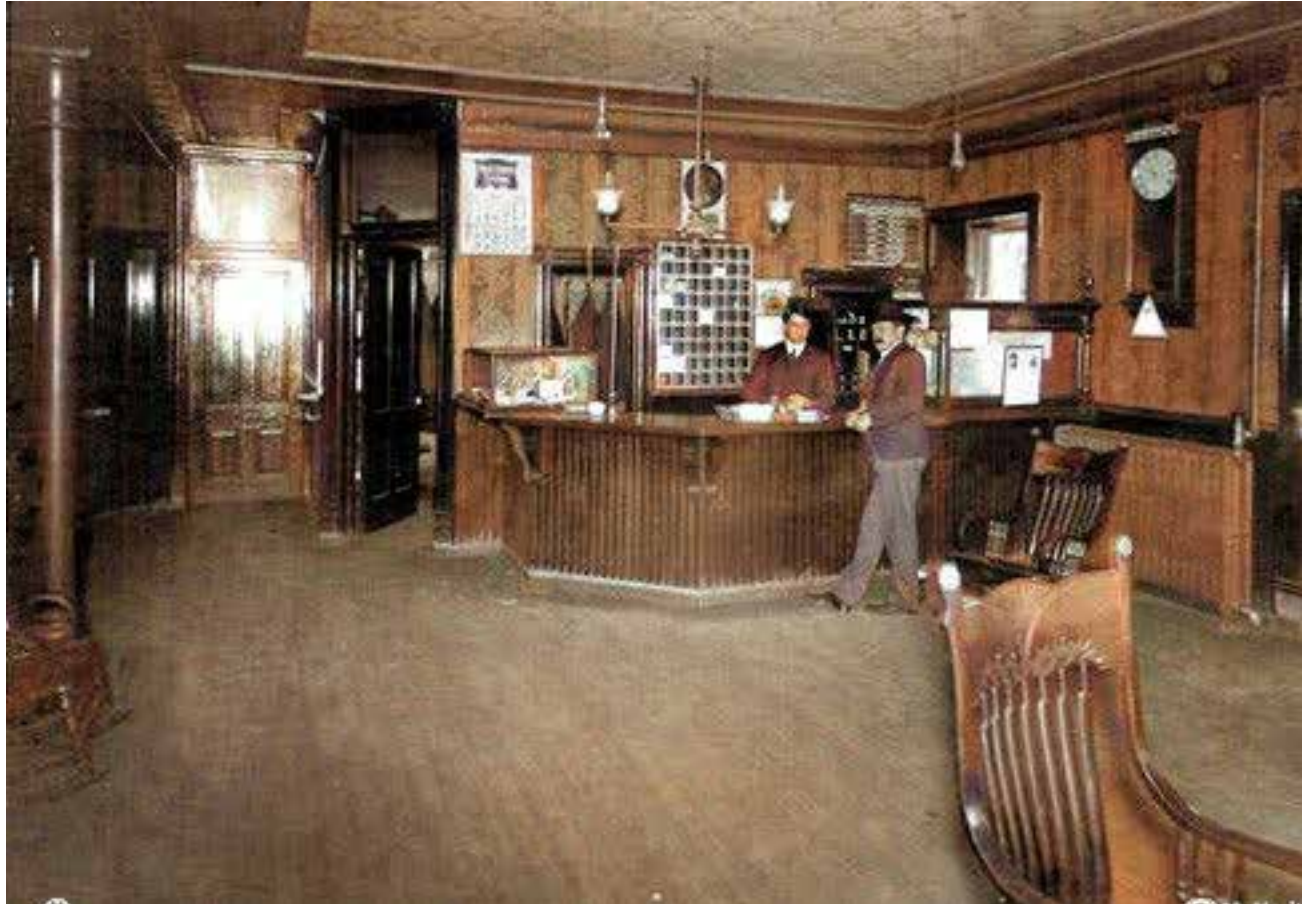
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## Boone County has First *COVID-19* Death

A Boone County resident in her 80s died Wednesday, April 8, 2020 in Rockford from complications of COVID-19. She is the first person from Boone County to die from the new virus. Presently, there are 7 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Boone County.

Until recently, Boone County seemed to have been spared the effects of the pandemic. It has been estimated that, nationally, we may be near the peak of the coronavirus outbreak, although this will vary by geography. Illinois Governor J. B. Pritzker, following California's lead, issued a Stay-at-Home Order on March 20, much earlier than many other states.

Several States have still not issued a stay-at-home order. Fearing that the lack of a national stay-at-home order may prolong the duration and severity of the pandemic, Governor Pritzker stated last week that "this will go down in history as a profound failure of our national government." With no-known cure or vaccine yet, staying at home is the only effective way to control the outbreak.



(above) *The interior of a Belvidere Hotel* (below) *the Hotel Belvidere* Boone County Museum

## The Hotel Lobby

by *David Larson*

A decade ago, the Belvidere City Council, stepped across a threshold to pursue economic growth in the boutique hotel industry. One dollar purchased the former Leath Furniture Warehouse, which is one of two remaining buildings of the National Sewing Machine Factory.

The hotel business was one of Belvidere's earliest commercial enterprises: A stagecoach stop on the way to Galena created a demand for overnight lodging.

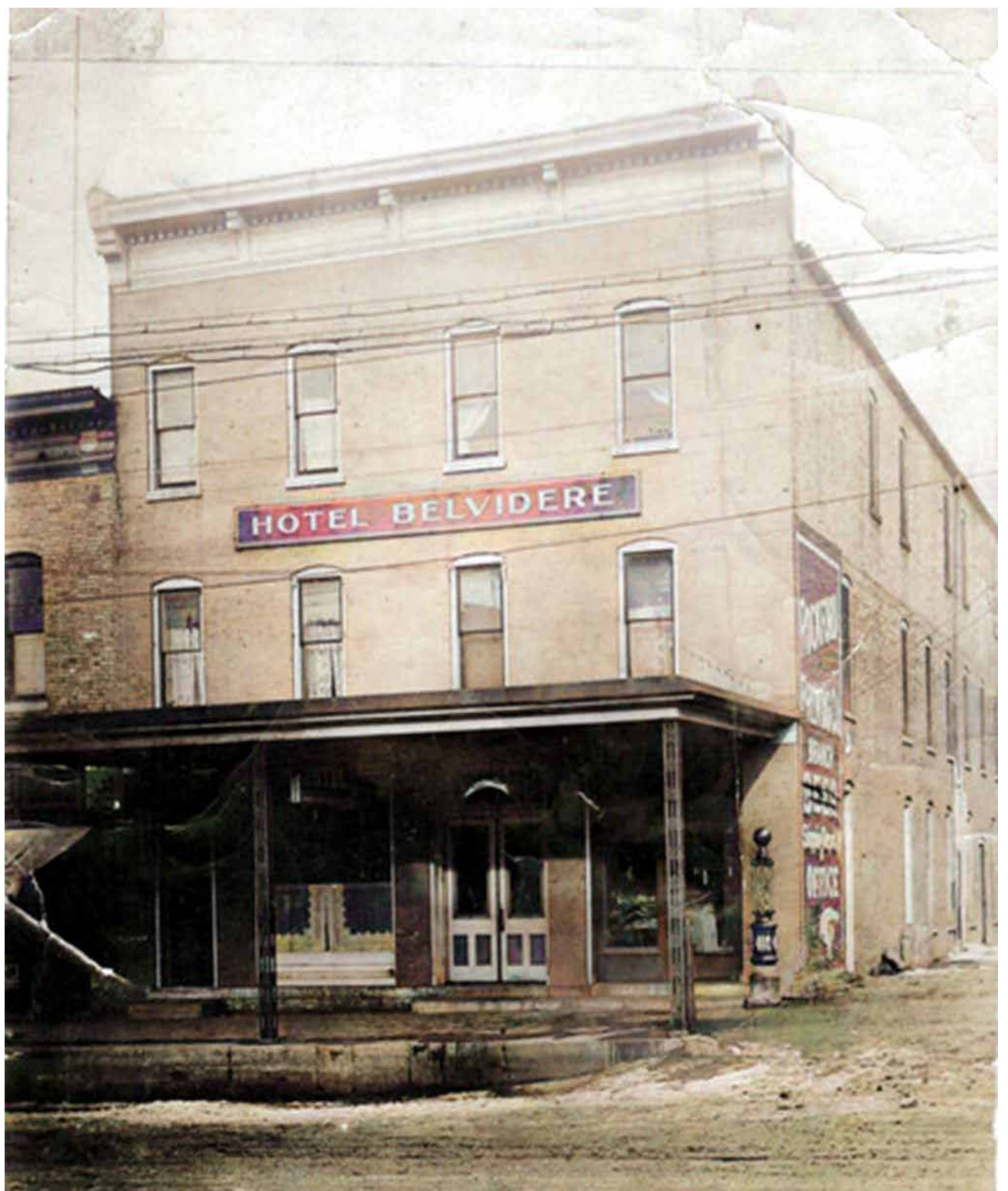
This week's pictures revisit some themes that we have recently discussed: The corner of State and Buchanan, more information about an earlier story that the *Journal* published, and the story of a couple more hotels that have never come to be.

Last week, a story with a colorized photo of 506 South State Street (where Bert Stoner's jewelry store was located), discussed the difficult-to-read sign of a business in the lower level of the building. Since last week, local historian and master genealogist, Martin W. Johnson has reported to the *Journal* the following information on the proprietor who operated in the lower level of that building: "N.B. Wing Boot Maker" was Napoleon Bonaparte Wing. Born Nov. 10, 1847 Ashtabula County, Ohio. Died Aug. 8, 1915 Belvidere. Civil War veteran in Company K. 6th Ohio Calvary & 2nd Ohio Heavy Artillery.

The hotel lobby photo is believed to be the Hotel Belvidere, which is also pictured here. In a past issue of the *Journal*, we stated that the Hotel Belvidere building had been removed. The building was not removed, and remains as an apartment building with Maria Martinez's Country Companies Insurance Agency and La Costa Bora Restaurant at street level. It, like the Bert Stoner building, frames the Buchanan and State Corner; the entrance to the "Shortline."

State and Buchanan has always been a social center in Belvidere, and sometime long ago, that block of Buchanan Street acquired the name

*Continued on page 2*





**Hotel** *Continued page 1*

“Shortline” probably because it is one-block long, ending at Whitney Boulevard.

The hotel building was known to exist into the late 1920s as the Hotel Belvidere, but no further mention could be found of it in local newspapers after the 1920s. Ed Marx, a person with a deeper construction knowledge, pointed out that the current structure is built of limestone commonly used in the early 1900s. In the 1930s, brick would have been used. The facade has been covered with brick and cement, which hide the face of the original structure. We assume that the lobby photo was taken of what is today’s La Costa Bora entrance.

A barbershop, not pictured, shared a space off the lobby. A June 1918 newspaper notice stated that the local barbers had set new prices as follows: Haircuts 40¢, shave 20¢, shampoo 35¢, and a massage 35¢. The barber’s consortium members were: Hub Barber Shop, Julien Barber Shop, R. E. Henderson at Hotel Belvidere, Robert Lorenz, G.P. Kinyon, and Elza R. Shannon.

In August of 1919, after the Spanish Flu had faded, a cavalcade of seventeen trucks and three supporting cars arrived in Belvidere from Elgin. They stopped at the corner of State and Buchanan at the Hotel Belvidere.

The cavalcade was composed of seventeen different truck manufacturers, who wanted to display the usefulness of trucks for the Midwest farmer. The group called themselves the National Motor Truck Development Tour. The tour was a 3,000-mile tour through the Midwest states of Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Dakotas.

Touting that the tour was being sanctioned by the United States Government, the tour carried a 25-piece Navy Band, which set up on the porch of the hotel and played “Stars and Stripes Forever” by John Philip Sousa for the gathered crowd. Traveling with the tour were newspaper reporters and a team of moving-picture photographers.

This was an event the likes of which Belvidere had not seen before. A local attorney, William Pierce, introduced a representative of the tour, who then promoted the trucks for farm use. An hour after arrival, the tour packed up cameras, band, and all and headed off to Rockford to the Elk’s Club for lunch.

The automobile had a creeping, negative effect on Belvidere’s hotel business. In the day of horse

and buggy, speedy travel was only available by train. Of course, the train had to be going in the direction you wanted to go--and when you wanted to go--or it was not very useful. Similarly today, a train from Downtown Chicago to Belvidere would not take you to O’Hare Airport. (Which is the most popular Chicago destination for Boone and Winnebago County residents.) With more versatile automobile travel to Rockford possible, the better hotels and better restaurants of the larger city could be enjoyed. By the 1930s, increased mobility put the half-dozen prosperous Belvidere hotels out of business. In 1919, a super hotel was contemplated in Belvidere, not along the Kishwaukee River as contemplated today, but between First and Second Street on South State in Belvidere. A corporation was chartered, and local investors purchased stock, but it never got off the ground. One hundred years later, hope springs eternal at the Belvidere City Council for a downtown hotel.

**Illinois Borrows to Infuse Hospitals with Cash in March**

*Payment delays expected in April due to extended tax filing deadline*

*By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois*

The Illinois comptroller’s office borrowed \$105 million from various funds in March, in large part so it could make bigger-than-normal payments to hospitals as they brace for the peak of the COVID-19 outbreak later this month.

But Illinois Comptroller Susana Mendoza is advising all state vendors that there will likely be payment delays in April, in part because the tax filing deadline for both state and federal taxes has been pushed back to July 15.

The inter-fund borrowing was noted last week in the state’s monthly revenue report from the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability. The comptroller’s office has authority to engage in such borrowing to meet short-term cash flow needs of the general revenue fund.

That report noted that total tax receipts in March, at \$3.4 billion, was about what was expected, and 3.3 percent above the same month last year. But it also noted that the impact of the economic slowdown brought on by Gov. JB Pritzker’s stay-at-home order and closure of nonessential businesses had not yet shown up in the revenue numbers.

Mendoza’s spokesman, Abdon Pallasch, said in an interview Monday that some of the borrowing in March had been planned earlier but that “a large part” of the borrowing in March was to help provide hospitals with cash as they treat a growing number of COVID-19 patients.

The state has a backlog of past-due bills totaling \$7.8 billion, down significantly from the peak of \$16.7 billion reported in November 2017. But Mendoza advised all state vendors last week to expect further payment delays in April because of the expected delay in tax filings.

The state would normally bring in about \$1 billion in revenue during April, Mendoza’s office said.

“In addition to the

deferred revenues from the filing extension, it has not yet been determined what additional negative fiscal impact reduced economic activity related to this pandemic will have on our state revenues going forward,” Mendoza’s office said in a statement.

According to the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington, the COVID-19 outbreak is expected to peak in Illinois around April 15. The institute projects the state will have enough hospital beds to handle the surge, but it will like face a shortage of 722 intensive care unit beds at the peak.

**Rock Valley College Accepting Proposals for Advanced Technology Center Site**

Rock Valley College District 511 is accepting proposals from interested communities and developers for the placement of the College’s future Advanced Technology Center.

All of RVC’s open bids and requests for proposals can be found at [rockvalleycollege.edu/bids](http://rockvalleycollege.edu/bids).


Closing date and time for proposal submissions is May 6, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. All submissions must be emailed per RFP instructions. No hard copies will be accepted.

Specific questions may be directed to, Kathleen Jones, RVC Purchasing Manager, at [k.jones@rockvalleycollege.edu](mailto:k.jones@rockvalleycollege.edu).

Rockford officials and the business community have been promoting the development of the Advanced Technology Center for several years. Initially, the plan was to house the facility in the former Barber Coleman Building on South Main Street. When that site no longer became feasible, the college entered negotiations with the parent company of the Rockford Register Star to use surplus space in their downtown building. Determining renovation of that site to be too expensive, Rock Valley College investigated building a new structure on land adjacent to the Chicago-Rockford International Airport.

Several groups and individuals interested in boosting Downtown Rockford have started a petition drive, urging the college to reconsider the Register Star site, noting that public transportation in the area would make the site more convenient for prospective students. Advocates of the downtown site have asked the college to have a “community conversation” as to where the Advanced Technology Center should be located.

The Rock Valley College District includes Boone County.




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*David Grimm April 1938 - Dec. 2000  
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## Rural Hospitals Brace for Downstate Surge of COVID-19

IHA official says they're ready, but will need more financial help

by Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

Although the COVID-19 outbreak in Illinois so far has been mainly concentrated around the Chicago area, public health officials are bracing for a surge of cases in rural areas of downstate Illinois, including areas that already have shortages of hospital beds, health care providers and equipment.

"So, we're keeping a close eye on that," Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike said Wednesday. "As we look right now, I think our hot spot is more northern Illinois ... but we're keeping an eye on all the beds, the ICUs, the ventilators and the availability of those, and we potentially, we'll have to do some moving of things, but we are also looking at what the needs will be there."

Despite health care shortages in some areas, Danny Chun, a spokesman for the Illinois Health and Hospital Association, said in an interview that most rural hospitals in Illinois should be well prepared for the surge, at least in terms of strategy.

"They are very prepared," he said, citing two major trends in health care: industry consolidation over the past five to 10 years into health care "systems" that have the ability to share resources, and regional planning.

"A lot of small and rural hospitals, critical access hospitals, are now part of large systems, like OSF, HSHS, Carle, Southern Illinois Health," Chun said.

"Then there's an existing structure within the state of Illinois — they're called Regional Health Care Coalitions," he added. "There are 11 coalitions throughout the state covering every area of the state, including southern and central Illinois, where all the health care providers in that region get together in terms of emergency planning, pandemic planning, emergency exercises. That's been in place for years."

According to IDPH, each of those 11 regions has one main hospital designated as the coordinating center. For example, the Carle

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Foundation Hospital in Urbana serves as the coordinating center in the Champaign region, which covers 18 counties in east-central Illinois.

Anita Guffey, who serves as the emergency management coordinator and readiness and response coordinator for that region, was unavailable for an interview Wednesday due to the immediate demands on her time, as were her counterparts in other regions. But she issued a statement through a spokesperson saying the planning process for COVID-19 is not significantly different from the planning they go through for other emergencies.

"In this region we need to be prepared for tornadoes, blizzards, and even earthquake risk, in addition to pandemic planning," she said. "Every incident is different, but we work on this at all times so when the time comes, we're already familiar with each other."

The one thing rural hospitals have not been prepared for, however, is the financial pressure resulting from dealing with the pandemic.

Chun said hospitals throughout the state postponed most outpatient and elective surgeries, a significant amount of their annual revenue, in order to free up space and medical staff for treating COVID-19 patients. They are also "ramping up" for the pandemic, he added.

"We are urging the state to take all the steps that they can to increase cash flow to hospitals, because as you know, they're facing a double whammy," he said. "...On the one hand, they're losing money because they're not doing elective surgeries and procedures, and then money's going out the door because of the preparations for the virus."

Chun noted that in March, the state comptroller's office used inter-fund borrowing to increase its Medicaid payments to state hospitals, paying down about \$200 million in past-due bills. But the comptroller's office has already indicated that there will likely be additional payment delays in the coming

months — the tax filing deadline was pushed back to July 15, and the economic slowdown brought on by the statewide stay-at-home order and closure of nonessential businesses.

The federal government temporarily increased its share of Medicaid funding by 6.2 percentage points, retroactive to Jan. 1. That reduces the state's share of Medicaid costs, freeing up general revenue funds for other purposes.

The biggest boost hospitals will see in the near term will come from the \$2.2 trillion federal recovery package Congress recently passed, known as the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act.

Chun said that package includes more than \$100 billion for hospitals across the country to help offset the cost of responding to the pandemic, including some automatic funding increases and some reimbursement programs that hospitals must apply for.

But even with that, Chun said, hospitals across the country will need additional assistance.

"We are now preparing to ask the Illinois General Assembly for help on the state level with Medicaid funding for our hospitals," he said. "So whenever the legislature finally returns — you know, maybe in May, maybe in June — we will be asking the General Assembly for help for our hospitals."

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## Libertarian, Green Parties Sue Over Illinois Election Rules

*Petitioning 'practically impossible' during  
COVID-19 stay-at-home orders, they claim*

*by Rebecca Anzel Capitol News Illinois*

Social distancing and stay-at-home orders, instituted to combat the novel coronavirus pandemic, are in direct conflict with Illinois' ballot eligibility requirements, the Libertarian and Green parties of Illinois allege in a lawsuit filed Thursday.

Both are considered "new" parties under state election rules, meaning a candidate running for office under those banners must receive a greater number of in-person petition signatures than those with "established" parties — typically, the Democrats and Republicans.

Libertarians and Greens have from March 24 until June 22 to gather enough signatures — in person with a canvasser watching — to qualify for inclusion on the Nov. 3 general election ballot.

But party officials allege meeting that threshold will be "practically impossible" given Gov. JB Pritzker's social distancing and stay-at-home orders.

"Even assuming that the governor's emergency orders were lifted on May 1, 2020, (the Libertarian and Green parties) and their candidates will have lost over five weeks of petitioning time, or more than one-third of the time allotted to them to collect signatures in person by Illinois law," according to the lawsuit.

The parties are asking that Illinois' signature collection mandates be waived or suspended this general election cycle so their candidates may be on the ballot, and also that the state reimburse their attorney's fees.

Pritzker's office did not respond to separate letters sent from the two parties in mid-March, nor did a spokesperson return a request for comment from Capitol News Illinois.

The Illinois State Board of Elections, in a letter, said it is unable to assist.

"We appreciate the unique dilemma you present in your letter and understand that you are tasked with the difficult and unprecedented duty of balancing obligations under the Elections Code with safety concerns for candidates, circulators and petition signers alike," the elections board said in court documents. "However, the State Board of

Elections does not have the authority to grant you the relief you request."

It would take a court order or the General Assembly amending current law to address this concern, an elections board spokesperson said.

Rich Whitney and Bennett Morris, chairs of the Green and Libertarian parties, respectively, each said this lawsuit is a matter of upholding democracy.

Candidates running as Democrats or Republicans already have a guaranteed spot on the general election ballot. Under statute, the parties were allowed to petition in autumn and candidates were chosen in the March primary election. Those running under the banner of a "new" party or independent must collect petition signatures in the spring.

"It's normal for us to be on the ballot — we're good at it despite the obstacles that are put in place," Morris said. "I think if there aren't Libertarians, Greens or any independents allowed on the ballot in November, we do not have a democratic process and we do not have a legitimate election."

An "established" party candidate for president, for example, needs at least 3,000 signatures or more if someone challenges their validity. That same person would need 5,000 signatures to run for U.S. Senate.

Independents or those in a "new" party, including Libertarians and Greens, need at least 25,000 signatures for both positions. Whitney said candidates in his party often collect at least 40,000 signatures.

He added it is "ridiculous" that in both cases, candidates have 90 days to gather the required number.

"What this means is that the minority parties — the new parties trying to break through and become established — are unfairly burdened and their campaigns are unfairly burdened. They have fewer resources because of all the time spent petitioning," Whitney said.

Illinois' signature requirements were established in 1891 and were not, according to the lawsuit, "substantially updated or improved ... despite the availability of less burdensome alternatives enabled by modern technology"

The Libertarian and Green parties point to action taken by other states as examples of what Illinois' government should consider. Voters in Arizona and New Jersey can sign candidates' petitions electronically and those in Denver, Colorado, and the District of Columbia can use an application called E-Sign, which validates signatures against

voter rolls.

Those initiatives would be in line with executive orders issued by Pritzker, allowing public notaries to work through a two-way video, according to the lawsuit.

A spokesperson for Attorney General Kwame Raoul did not return a request for comment. His office would represent Pritzker and members of the Illinois State Board of Elections.

## State Again Sees Largest Single-Day Increase in COVID-19 Deaths with 82

*But public health director says rate of day-to-day increases beginning to decline*

*by Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois*

Another 82 people have died from complications of novel coronavirus disease in Illinois and the state announced more than 1,529 new cases Wednesday as Gov. JB Pritzker said testing still lags behind public health officials' goal.

Both cases and deaths once again saw their largest single-day spikes, but Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike said at the daily COVID-19 briefing in Chicago that the rate of increase in cases from day to day is beginning to decline.

"You're not seeing the exponential growth that we were seeing before," she said. "But even as there may be some glimmers of hope, I say that physical distancing has to — must — continue to be the way that we reduce the spread of this virus. Please stay home."

She said a decrease in the rate of rise, which now looks more linear than exponential, was promising, but she could not predict how many days the state is away from a peak in cases, which could last several days once it is hit.

"So we're, with guarded optimism, we're hoping that we're getting close to either the peak or the plateau. It's not clear yet how long that would be," she said.

The latest deaths came in 11 counties — Boone, Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, Macon, Madison, McHenry, St. Clair, Tazewell and Will — with 61 of them in Cook County. The deaths came in people from their 30s to their 90s.

There are now 15,078 total confirmed cases in the state in 78 counties, including 462 deaths. The state tested 75,066 persons for the virus as of Wednesday, an increase of about 6,300 from Tuesday.

Pritzker said testing capabilities just reached the 6,000-daily threshold in Illinois, which is still short of the 10,000 target set by health officials. According to medical and scientific experts, he said, processing 10,000 tests per day will give officials the clearest picture of how many confirmed COVID-19 cases are in the state and how it is spreading.

The hold-up, Pritzker said, is due to "new laboratory automation machines" manufactured by Thermo Fisher Scientific, which originally promised to process a "multi-thousand daily unit increase" of tests, or about 200 hourly. But those five machines — distributed to Illinois' three state-run labs — are not giving technicians "the level of output that we want to see," the governor said.

"More importantly, these tests are not producing valid results in a way that meets our exacting standards," Pritzker added. "I am as impatient as

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the rest of you are, wanting to increase testing, but I will not sacrifice accuracy for the sake of speed. The tests and results they will provide are too important.”

Until those machines are operating correctly, the governor said, they will not be used to examine Illinois tests.

He also said the state could increase testing output through privatized labs used by the federal government, but those labs turn around test results in 7-10 days, as opposed to state labs and local hospitals which can produce results in two days.

“People can end up on a ventilator before they ever get their testing result. That’s just not a timeline that I want to bet on,” he said of privatized tests.

Pritzker said the state is working with “the scientists and technicians, the academics and innovators here in Illinois, to expand our test results.”

He said state labs are running three shifts to increase results, and 96 locations across the state are now collecting specimens.

“To ensure a steady stream of supplies our in-state universities and local laboratories are creating our own raw materials, instead of relying upon the global supply chain, which is frankly in disarray,” the governor said, noting they are creating certain parts of testing that hospitals and labs will be able to now access locally rather than waiting on purchased supplies to arrive.

Pritzker said Abbott Labs dedicated the supplies for around 3,000 rapid, 5-minute response tests per day in Illinois, but he noted the federal government “redirected most of these early tests to private systems without our state input about where the tests would make the most impact.”

He added that the federal government provided state labs with 15 Abbott ID now machines, but only 120 total tests.

“That’s eight tests per machine for all of Illinois, but I assure you that we will leave no stone unturned to get the tests that we need to run those machines at full bore,” he said.

On another testing note, Ezike said the U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized a test which detects antibodies from the virus in those who have already had it.

“Antibody tests will play a critical role in the fight against COVID-19 by helping with identification of people who have actually overcome an infection and have developed the immune response,” she said. “Results from antibody testing will identify individuals who we assume will be no longer susceptible to the infection and can return to work. This test could also help determine who may donate plasma, plasma being the liquid component of blood that could serve as a possible treatment for those who are seriously ill from COVID-19.”

**Other Notes**

-Illinois National Guard Adjutant General Richard Neely said at the news conference that as of Wednesday, there are 575 National Guardsmen engaged across the state supporting the COVID-19 response.

Those efforts range from operating testing facilities and augmenting emergency operation centers, to support of Stateville Correctional Center, which has seen an outbreak of the virus, to assisting in the buildout of an alternate care facility in Chicago.

-The governor was asked by members of the media how he felt when considering that some businesses affected by the stay-at-home order might never reopen.

“It’s devastating for the people who closed their businesses,” he said. “It’s devastating for the people who worked at those businesses. I hope that those shops will not close forever. I hope that the small business loans that we’re offering in the state of Illinois, that the small business support that’s coming from the federal government, will allow those businesses to survive to reopen when it’s time.”


The governor added, “We’ve got to stop the spread of this virus. We’ve got to save lives, so we can save livelihoods.”

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## Illinois Legislators should Continue to Make Us Proud by Ending Partisan Gerrymandering

*by Sarah Wasik*

As a lifelong Illinoisan, I have never felt prouder or safer to be a resident of this state. Gov. JB Pritzker and his administration are setting a precedent for pandemic response in a time of fear and uncertainty.

I have felt the need to defend my home state in the past; explaining why I decided not to go out of state for college and why I didn’t move immediately after I got my degree: taxes are too high, the government is corrupt and the weather is notoriously awful.

But Illinois’ aggressive and informed COVID-19 response has me feeling vindicated in my choice to re-

main. Our state and local government cares that we remain alive and make it through to the end of this crisis, which, as demonstrated by the state leaders in Texas and Florida, is not a given.

However, critics of Illinois government do have a point. As it stands, Illinois consistently ranks as one of the most corrupt states in the union. That’s, in large part, because we don’t elect our state officials: 80 percent of state-level races in Illinois went uncontested or were not really competitive due to partisan gerrymandering.

In Illinois, the elected officials who hold power draw districts that ensure their parties’ victories in the next election. Because many elected officials have their victories all but guaranteed, they rarely feel the voting booth consequences of the decisions (or lack of decisions) they make while in office. This grossly undermines the voting power of Illinois residents and shuts out our voices.

Illinois has demonstrated that we are not afraid to lead when it comes to disaster response. We should not be afraid to lead when it comes to ending partisan gerrymandering. Moves toward improved and less partisan gerrymandering

have been passed in states such as Arizona, Colorado, California, Michigan, Missouri and Ohio.

COVID-19 has demonstrated that who we elect to lead matters, especially in times of crisis. Illinoisans’ have demonstrated that they know how to pick strong leaders in statewide races, and they should be empowered to do so up and down the ballot. Ensuring that Illinois legislators call the Fair Maps Amendment (HJR-CA41 and SJRCA18) for a debate and vote would give Illinoisans a chance to end gerrymandering in Illinois — and according to the most recent Paul Simon Policy Institute Poll, 67 percent Illinoisans want this done.

Illinois has a future beyond COVID-19. We are in the middle of a public health crisis, but legislators still are constitutionally mandated to add questions onto the ballot by May 3rd. Once we are on the other side of the pandemic, Illinois legislators should continue to make Illinoisans proud by setting precedents for good government by ending partisan gerrymandering in our state.

Sarah Wasik is a project manager with CHANGE Illinois, a nonpartisan nonprofit that advocates for ethical and efficient government.

## ISA Seeks Qualified Candidates for District Director Board Seats

The Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) seeks qualified candidates to fill a board seat representing District 1 (Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson & Winnebago Counties). Paul Rasmussen, current director, will term off the board in July 2020. The Illinois Department of Agriculture directs the election process.

The Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) represents the interests of more than 43,000 soybean farmers in Illinois through the state soybean checkoff and membership efforts. ISB, which is one of the entities of the ISA organization, manages and invests Illinois soybean checkoff funds.

Board members serve a term of three years and are eligible for up to two terms. The ISA board is comprised of 18 district directors and six at-large directors.

Eligibility to serve requires candidates be Illinois residents of legal voting age that contribute to the soybean checkoff. Candidates must also be residents within the district and maintain eligibility during their term(s). Directors may need to devote about 24 days per year, depending on level of leadership and representation needs.

Petitions are available through the Illinois Department of Agriculture in Springfield, or by contacting ISA representative Dustin Scott at 309-808-3603 or [scottd@ilsoy.org](mailto:scottd@ilsoy.org). Contact Scott with questions or for additional information.

To have your name placed on the ballot, petitions must be completed and filed with the Illinois Department of Agriculture director in Springfield no later than 5 p.m., May 15, 2020. A candidate’s petition must carry the signatures of at least 250 of the qualified producers from the district where the candidate seeks office, or five percent, whichever is less. Any person running as a write-in candidate must also meet the eligibility requirements and submit a Declaration of Intent to the IDOA Acting Director Jerry Costello no later than 5 p.m., June 30, 2020.

Elections will be held July 7, 2020.

Rachel Peabody, Communications Manager  
 Illinois Soybean Association checkoff program  
 Illinois Soybean Growers

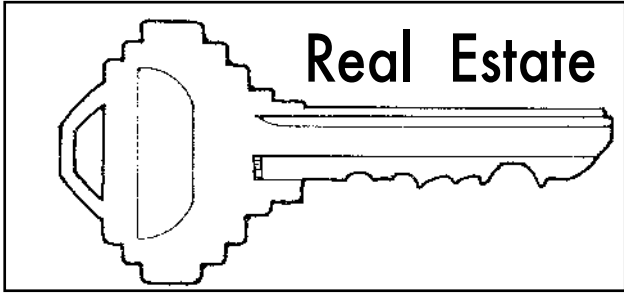
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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF BOONE - BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS AMERIHOM MORTGAGE COMPANY, LLC; Plaintiff, vs. 19 CH 137 LYRISSA CEDILLO; MARIA J. CEDILLO; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants, NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Thursday, May 7, 2020, at the hour of 12:15 p.m. inside the front entrance of the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 06-30-352-002. Commonly known as 521 CALGARY WAY, BELVIDERE, IL 61008. The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence. 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. Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. For information call Mr. Ira T. Nevel at Plaintiff's Attorney, Law Offices of Ira T. Nevel, 175 North Franklin Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606. (312) 357-1125. File Number 19-04895 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13149283 Published in *The Boone County Journal* Mar 27; Apr 3, 10, 2020.

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, minor; and that in the County Courthouse in Belvidere, Illinois, at 1:30 P.M. central Daylight time on 6-4-2020; or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an adjudicatory 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 THIS 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 RIGHTS 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 amended 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: March 17, 2020 Linda J. Anderson, Circuit Clerk Heather Austin, Deputy Clerk Published in *The Boone County Journal* March 27, April 3, 10 c.

**Annual Town Meeting**  
Spring Township will have its Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday, April 14th, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Spring Town Hall, 3150 Shattuck Road. Agenda items include presentation of the financial reports and the Transferring of Surplus Fund from the Town Fund to the General Road Fund.  
Published in *The Boone County Journal* April 10

A Public Notice is an important tool in assuring an informed citizenry; a conduit of information from the government to the public. Notices are mandated by legislatures to make sure there is a public window into the activities of governments, officers of the court and others holding a public trust. Among the most common types of public notices are: hearings, government budgets, notices of contract bids, foreclosures, probate notices, adoptions, and dissolution of marriages, name changes and assumed business names. There are four key elements to a public notice:

- Independent:** A public notice is published in a forum independent of the government, typically in a local newspaper.
- Archivable:** A public notice is archived in a secure and publicly available format.
- Accessible:** A public notice is capable of being accessed by all segments of society.
- Verifiable:** The public and the source of the notice can verify the notice was published, usually by an affidavit provided by the publisher.

Enabling an informed citizenry through newspaper public notices helped America to develop participatory democracy where it counts: where money is spent, policy is made and futures charted. Public notices by government and private parties are so tightly woven into the American fabric that many citizens may take them for granted. Located in easily found sections of the newspapers, public notices reach out to interested readers, leading them to opportunities. Voices are expressed on taxation, communities are formed around planned public improvements, and assets are saved from loss to unworthy creditors – all as a result of public notices.

*Public Notice Network*

## LEGAL NOTICES Foreclosures

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF BOONE - BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS AMERIHOM MORTGAGE COMPANY, LLC; Plaintiff, vs. 19 CH 137 LYRISSA CEDILLO; MARIA J. CEDILLO; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants, NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Thursday, May 7, 2020, at the hour of 12:15 p.m. inside the front entrance of the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: LOT EIGHT (8) AS DESIGNATED UPON PLAT NO. 1 OF WYCLIFFE, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (1/4) OF SECTION 30, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 4 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT INDEX FILE ENVELOPE 145-A, AS DOCUMENT NO. 94-9022, IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND THE STATE OF ILLINOIS. P.I.N. 06-30-352-002. Commonly known as 521 CALGARY WAY, BELVIDERE, IL 61008. The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence. 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. Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. For information call Mr. Ira T. Nevel at Plaintiff's Attorney, Law Offices of Ira T. Nevel, 175 North Franklin Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606. (312) 357-1125. File Number 19-04895 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13149283 Published in *The Boone County Journal* Mar 27; Apr 3, 10, 2020.

## LEGAL NOTICES Public Notices

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF BOONE - IN PROBATE In the Matter of the Estate of Evelyn M. LaRue, Deceased. No. 2020-P- 18 NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION-WILL AND CLAIMS NOTICE is given of the death of Evelyn M. LaRue. Letters of Office were issued on March 10, 2020, to Mark T. LaRue, who is the legal representative of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Attorney Charles G. Popp, P.C., 215 South State Street, Belvidere, Illinois. Claims against the estate may be filed on or before October 15, 2020, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by 755 ILCS 5/18-3, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk--Probate Division at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, or with the estate legal representative, or both. Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office--Probate Division, must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to his/her attorney within ten days after it has been filed. Published in *The Boone County Journal* Mar 27; Apr 3, 10, 2020.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS PUBLICATION NOTICE In The Interest of: Gracelynn Willer, minor Case No: 20-JA-09 To whom it may concern/ All unknown natural Fathers (Respondent) ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS PUBLICATION NOTICE In The Interest of: David Willer, minor Case No: 20-JA-10 To whom it may concern/ All unknown natural Fathers (Respondent) 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 David Willer, minor; and that in the County Courthouse in Belvidere, Illinois, at 1:30 P.M. central Daylight time on 6-4-2020; or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an adjudicatory 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 THIS 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 RIGHTS 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 amended 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: March 17, 2020 Linda J. Anderson, Circuit Clerk Heather Austin, Deputy Clerk Published in *The Boone County Journal* March 27, April 3, 10 c.

PUBLICATION NOTICE ON APRIL 7, 2020, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BOONE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1 DID ADOPT TENTATIVE ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCES FOR CORPORATE PURPOSES FOR FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING ON MAY 1, 2020 TO APRIL 30, 2021. EFFECTIVE APRIL 10, 2020 THE AFOREMENTIONED TENTATIVE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCES ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION ON THE BULLETIN BOARD ON THE EXTERIOR OF THE BUILDING AT THE BOONE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1 STATION LOCATED AT 130 WEST OGDEN STREET, CAPRON, ILLINOIS. A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE CONVENED ON MAY 12, 2020 AT 6:55 PM AT 130 WEST OGDEN STREET, CAPRON, ILLINOIS, AT WHICH TIME THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WILL ENTERTAIN QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON THE TENTATIVE BUDGET ORDINANCES FOR THE 2020/2021 FISCAL YEAR. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ADJOURNMENT OF THE PUBLIC HEARING, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BOONE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1 WILL CONVENE A SPECIAL MEETING TO TAKE ACTION ON THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCES FOR CORPORATE PURPOSES FOR FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING MAY 1, 2020 TO APRIL 30, 2021. CAROL BERGLUND SECRETARY, BOARD OF TRUSTEES BOONE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1 Published in *The Boone County Journal* April 10

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS PUBLICATION NOTICE In The Interest of: Landon White, minor Case No: 20-JA-11 To whom it may concern/ All unknown natural Fathers (Respondent) 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 Landon White, minor; and that in the County Courthouse in Belvidere, Illinois, at 1:30 P.M. central Daylight time on 6-4-2020; or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an adjudicatory 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 THIS 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 RIGHTS 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 amended 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: March 17, 2020 Linda J. Anderson, Circuit Clerk Heather Austin, Deputy Clerk Published in *The Boone County Journal* March 27, April 3, 10 c.



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## State Lawmakers Adapt to New Reality During Covid-19 Pandemic

*Big-city and small-town legislators balance duties as return date to Springfield remains uncertain*

by Ben Orner Capitol News Illinois

State Rep. Martin Moylan and his staff thought they were ahead of COVID-19.

Shortly after Illinois saw its first two cases of novel coronavirus disease in late January, the Democrat from Des Plaines filed House Bill 5607. The bill would have authorized a study to examine if the state departments of public health and emergency management were prepared for COVID-19.

“We wanted to get everybody in the state aware of what was going on,” Moylan said.

However, as has been a theme of this growing pandemic, COVID-19 did not care about the schedule of the state Legislature. By the time Moylan’s preparedness study bill was assigned to a substantive committee on March 17, 160 people in Illinois had contracted the virus, one had died, and Gov. JB Pritzker had already ordered schools and non-essential businesses closed.

“Nobody had the foresight to see how bad it really was,” Moylan said.

Now, instead of preparing for the effects of COVID-19, Moylan and other state lawmakers are living them. For Moylan, a 69-year-old with asthma who lives in a hot spot for coronavirus cases, life has become a “balancing act” of taking care of constituents and also taking care of his health.

“I’m very active in the community. I ride my bike all over, I talk to people. That stopped,” he said.

Moylan said he now drives around his district once every day, and when he stops to talk with people, he said he rolls down his window instead of getting out.

“We’re concerned about catching it and actually dying,” he said of himself and his fellow legislators over 50 years old.

“Some are doing home projects, another one won’t go out of the house,” Moylan added. “He’s got same issues I got. He says there’s no way he’s going back to Springfield. He’s ‘not going to die,’ he says.”

Moylan said his entire staff is working remotely, trying to help constituents with their dilemmas, from a routine fallen tree to applying for unemployment during an economic collapse.

“It’s the same gambit, but there are additional problems that are like being affected because people are out of work, kids aren’t in school,” he said.

“We’re a middle class community that has a lot of working people that work in service jobs,” he added. “So naturally, they’re suffering, and they don’t know what the future is.”

Downstate life upended

The reality of COVID-19 has not just thrown curveballs to Chicago area lawmakers, but to downstate districts as well.

“I really miss a lot of the interaction with the people,” said state Rep. Dan Swanson, a Republican from the small western Illinois town of Alpha.

The usual gatherings in his five-county rural district, like FFA banquets and school events, have ceased because of social distancing guidelines and mandatory school closures.

“But through phone calls and messaging and

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email we try and stay on top of the top issues,” such as unemployment and help for small businesses, Swanson said of his staff working remotely.

“It’s just a whole new different way of doing business,” he said.

Small-town main streets throughout rural Illinois, Swanson said, have especially borne the economic impacts of people staying in their homes.

“The small businesses, the beauty shops or whatever you want to call them, places like that have really been hit the hardest,” he said. “Not getting that noon day or evening crowd at the local bar and grill type thing has been pretty different.”

College towns, which rely heavily on the economic boost of university students during the spring semester, have also suffered.

“My office is located in uptown Normal, where normally it is the hustle and bustle of Illinois State University,” said Rep. Dan Brady, “and it’s basically a ghost town.”

The central Illinois Republican said that since Pritzker issued the stay-at-home order two weeks ago, he has heard the concerns of “scared” restaurant, bar and retail owners.

“The springtime would represent so many things for them in their shops with events with sororities and mom’s day,” he said, but during the COVID-19 pandemic, that “is not the case and won’t be the case this spring.”

Brady said his district office is still open, as he and his staff often work late into the evening to assist each individual constituent.

That means serving everyone from “the lady who calls and doesn’t have a computer but still wants to file an unemployment claim” to “the person who is high tech enough, has a computer, does everything, but still wants to convey me their thoughts,” Brady said.

COVID-19 has “put me in a position of becoming an informational officer that I’ve never been before,” he added.

Moylan agreed.

“You’ve got to just keep going,” he said. “I have an obligation to take care of residents and then you’ve got to take care of yourself.”

Praise for Pritzker

Though the fast-moving COVID-19 pandemic squashed any chance of a preparedness study, Moylan has nothing but praise for how Pritzker and state health leaders have responded.

“The governor is doing a great job of how he’s handling it,” Moylan said.

Brady, who serves as the deputy Republican leader in the House, applauded Pritzker for his communication and decision-making.

“I think the governor’s making very difficult decisions and doing that with the best interests of the people that he represents at heart, and listening to those in the different medical fields and professional fields to help him,” Brady said.

Though Swanson said he is reserving criticism

of the governor because he does not have access to the same data and information that Pritzker does, he is “frustrated” by the closing of state parks.

“People have called saying, ‘Why can’t I go fishing at the state park, or why can’t I go golfing?’ Those are the ones that are kind of hard to explain,” he said. “When dads and kids are home right now, it’d be a great time to do a little bonding around the fishing hole or going golfing or something like that.”

Return to Springfield uncertain

Lawmakers have not been at the Capitol since March 5 after three straight weeks of session were canceled by leadership. Though the official legislative calendar lists the House and Senate on a prescheduled recess until April 21, Moylan said lawmakers are “on call” to return at any time.

Swanson, like many legislators, said he does not have a “crystal ball” to determine when legislators will return, but with the stay-at-home order running through the end of April, “I’d say that probably means us too.”

Pritzker echoed that thought on Wednesday during his daily COVID-19 press briefing.

“It’s hard to do, there are 177 members of the General Assembly and we’re asking people to stay home and not congregate in groups of more than 10,” he said. “Some governors might think this is a dream, that you can’t get your legislature together, but we have things that we need to get done in the state of Illinois.”

Of the things that need to get done, Brady said the top priority will likely be the budget, which the Illinois Constitution requires be in place by the end of June.

“I can’t think that with the priority of things, that it won’t be everything focused on budget, trying to have some framework of a budget and what we can do with what will be the lack of revenues, the like we sure haven’t seen before.”

Pritzker, who proposed a \$42 billion budget in, is also aware of the impending revenue crater.

“I don’t think I could list all the changes that would need to be made to the original budget,” he said.

And although estimating the exact revenue shortfall is “very difficult” right now, Pritzker said, “It will be a vastly different budget. There’s no doubt about that.”

An eventual return to the Capitol, though, does not necessarily mean a return to normalcy. Even the nation’s top public health experts have found it hard to predict when this crisis will end or when its economic consequences will begin to subside.

For Swanson, he likens it to the first day planes were flying after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

“It wasn’t for several days you finally heard that first airplane that kind of brought you back to normalcy,” he said. “I think when we see that first local restaurant, that bar and grill or whatever open up, then we’ll see that we’re back to a kind of normalcy again.”





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None of us knows how long this will last but with your help we can minimize the pain for our community. For every dollar donated the pantry is able to purchase \$8 worth of food. Normally 2/3 of our neighbors are fixed income/social security incomes and a 1/3 are people that are in a temporary tight spot. We expect the later group to expand.

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(limit one visit per-month)

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