

This issue marks
the end of the Journal's 26th Year

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Gov. JB Pritzker speaks at a news conference Thursday the 21st after the state received its second credit rating upgrade from Moody's Investors Service within one year. (Credit: Blueroomstream.com)

Moody's Gives Illinois Second Credit Upgrade Within One Year

Move means lower interest costs, but rating remains lowest of all states

By Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

Illinois on Thursday received its second credit rating upgrade from Moody's Investors Service within one year, moving up one notch but remaining in the worst shape of the 50 states.

It's the third upgrade between the three major credit ratings agencies during Gov. JB Pritzker's tenure, the other coming last year from Standard & Poor's shortly after the first Moody's upgrade.

The upgrade to Baa1 status, or three notches above what is referred to as "junk bond" status, reflects "solid tax revenue growth," which allowed the state to bolster financial reserves and increase payments toward unfunded liabilities, according to Moody's.

The upgrade to the general obligation bond rating likely means lower interest costs when the state borrows money.

"A credit upgrade means Illinois will likely pay a lower interest rate, saving taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars in the coming years," Pritzker said in a news conference called after the Moody's announcement. "Higher credit ratings result in the elimination of wasteful spending, and they mean that we will have more resources for education, for health care, public safety and future tax breaks."

Pritzker credited the upgrade to the recently passed \$46 billion state operating budget, and the fact that the state dedicated an added \$500 million to its pension system and retired \$900 million in other interest-accruing health insurance debts.

The pension investment is expected to reduce unfunded liabilities in the pension system by about \$1.8 billion. At the end of 2021, the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability pegged that unfunded liability at about \$130 billion.

While the pension investment indicated an

"increased commitment to paying its single-largest long-term liability," according to the report, the remaining liability precluded a more substantial upgrade.

"The rating balances the state's recent financial progress with underlying challenges that will remain in place for some time," the Moody's report stated. "These challenges include heavy long-term liability and fixed cost burdens that constrain the state's financial flexibility and contribute to a weak financial position compared to other states, despite the recent improvement in fund balance."

As well, the report noted, Illinois' economy has routinely expanded at a slower pace than the nation at large in recent years, as evidenced by its 4.7 percent March unemployment rate compared to a 3.6 percent rate nationwide rate.

Moody's also credited the state for bolstering its fund balances.

The budget dedicated \$1 billion to the state's "rainy day" fund and created an ongoing \$3.75 million monthly contribution to the fund beginning in July 2023. The state also dedicated \$230 million to paying down the unfunded liabilities of its College Illinois program.

Those actions also mean millions of dollars of interest payments will be freed for general revenue funds spending.

Still, there are reasons to be cautious, according to the report.

"The stable outlook balances the financial progress being made by the state with the uncertainty of the present economic climate," the report stated. "The state's lean financial reserves, and heavy long-term liability and fixed cost burdens make it more vulnerable than other states to a negative shift in the national or global economy, which presently limits the probability of further rating improvement."

Moody's noted Illinois could see a further upgrade if fund balances continue to improve in future budget years, economic expansion accelerates, if the state continues to moderate its long-term liabilities, and if it continues on a path of growing reserves and increasing pension payments.

Downgrades could follow if revenue growth slows, unfunded liabilities grow, fund balances

Continued on Page 5

Highway Camera Expansion Covering 6,600 Miles Of Road in 22 Counties Awaits Pritzker's Signature

Bills would expand offenses that can be investigated, give AG authority to prosecute

By Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

A pair of bills on Gov. JB Pritzker's desk would expand a state roadway camera monitoring program to 21 additional counties while also expanding the number of crimes the cameras can be used to investigate and the number of parties that can prosecute them.

The measures – House Bill 260 and House Bill 4481 – were among 80 bills that cleared the General Assembly in the final 24-hour stretch of a legislative session in which Democrats looked to bolster their voting records on crime.

They expand a pilot program that directs the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Illinois State Police and the Illinois Toll Highway Authority to increase the number of cameras on

Continued on Page 4

Property Tax Bills to be Mailed Friday

(Press Release) Boone County Treasurer Curt Newport announces Boone County 2021 property tax bills will be mailed Friday, April 29th

- Due dates are June 1st and September 1st, 2022

- Boone County's EAV (total net taxable value) increased 6% from 1.129 billion in tax year 2020 to 1.196 billion. This is the seventh consecutive EAV increase since the post-recession low point of 880 million in 2014. The rising EAV reflects the addition of new construction and increases in the market value of real estate. The 2021 EAV is still 6.7% below the 2008 peak of 1.282 billion.

- Boone County's total tax extension (total taxes billed for all districts) increased 1.3% from \$106.0 million in tax year 2020 to \$107.4 million. The extension increase is the result of increased levies from taxing districts and is limited by PTELL (the tax cap law).

- Boone County's average tax rate decreased 0.42% from 9.39% in tax year 2020 to 8.97%. The rates have trended downward for the past seven years and this is the lowest average tax rate since 2011.

- Tax rates throughout the county range from 7.92% (Loves Park in Caledonia Township) to 10.03% (Belvidere in Spring Township).

Property owners have several options for paying their tax bills, including by mail, at most local banks, in person at the Treasurer's Office, or online at <http://boonecountytreasurer.us>.

For additional information, please contact the Boone County Treasurer's Office at 815-544-2666 or visit our web site <http://boonecountytreasurer.us>.

COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

First United Methodist Church Grief Share Classes:

the First United Methodist Church of Belvidere, 610 Bonus Ave., Belvidere. Day sessions starting at (10:00 A.M.- 12:00 P.M.) and evening sessions (6:30 P.M.- 8:30 P.M.). Contact the Church office to sign up at (815) 544-3479.

Heritage Day's 5K Run:

The Belvidere Chamber of Commerce is excited to host this beautiful race along the Kishwaukee River Path. The race will start and finish in Doty Park downtown Belvidere. Dogs and strollers are welcome. Please be courteous to runners and stay to the side of the path.

The purpose of this Run/Walk is to provide healthy family fun to the festival weekend. Proceeds from this race will help keep the festival going for years to come.

There will also be a free kids race at 9:00 AM. It will stay within the park and will be approximately 400-500 meters on the circle path in Doty Park. For

registration and all other information go to <https://runsignup.com/Race/IL/Belvidere/Heritage5K>.

United Methodist Church Men's Breakfast:

Saturday, April 30, 2022. 7:00 A.M.-10A.M. Located at the United Methodist Church (610 Bonus Ave., Belvidere).

Family Freedom Festival:

Saturday, April 30, 2022, 10 A.M.-4:00 P.M. Located at the VFW Post 1461 (1310 W. Lincoln Ave., Belvidere, IL). Axe throwing, Bouncy house, face painting and crafts.

2nd Annual Kentucky Derby Cocktail Party:

And they are off... Come join for hors d'oeuvres, mint juleps, and time with friends to celebrate the day and watch the race. The event will be held, Saturday, May 7, 2022, from 4:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M. Located at The Pavilion at Aldeen Park (1868 Reid Farm Road, Rockford, IL.) Awards will be for best hat, best dressed, and a raffle for a rose bouquet.

Tickets for this exclusive event are \$25 each. Register to attend by calling (815) 544-4357.

Move More for Better Health:

No matter your age, everyone can benefit from physical activity. Whether you are looking to prevent or manage a chronic illness or simply want to improve your ability to do everyday activities, this workshop is for you.

University of Illinois Extension Nutrition and Wellness Educator Diane Reinhold will be offering an educational workshop, "Move More for Better Health." This free event on Thursday, May 19, from 1:00 – 3:00 PM, at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau, 210 W Spring St, Freeport. If you cannot make the drive, join us virtually on Wednesday, May 18, from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. Beat the registration deadline of May 17 and receive your Zoom link to join the presentation virtually or save your spot if attending in person. For more information on this program, or if you need reasonable accommodations to participate, please contact our office at (815) 235-4125, or visit us online at go.illinois/jsw.

Boone County Master Gardeners are Ready to Answer Your Call:

Boone County Master Gardeners offers a free service answering garden questions at their Horticulture Help Desk. The Help Desk is open 1-4 p.m., Monday thru Thursday throughout the growing season (April – Sept.) Master Gardeners are volunteers who have trained by University of Illinois Extension educators to provide research-based answers to your home horticulture questions. Topics include insects, trees, shrubs, plants, vegetables, fruits, gardens, lawns, and more. The Master Gardeners can be reached by calling 815-544-3710, emailing in your question to uiemg-boone@illinois.edu, or by stopping at the office at 205 Cadillac Court, Suite 3 in Belvidere during help desk hours.

OP-ED

Tax Credits Help Ease Financial Struggles for Working Mothers

By Lettie Hicks

Parent Leader, Community Organizing and Family Issues

As a mother of three children living in East St. Louis, I know the personal pain of struggling just to get by.

I work hard and take pride in my job. But when the pandemic hit, my hours were cut back and the money I use to support my family and pay my bills got much tighter. I wasn't sure what we were going to do.

At our rock bottom, we learned an increase in the federal Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit was going to help turn our fortunes around.

Sure, the few hundred dollars we received from

the credit couldn't stop all of our problems. But when you have no money to save month to month, and you aren't sure when or if you can pay rent or meet your other needs, every little bit helps. It's a relief to know that while you still have struggles, you don't have to struggle quite so much.

The extra help from the expanded credit also gave our community some hope. For once, East St. Louis could use a program to give tax money back to people and be something that is useful to all – no one left out, no one left behind.

Across Illinois, there are thousands of stories like mine.

Maria, a single mom from suburban Chicago, has worked hard to put everything she has into her four daughters' education. She quit her job at the beginning of the pandemic to stay at home, then got sick with COVID-19 and reached out everywhere for help. She drives other struggling families to the local food bank every week and dreams of what she could do with enough cash to pay the bills.

Johnetta is a former safety inspector from the Austin neighborhood in Chicago. She's applied for every rental assistance program available to help pay her rent, but cannot seem to find a break for herself and her 4-year-old daughter with quadriplegic cerebral palsy. She has worked through a great organization Revolution Workshop to find some help, but the strain of 24/7 caregiving alone with her child is high. More help is needed, soon.

We are all excited about having more help through an expanded Earned Income Credit and new Child Tax Credit. A few hundred dollars every year might not seem like much, but when you live on only what you make week to week or month to month, every dollar counts. An extra \$600 would change our lives for the better.

Single moms like Maria, Johnetta and me want to work for what we earn. We want the same shot everyone else has to bring in a paycheck that pays our bills and gives our kids more than we have ever had. We want tomorrow to be better than today.

We are the faces of the Earned Income Credit and the Child Tax Credit at the Illinois Capitol. We need the help, and we need it now. If we can get it, we will be so grateful and will put that money right back into helping others like us who are working hard to support their families. We can't do it without the extra help, so please vote to give us a shot at a better life.

Lettie Hicks is a single mother from East St. Louis who is a parent leader with the Community Organizing and Family Issues organization based in Chicago.

Sandra B. Geras, 77
Sandra B. Geras of Belvidere, died peacefully Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at Northwoods Care Facility. Graveside memorial services were held 11 a.m., Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at the St. James Cemetery with Father Geary officiating.



Billings, Donald, 75, Belvidere, April 17
Carroll, Sharon, 63, Belvidere, April 17
Cregeen, David, 83, Belvidere, April 19
Fidder, Andrew, 57, Belvidere, April 21
King, LeAnne, 75, Belvidere, April 12
LeClere, Elsie, 87, Belvidere, April 19
Lopez, Miguel, 57, Belvidere, April 10
Pena (Blachford), Alane, 67, Bel., April 14
Shaw, Donald, 65, Belvidere, April 11
Williams, Andrea, 63, Belvidere, April 14

REAL JOURNALISM FOR A REAL DEMOCRACY

Publisher/Editor: David C. Larson
Senior Writer/Editorial: Charles Herbst
Photography: Susan Moran

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

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Each week, the Journal seeks to present a variety of voices.
Letters. Every attempt will be made to print all letters received with the exception of those that are libelous or obscene. Letters should be signed and include an ID or phone number, so that we can contact the author prior to publication to verify authenticity.
Guest columns. Community leaders are encouraged to submit guest columns consistent with our editorial guidelines for possible inclusion in the Journal.
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OP-ED

Illinois Can Take Next Steps to Protect Soil Health

By *Becky Doyle*
Former director, Illinois Department of Agriculture

Most Illinoisans do not realize that the most important resource in our state is right under their feet.

Illinois soils are more appreciated globally than they are right here at home. Long valued for their world-class productive capacity, our soils are now also known to be capable of:

- 1.) Protecting water quality
- 2.) Providing habitat and ecosystem diversity
- 3.) Sequestering atmospheric carbon by supporting abundant plant growth that results in CO2 absorption and storage

Nearly 84 years ago (1937), the Illinois Legislature recognized the importance of protecting Illinois' greatest assets by creating local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, then supporting them with state funding. The work of those districts dramatically changed the way that farmers and others managed land, rainwater and surface water supplies. Over that same timeframe, the legislature supported the research that provided best soil management methods and the extension of that knowledge throughout the state.

That system provided the framework for valuable work during the 20th century, and Illinois achieved the national challenge of "T by 2000", limiting soil loss throughout the state to the level at which it replaces itself.

But, over the past two decades, state funding for these valuable programs has been reduced, while the challenges have become greater. Besides the stresses brought on by strong storms and periods of drought, we now know that it is not enough to just prevent soil loss. We must also improve and protect soil health to achieve the greatest benefits to our environment and society.

Just as with human and animal health, soil health requires focused, managed care. Farmers and landowners are willing to provide that care with improved management practices, but they need advice and credible information to guide and support their efforts.

Fortunately, Illinois citizens and the General Assembly can invest in our soil's future at a relatively low cost by assuring passage of Senate Bill 3471. Once the bill is passed and funded, we will be able to better protect the health and beneficial capacity of Illinois soils through:

- 1.) Rebuilding support of the county Soil and Water Conservation Districts to a level that allows them to meet 21st century challenges

2.) Funding innovative programs that promote cover crops and other soil health management practices (i.e., Fall Covers for Spring Savings)

3.) Promoting soil health and water quality protection through the Partners for Nutrient Loss Reduction Act

Like clear air and clean water, soil health is important to all. Stewardship of our soils is a legacy project for which we can all be proud, and for which future generations will be grateful. The strategic support provided by Senate Bill 3471 will get us back on that legacy track.

Becky Doyle, of Gillespie, was director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture from 1991 to 1999.

Have We Lost Respect for Free Speech

By *Scott Reeder*

Our society has developed quite a bit of consternation over folks who kneel on football fields.

First there was quarterback Colin Kaepernick kneeling during the National Anthem in protest of police brutality.

Donald Trump's response: "Get that son of a bitch off the field."

Sigh.
On April 25, the U.S. Supreme Court heard the case of Joseph Kennedy, a Bremerton, Washington, high school football coach who was suspended from his job after repeatedly kneeling on the football field and praying after games.

It made some school officials uncomfortable. But here's the rub; the only speech worth defending is that which makes people uncomfortable.

Writers at the left-of-center publication Slate are wringing their hands over the prospect of a praying coach. They have conjured up some vast right-wing conspiracy that would turn public schools into religious indoctrination zones if the high court rules in Kennedy's favor.

While I do identify as an Evangelical Christian, there is something about these types of public prayers that make me uneasy. I think of Jesus' admonition in the book of Matthew: "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

So, if someone were to ask me if I believe this is an effective way for Coach Kennedy to share his faith, I'd say "No." But if I were asked if he should be allowed to express himself in this way, I'd say, "Yes."

I feel much the same about Kaepernick. I personally can't see myself kneeling during the National Anthem. But I fully acknowledge racism and brutality

remain enormous problems in law enforcement. I've uncovered many such instances during the past 35 years.

That said, I support Kaepernick. He and other athletes should be able to peacefully petition their government in the manner they see fit.

Sadly, varying factions in our society on both the left and the right want to silence those who they don't agree with. That approach is the antithesis of a free society.

When in doubt, side with free expression. I began my journalism career covering the University of Texas Medical Branch for the Galveston Daily News. Shortly before I took over the beat, a university cop arrested a Muslim person for kneeling and praying on campus.

My reaction at the time was that was stupid. Why would the government interfere with that man's ability to pray?

Some might say that the difference is that Coach Kennedy is in a position of authority and his actions violate the separation of church and state.

But the problem with that argument is that we don't live in an antiseptic society. A math teacher wearing a yarmulke, a principal with an Ash Wednesday cross on his forehead or a history instructor donning a hijab also are expressing their faith in state-sanctioned environments.

Would we really want to prohibit such acts? I think not.

One anonymous athlete said he felt compelled to kneel with Kennedy because he feared if he didn't he would lose playing time.

But Virginia Tech University soccer player Kiersten Hening claims she was booted from the team last year when she refused to kneel during the National Anthem.

No one should ever feel coerced to express themselves in a manner untrue to their conscience. But no one should be barred from freely expressing their beliefs either.

Figuring out where to draw the line between the two; that's the hard part.

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

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Cameras

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state roads through funding from the state's Road Fund. The underlying program was launched in 2020 in response to expressway shootings. ISP has recorded 580 such shootings since 2019, including 72 this year.

In February, Pritzker appeared alongside ISP Director Brendan Kelly to publicize more than 20 arrests related to expressway crime due to an increased law enforcement focus. But Melaney Arnold, an ISP spokesperson, said this week the department was unable to quantify the number of crimes solved by expressway cameras due to the number of open investigations and pending charges.

"Since installation of (automatic license plate readers) in the Chicago area, our investigators in Cook County have used ALPRs, in addition to other information and evidence, as part of every investigation," she said in an email.

The bills received the backing of ISP, the state's attorney general and broad majorities in the legislature.

But civil liberties advocates and lawmakers from each party aired concerns about potential misuse of the cameras, a lack of clarity regarding how camera placements will be chosen, and that an individual would be prohibited from accessing their own camera footage via the Freedom of Information Act.

"Although these tools can provide some public benefit, the risk is that they're susceptible to abuse and have a chilling effect on public life," Sen. Jason Barickman, R-Bloomington, said in an interview.

It's a concern that Rep. Ann Williams, a Chicago Democrat and House sponsor of HB 260, said she considered when carrying the bill.

"Historically, I've been one to be very concerned about ensuring that we don't surveil society – that should not be our law enforcement approach," she said in an interview. "But targeted use of cameras that are limited in use and narrow in scope, ... it's about violent crimes that concern people every day, and the way to hopefully address those."

Roadway expansion

The measures amend the 2020 Expressway Camera Act, which has led to the placement of about 100 license plate-reading cameras on the Dan Ryan expressway in Chicago through a \$12.5 million IDOT grant. A second phase funded by that grant would add hundreds more on other Cook County roads.

It's a program currently focused on automatic license plate readers, which monitor a car's rear license plate and send the information to a central location to be analyzed by software that allows law enforcement to place a vehicle at the scene of an expressway crime, according to ISP.

Kelly told lawmakers in March that criminals choose expressways because they make escape easier, partially because there are fewer cameras to capture identifying features and it's more difficult to track down witnesses. The expressway camera program is a way to counteract those disadvantages for law enforcement, he said.

The pilot program is scheduled to expire in July 2023 but would be extended through June 2025 under the measures awaiting Pritzker's signature.

One of those measures, HB 4481, would also expand it to state highways and expressways in the counties of Boone, Bureau, Champaign, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Henry, Kane, Kendall, Lake, LaSalle, Macon, Madison, McHenry, Morgan, Peoria, Rock Island, Sangamon, St. Clair, Will and Winnebago. It passed 95-10 in the House and 48-5 in the Senate.

The budget signed this month by Pritzker includes \$20 million from the state Road Fund for the expansion.

While an added 6,300 miles of roadway – on top of about 230 miles under current law – would be eligible for cameras under the program, the new legislation contains no guidance for which roadways would receive them.

"So who makes the decisions on where the cameras are placed?" Barickman said. "Are the cameras placed in areas that are more frequented by more minorities and does that lend to a discriminatory effect that we're targeting certain populations?"

Arnold said ISP would finalize and share placement details should the bills become law.

Rep. LaToya Greenwood, an East St. Louis Democrat who sponsored HB 4481, said she expects ISP to use statewide data and data from local law enforcement agencies to determine camera placement. As a Black woman who represents one of the poorest communities in the state in East St. Louis, she said, she wouldn't be sponsoring the bill if she believed it would be misused.

She said the counties were chosen through discussions with law enforcement and lawmakers who saw a need for added crime-solving tools.

The St. Louis Metro East area that she represents has seen the second-highest concentration of expressway shootings in the state outside of Chicago, according to ISP data, with 35 occurring since 2019 including nine this year.

Law enforcement from the area sought legislative help, she said.

"They needed some assistance on that highway or those highways that either lead to St. Louis or back to the Illinois side," she said.

Eligible offense expansion

The other measure on Pritzker's desk would expand investigable offenses beyond the firearms offenses and roadway condition monitoring allowed under current law.

HB 260, if signed, would allow police to use camera footage to also investigate hijacking and forcible felonies such as murder, criminal sexual assault, robbery, burglary, arson, kidnapping and aggravated battery.

Using footage to enforce "petty offenses," such as speeding, would remain prohibited.

HB 260 would also give the attorney general's office, along with local state's attorneys, authority to prosecute forcible felony, gunrunning and firearms offenses on camera-monitored expressways.

The measure saw roll calls of 97-10 in the House and 44-12 in the Senate, earning praise from Democratic Attorney General Kwame Raoul, who said it would aid in "capturing and holding accountable individuals who terrorize residents and visitors traveling Illinois roadways."

But Rep. Curtis Tarver, a Chicago Democrat who is a personal injury and civil rights attorney, said he had concerns about the attorney general's

new role under the bill because the AG's office would also defend officers accused of discrimination involving the cameras.

HB 260 specifically states cameras cannot be used to monitor individuals "in a discriminatory manner contrary to applicable state or federal law."

But the law requires that footage be deleted within 120 days unless it is the subject of an ongoing investigation or pending criminal trial, and it prohibits potential discrimination victims from accessing the footage due to the FOIA exemption, he said.

"You actually put into statute that you have to delete the very video that might be proof of profiling," he said. "And so it eliminates a civil judge's discretion to say 'preserve that evidence' if you don't file a lawsuit (within that 120-day time frame)."

Tarver said those issues, taken together, are problematic from a civil rights perspective.

"ISP gets to essentially determine where cameras go. It gets to have the video and not disclose it, and it doesn't have to provide any justifiable reason," Tarver said. "And at the same time, the attorney general can potentially prosecute alleged criminals, but we're also putting in statute that we'll delete the very video that the attorney general might have to defend those officers against. It's crazy."

On the FOIA exemption, both Williams, HB 260's House sponsor, and Arnold of ISP said allowing the images to be subject to FOIA could prove an invasive tool if accessed for tracking purposes.

"Release of these images to non-law enforcement entities could have devastating consequences to law enforcement investigatory efforts, as well as the privacy of the driving public," Arnold said in an email.

Williams and Greenwood both said they were open to follow-up legislation potentially allowing an individual the ability to request their own video via FOIA.

Program transparency

While the current program focuses on license plate readers that store still images, nothing in existing law prohibits the cameras from including more invasive video technologies.

The lack of transparency regarding the program and the vagueness of the placement language led ACLU of Illinois to successfully lobby for a provision in HB 260 that requires state agencies to post online, within 90 days of the bill becoming law, details about program objectives, counties where it is operational, and policies under which the program operates.

"I think part of it is that we don't fully understand," said Khadine Bennett, director of advocacy and intergovernmental affairs at ACLU of Illinois. "I mean, all that the underlying law says is that those entities would work together to create a program to increase cameras, but there is no details as to like, what does that actually mean? How does that operate? How do they decide? And the hope is that that additional language would allow for more transparency there."

Another provision included in the final bill at the request of the ACLU of Illinois would require ISP, IDOT and the Tollway report to the General Assembly by June 30 each year on the cost of installation, data storage and maintenance of cameras by county, and the number of times law enforcement accessed data to investigate the crimes outlined in the statute.

Bennett said she was hopeful that lawmakers would use those reports to judge the cost effectiveness of highway cameras when it's time to decide whether to extend the program.

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Credit Score

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decrease, or if the state departs from “fiscal management practices” of building fund reserves and increasing pension contributions.

In February, Pritzker’s Department of Revenue testified in a committee presentation that much of almost \$5 billion in unforeseen state revenue growth for the current fiscal year was a result of pandemic-related shifts in consumer spending and other federal aid, either directly or indirectly.

That was largely driven by increases to the state’s personal and corporate income taxes, as well as sales taxes, as consumers purchased more taxable goods than untaxed services amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Increased federal unemployment benefits played a role as well.

IDOR warned of a revenue slowdown at that committee hearing and Pritzker said the budget for the upcoming fiscal year anticipates one.

“We lowered our revenue estimates for the state because we know that the economy of Illinois can’t grow at 5.7 percent or 6 percent every year. That’s not going to happen,” he said. “That was an unusual year. We were coming out of, we still are coming out of a pandemic. But significant infusions into the economy by the federal government all across the nation. But we do expect growth in the state and we have planned for a lower level of revenue and as a result lower spending to meet the revenue that we’ve got.”

Comptroller Susana Mendoza, a frequent critic of former Gov. Bruce Rauner who presided over eight credit downgrades between the three major agencies, said the state began making fiscal progress prior to the direct receipt of federal funds.

An unpaid backlog of bills overseen by the comptroller’s office that once reached nearly \$17 billion under Rauner now sits within a 30-day billing cycle from the date vouchers are received by the comptroller’s office.

“I knew that through our smart fiscal management, this upgrade was on the horizon,” Mendoza said in a statement. “This is not by chance. Even before a penny of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal stimulus dollars came to Illinois, the Illinois Office of Comptroller methodically paid down the state’s bills and shortened the bill payment cycle.”

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

DCFS Director Faces 9th Contempt Charge for Improper Placements

Pritzker Points to Increased Agency Budget As Effort To Reverse Trend

By Beth Hundsdorfer Capitol News Illinois

A Cook County judge found DCFS Director Marc Smith in contempt on Thursday.

It’s the ninth time this year that Smith has faced contempt citations for failing to place children in settings that comply with the agency’s recommendations and court orders.

The latest case involves a 15-year-old boy with special needs who remains in a locked psychiatric unit despite a medical release on Jan. 31. The court ordered on March 14 that DCFS move the child to an appropriate placement by March 25. DCFS had not moved the child as of Friday.

Cook County Public Guardian Charles Golbert represents the boy in court and stated DCFS failed for months to schedule a neuropsychological exam to assess the boy’s special needs.

Gov. JB Pritzker’s spokesperson, Jordan Abudayyeh, said Pritzker and Smith share the judge’s frustration with lack of appropriate placements.

“DCFS is working hard to find placements for these vulnerable children with special needs. Tragically, when Gov. Rauner decimated social services, we were warned that it would be much easier to lose the 500 beds he destroyed than to recreate them again. Advocates warned that these services weren’t like a light switch that could be turned on and off with ease,” Abudayyeh said.

Golbert said the hope is the contempt citations will drive change within the agency, including removing children from inappropriate and harmful settings. Golbert said there are empty beds at existing group homes and residential facilities, but they are not appropriately staffed.

In the long term, Golbert said, DCFS needs to expand placement across the board, but especially in specialized foster care.

Gov. Pritzker’s budget set aside \$250 million to hire additional staff, increase rates for DCFS’ private partners and create new residential capacity, Abudayyeh said.

“Since taking office, the governor increased DCFS’ budget by over \$340 million with DCFS launching aggressive hiring efforts to bring on hundreds of additional staff,” she said. “The administration inherited a DCFS with outdated technology and inadequate trainings. Since then, technology has been overhauled and trainings and retrainings have taken place for every DCFS staff member.”

The contempt citations, child deaths and death of a DCFS investigator have drawn scrutiny from the legislature and the public.

Pritzker has been asked on multiple occasions about his confidence in Smith’s leadership at DCFS, most recently on April 9.

“Let me remind you that there have been over a dozen leaders of DCFS over the prior years to my becoming governor,” he said. “It’s important for us to bring stability to DCFS with a good leader who is bringing change. It is hard to make changes in a bureaucracy when you walk in day one. It takes some time and especially after you had two years of no budget, and essentially defunding of DCFS over an awful lot of years.”

Pritzker pointed to the budget numbers cited by Abudayyeh.

“Are there still challenges? Absolutely,” he said. “Every circumstance of a death or neglect or abuse is a tragedy, ... so we’re trying to address those ... but you can’t do it by just saying every time there’s a problem, let’s toss out the director.”

Since December, at least five children have died after contact with the state’s child protection agency. They are Damari Perry, 6, of North Chicago; Sophia Faye Davis, 1, of Dawson; Zaraz Walker, 1, of Bloomington; and Tamsin Miracle Sauer, 3, of Nelson.

Caseworker Deidre Silas was murdered in January while on a child welfare check in Sangamon County.

And the contempt citations keep stacking up.

The first contempt order involved a girl locked up in a psychiatric hospital unnecessarily for more than seven months, starting when she was eight years old. The second order involved a 13-year-old boy whom DCFS kept in a “temporary” shelter in Mount Vernon for nearly five months. The shelter is nearly five hours away from the child’s home. Before being placed in the shelter, the boy slept in a utility closet at a DCFS office.

In the third contempt order, a 17-year-old boy was placed in a locked psychiatric hospital for more than four months after he was cleared for release. The fourth contempt order involved a 16-year-old girl shuffled back and forth by DCFS 25 times in two months among various placements including hospitals, emergency shelters, a shelter in Indiana, and temporary foster homes. Before that, she was in a locked psychiatric hospital for nearly two months after she was medically cleared for release.

The fifth case involved an 11-year-old girl who was ready for discharge from a locked psychiatric hospital for almost a year. The sixth contempt order involved a 15-year-old girl held in a locked psychiatric for approximately three months. DCFS determined that she needs a specialized foster home.

The seventh order involved a 16-year-old boy with low intellectual functioning and cognitive delays who spent more than a year in a temporary shelter. The eighth case involved a 14-year-old girl who had been placed in 21 settings, including DCFS offices, hospital emergency rooms, and emergency foster homes. The placements also include being in a locked psychiatric hospital after she was ready for discharge for more than two months after entering DCFS’s care.

In each of the cases, Smith was fined \$1,000 per day until the children were in proper placements.

The first two contempt citations were purged after DCFS removed the children involved from a psychiatric hospital and an emergency center in Mount Vernon and placed them appropriately. All of the other children remain in inappropriate settings and the contempt of court adjudications remain in full force and effect. The fines all remain stayed.

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

Boone County Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8)

Will be opening their waitlist

Online Lottery Waiting list:

May 12th, 2022 12:01 am to May 15th, 2022 11:59 pm

Apply online @ www.NiReach.org

If you need to request a reasonable accommodation due to a disability or special need, please call 815.963.2133

There is never a fee to apply!

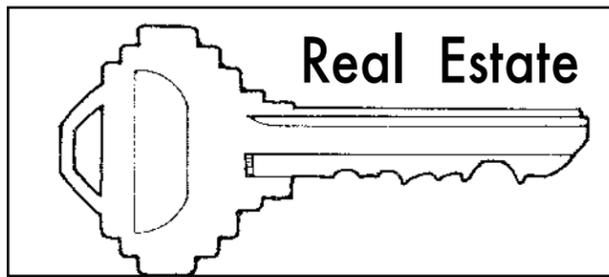
Boone County License & Title Stickers - Titles - Plates We Are OPEN

M-F 9-5
Sat 9-1

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

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





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

WILMINGTON TRUST, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO CITIBANK, N.A. AS TRUSTEE TO LEHMAN XS TRUST MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-6 Plaintiff,

-v.- 21 CH 15

LYNDA W. REILLY, M. MICHAEL REILLY A/K/A MATTHEW MICHAEL REILLY A/K/A MICHAEL REILLY, YOUR EQUITY SOURCE, LLC, WHO ACQUIRED TITLE AS YOUR EQUITY SOURCE, LLC, WELLS FARGO BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR STRUCTURED ASSET SECURITIES CORPORATION MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-S6 Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on March 29, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on May 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 107 NORTH FOURTH STREET, CAPRON, IL 61012

Property Index No. 04-11-126-010

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$174,781.19.

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, contact 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 21-094957.

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. 21-094957

Case Number: 21 CH 15

TJSC#: 42-1391

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.

Case # 21 CH 15

6088-922306

Published in The Boone County Journal 4-14,-21-28 -sw

OF POPLAR GROVE, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 11 AND PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN AS RECORDED JANUARY 7, 2004 IN PLAT INDEX FILE ENVELOPE 288-A AS DOCUMENT NO. 2004R00200 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE, STATE OF ILLINOIS.

C/K/A: 232 Briarwood Drive, Poplar Grove, IL 61065
PIN: 05-12-152-011

said Mortgage was given by Pamela R. Michaud and Gilbert J. Michaud, Mortgagor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., acting solely as nominee for St. Francis Mortgage Corp., Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Boone County, Illinois, as Document No. 04R12641.

E-Filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

UNLESS YOU file your appearance or otherwise file your answer in this case in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Boone County, Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere IL 61008 on or before May 23, 2022, A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED FOR IN THE PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT.

Russell C. Wirbicki (6186310)

Christopher J. Irk (6300084)

Cory J. Harris (6319221)

Tracey M. Coons (6311050)

The Wirbicki Law Group LLC

Attorney for Plaintiff

33 W. Monroe St., Suite 1540

Chicago, IL 60603

Phone: 312-360-9455

W20-0388

pleadings.il@wirbickilaw.com

13192798

Published in *The Boone County Journal* April, 21, 28 and May 5, 2022.

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

WILMINGTON TRUST, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO CITIBANK, N.A. AS TRUSTEE TO LEHMAN XS TRUST MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-6 Plaintiff,

-v.- 21 CH 15

LYNDA W. REILLY, M. MICHAEL REILLY A/K/A MATTHEW MICHAEL REILLY A/K/A MICHAEL REILLY, YOUR EQUITY SOURCE, LLC, WHO ACQUIRED TITLE AS YOUR EQUITY SOURCE, LLC, WELLS FARGO BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR STRUCTURED ASSET SECURITIES CORPORATION MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-S6 Defendant

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PART OF LOT 8 DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 8 AND RUNNING TO THE NORTH 84 FEET; THENCE AT RIGHT ANGLES EAST 4 RODS; THENCE AT RIGHT ANGLES SOUTH 84 FEET; THENCE AT RIGHT ANGLES WEST 4 RODS TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, IN BLOCK 4 IN THE PLAT OF THE TOWN OF CAPRON, BEING A PART OF THE NORTH HALF OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 45 NORTH, RANGE 4 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED JUNE 11, 1862 IN BOOK X OF DEEDS, PAGE 119, BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 107 NORTH FOURTH STREET, CAPRON, IL 61012

Property Index No. 04-11-126-010

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$174,781.19.

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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.

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For information, contact 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 21-094957.

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LOGS Legal Group LLP
2121 WAUKEGAN RD., SUITE 301
Bannockburn IL, 60015

847-291-1717

E-Mail: ILNotices@logs.com

Attorney File No. 21-094957

Case Number: 21 CH 15

TJSC#: 42-1391

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.

Case # 21 CH 15

6088-922306

Published in *The Boone County Journal* 4-14,-21-28 -sw

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF BOONE - IN PROBATE
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARION D. HAMPTON,
Deceased

PROBATE No. 2022-PR-0004

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the death of MARION D HAMPTON, of Poplar Grove, Illinois. Letters of office were issued on February 16, 2022, to RODNEY HAMPTON, 2194 N. 450TH Road, Sheridan, IL 60551, Independent Executor. Whose attorney for the estate is Attorney MICHAEL R. KONEWKO, KONEWKO & ASSOC., LTD, 29W204 Roosevelt Road, West Chicago, IL 60185.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of PAMELA CODUTO, the Boone County Circuit Clerk-Probate Division at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, IL 61008, or with the legal representatives, or both, on or before October 28, 2022, 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 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975 as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date as stated above shall be barred.

Copies of a 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 (10) days after it has been filed.

Michael R. Konewko Attorney for Rodney Hampton, Independent Executor ARDC 3121878

Konewko & Assoc., LTD

29W204 Roosevelt Road

West Chicago, IL 60185

630-231-5509

michael.konewko@konewkoandassoc.com

Published in the Boone County Journal April 28, May 5, May 12

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

In The Interest of: Tobias McConnaughay, minor

No. 22-JA-11

JOHN NIELSEN/ To whom it may concern/All unknown natural Fathers ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Take notice that on APRIL 18, 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 Tobias McConnaughay, minor; and that in the County Courthouse in Belvidere, Illinois, at 2:00 P.M. central daylight time on 5/26/2022; 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: April 22, 2022

Pamela Coduto, CIRCUIT CLERK

Published in The Boone County Journal; April 28, May 5, 12 - C

On 7/22/21, Illinois State Police seized numerous electronics to include 39 iPads, 7 iPhones, 1 Apple Watch, 1 ROG Strix laptop and 61 gift cards from a traffic stop on I-90 westbound at milepost 22.75 (Boone County). In accordance with 765 ILCS 1030/0.01, contact Illinois State Police Zone 2 at 815-987-7440 if you are the owner and can prove ownership of these items.
Published in the Boone County Journal April 28, May 5, May 12

ADOPTION NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

COUNTY OF BOONE

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE

In Re the Matter of the Petition for Adoption of ADRIAN RAMIREZ, a male child, 2022 AD 4

To Yvonne Ramirez and All Whom It May Concern:

TAKE NOTICE that a Petition was filed in the Circuit Court of Boone County, Illinois, for the adoption of a minor child named ADRIAN RAMIREZ.

NOW THEREFORE, unless you, and all whom it may concern, file your answer to the Petition in the action or otherwise file your appearance therein in said Circuit Court of Boone County, in the City of Belvidere, Illinois on or before the 13th day of June, 2022, a default may be entered against you any time after that day and a Judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said Petition.

Dated: April 21, 2022

Clerk of the Circuit Court

ZIMMERMAN & WALSH, LLP

Attorney Meghan Bolte, #6302434

1707 East State Street

Rockford, IL 61104

Phone: 815-399-1400

Fax: 815-399-9440

mmb@zimwalsh.com

Published in The Boone County Journal; April 28, May 5, 12

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, WALWORTH COUNTY

IN THE INTEREST OF

G.K.L.F. - D.O.B. January 17,2018

Born to: A.C.W. - D.O.B. APRIL 19, 1994

Notice and Order of Hearing

Case No. 22 TP 05

TO: A.C.W. - D.O.B. April 19, 1994

Physical Description of alleged parent:

white female, blonde or brown hair, hazel eyes, 5'5", 145 pounds

L/k/a:

510 West Madison Street

Belvidere

and any unknown parent at unknown address.

Additional identifying information:

Date of conception: April 20, 2017 - May 8, 2017

Place of conception: Unknown

Date of birth: January 17, 2018

Place of birth: Fort Atkinson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

IT IS ORDERED:

This Notice be published advising you that a Petition for Termination of your parental rights to the named-above child be heard at the Walworth County Courthouse, Elkhorn Wisconsin,

LEGAL NOTICES

"THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE"
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

The Bank of New York Mellon (fka The Bank of New York) as Trustee for the holders of American Home Mortgage Investment Trust 2004-4; Plaintiff,

vs. 22 FC 3

Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Pamela R. Michaud; Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Gilbert J. Michaud; Prairie Green Homeowners Association; Gidget R. Briesch a/k/a Gidget Briesch a/k/a Gidget Uhlir, Individually and as Trustee of the Gidget R. Briesch Trust; Gilbert Michaud; Gina Moore; Roberta Van Etten; Gidget R. Briesch Trust; William Butcher, as Special Representative for Gilbert J. Michaud and Pamela R. Michaud; Unknown Owners and Non Record Claimants; Defendants.

Judge Presiding
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you:

-Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Pamela R. Michaud;

-Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Gilbert J. Michaud

-Prairie Green Homeowners Association

-Gidget R. Briesch Trust

-Unknown Owners and Non Record Claimants;

that Plaintiff has commenced this case in the Circuit Court of Boone County against you and other defendants, for foreclosure of a certain Mortgage lien recorded against the premises described as follows:

LOT SEVENTY-FIVE (75) OF PLAT NO. 2 OF PRAIRIE GREEN

Pritzker Appoints Rejected Prisoner Review Board Member to Labor Board

Mears will earn \$98K annually, awaits Senate approval

By Beth Hundsdorfer Capitol News Illinois

Former Illinois Prisoner Review Board member Jeffrey Mears, who failed to receive confirmation for that post from the Illinois Senate last month, has been appointed to the Illinois Labor Relations Board.

Gov. JB Pritzker made that appointment Thursday, setting Mears up to face another Senate vote in the next General Assembly.

The Illinois Labor Relations Board certifies collective bargaining units. It also investigates and remedies unfair labor practices by public employers and unions, assists with arbitration and mediation to resolve labor-related disputes, and conducts emergency investigations of public employee strikes.

Before serving on the Prisoner Review Board, Mears was employed as a union painter for the Department of Corrections for nearly 20 years, but also served as a hostage negotiations coordinator, the negotiations team and statewide audit review team.

“His experience in de-escalation and crisis intervention speaks to his skills in collaboration, communication and thoughtful approach to complex issues and we look forward to his continued service to the state of Illinois,” Pritzker spokesperson Jordan Abudayyeh said.

Mears’ new appointment to the Labor Relations Board comes with a nearly \$98,000 salary.

Mears was one of six members to leave the Prisoner Review Board in recent weeks after the appointment process came under scrutiny by Republican members of the Senate.

PRB member Oreal James resigned. Eleanor Kaye Wilson, along with Mears, failed to win Senate confirmation. Pritzker pulled his appointment of Max Cerda, who had been convicted and served time for a double murder before his release from prison and his working with offenders.

Senators voting against Mears and Wilson cited some of their votes to release controversial individuals. Senate Republicans long raised concerns about the number of PRB members who were voting on offender releases without being confirmed by the Senate. Those releases included offenders convicted of rape and murder, killing police

officers and the murder of children.

In addition to 18 Republicans who voted no on Mears’ appointment to the PRB, 18 Democrats did not vote. Sen. Patrick Joyce, D-Essex, joined the GOP and voted no.

Pritzker also pulled the appointments of Aurthur Mae Perkins, 83, of Peoria, and Joseph Ruggiero, 62, of Wheaton, for the Illinois Prisoner Review Board. The two appointees, originally appointed by Republican former Gov. Bruce Rauner, had served on the PRB without Senate confirmation for nearly three years each.

The loss of the six members left the PRB without a quorum and forced the postponement of a clemency docket in April. As of Friday, the PRB website said the board was “working to finalize a future date and location.”

Earlier this month, Pritzker appointed ex-Cook County Judge Robin Shoffner and Rauner’s former chief of staff, Rodger Heaton, to the PRB. Their appointments quickly passed through committee and they both were confirmed by the Senate, allowing the board to reach a quorum.

The controversy surrounding the PRB centered on candidates who had their appointments withdrawn then resubmitted. Wilson and James were appointed on April 2, 2019, but Pritzker pulled their appointments on March 19, 2021. They were reappointed two days later.

The governor can withdraw nominations and reappoint the same appointee to restart the 60-session-day clock in which their appointments could be heard by the Senate. This practice is allowed under Senate rules and has been used by previous governors. If they hit the end of 60 days, they are automatically considered approved.

Mears was initially appointed to the Illinois Prisoner Review Board in March 2021. He was scheduled to go before the Senate Executive Committee in May, but that appearance was canceled that morning, he said during his testimony before the Senate in March.

Mears served on the Prisoner Review Board for a year, making decisions on 40 cases involving the release of those serving time in the Illinois Department of Corrections. He received an annual salary of roughly \$90,000.

Mears also serves as the Democratic Party Chairman for Johnson County in southern Illinois.

Mears declined to comment for this story.

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

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Rm./Br. address Room 3045, Branch III, 1800 County Road NN, Elkhorn, WI 53121 on (Date) July 27, 2022, at [Time] 10:30 a.m.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR, the court may hear testimony in support of the allegations in the Petition and grant the request of the petitioner to terminate your parental rights.

You have the right to have an attorney present. If you desire to contest the matter and cannot afford an attorney, the state public defender may appoint an attorney to represent you.

If you fail to appear and the court terminates your parental rights, a notice of intent to pursue relief from the judgment must be signed and filed in the trial court within 30 days after the judgment is entered, in order to preserve the right to pursue such relief.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 262-741-7012 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

Please check with attorney/petitioner below for exact time and date.

Name of Attorney
Haley J. Johnson
Address
1800 County Road NN
Elkhorn, WI 53121
Telephone Number: 262-741-7221
Bar Number: 1067866

Published in the Boone County Journal April 28, 2022

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, WALWORTH COUNTY IN THE INTEREST OF

Child, A&S name - E.L.L.F. - D.O.B. July 8, 2015

Born to: A.C.W. - D.O.B. April 19, 1994

Notice and Order of Hearing

Case No. 22 TP 06

TO: A.C.W. - D.O.B. April 19, 1994

Physical Description of alleged parent:

white email, blonde or brown hair, hazel eyes, 5'5", 145 pounds

l/k/a:

510 West Madison Avenue

Belvidere, IL 61008

and any unknown parent at unknown address.

Additional identifying information:

Date of conception: October 9, 2014 - 27, 2014

Place of conception: Unknown

Date of birth: July 8, 2015

Place of birth: Rockford, Winnebago County, Illinois

IT IS ORDERED:

This Notice be published advising you that a Petition for Termination of your parental rights to the named-above child be heard at the Walworth County Courthouse, Elkhorn Wisconsin, Room 3045, Branch III, 1800 County Road NN, Elkhorn, WI 53121, on [Date] July 27, 2022, at [Time] 10:30 a.m.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR, the court may hear testimony in support of the allegations in the Petition and grant the request of the petitioner to terminate your parental rights.

You have the right to have an attorney present. If you desire to contest the matter and cannot afford an attorney, the state public defender may appoint an attorney to represent you.

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Bar Number: 1067866

Published in the Boone County Journal April 28, 2022

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 photography business in said County and State under the name of LIZABETH 815 PHOTOGRAPHY at the following post office address: 115 Chatham Court, 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: Elizabeth Davis, 115 Chatham Court, Poplar Grove, IL 61065; phone # (815) 742-2559.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 26th day of April, A.D. 2022

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk

Published in Boone County Journal 4/28, 5/5, 5/12/22

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 / office cleaning business in said County and State under the name of HAPPY HOME CLEANING SERVICE at the following post office address: 719 East Lincoln Avenue, 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: Erin Stone, 719 East Lincoln Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008; phone # (815) 978-6130.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 19th day of April, A.D. 2022

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk

Published in Boone County Journal 4/21, 4/18, 5/5/22

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