

Lincoln's Second Inaugural Stands Test of Time

"With Malice Toward None, with Charity For All" is Hallmark of Compact Speech

By Tom Emery

Few Presidents have ever made a shorter inauguration speech. And none have ever said more.

The Second Inaugural Address of Abraham Lincoln in March 1865 is considered by some his greatest oration – even ahead of the Gettysburg Address. The normally reticent Lincoln said that his Second Inaugural would “wear as well as – perhaps better than – anything I have produced.”

“It’s certainly one of his greatest speeches,” said Kathryn Harris, who retired as director of library services at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Ill. in 2015.

Six weeks later, Lincoln was dead at the hands of an assassin. But his words, particularly the closing remarks of “with malice toward none, with charity for all” have become a hallmark of both the Lincoln presidency and the path to peace for a divided nation.

Measuring a mere 703 words, the Second Inaugural has been lauded for both its moral tone

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Lincoln giving his second inaugural address

Advocacy Groups Push for Expansive Paid Family, Medical Leave In Illinois

26-week leave policy would make Illinois the 12th state with paid leave laws

By Hannah Meisel Capitol News Illinois

A coalition of advocacy and labor groups is pushing for a state law to give Illinois workers 26 weeks of paid leave if they need to recover from an illness, domestic or sexual violence, or take care of a sick family member or new child.

The same groups just celebrated a legislative victory last month with the passage of five days of paid leave – negotiations that took four years but were ultimately agreed to by the state’s most influential business groups and even garnered some Republican votes.

After a quick rebrand to the Illinois Time To Care Coalition, advocates are pushing for a more ambitious leave policy, which would make Illinois the 12th state with mandatory paid family and medical leave. The United States is the only industrialized nation without a national paid parental leave law, while dozens of developing countries also have such policies.

“No one should have to choose a paycheck over their health and the health of their family,” said Wendy Pollack, Women’s Law and Policy Initiative director at the Chicago-based Shriver Center on Poverty Law.

The coalition’s initial proposal – encapsulated in Senate Bill 1234 and House Bill 1530 – would cover all employers in Illinois and all employees who earn at least \$1,600 annually. Paid leave would also apply to contract workers.

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Approaching ‘Medicaid Cliff’ Could Leave Hundreds of Thousands Uninsured

Pandemic-era program will expire on March 31

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

As many as 700,000 Illinoisans may stand to lose their Medicaid coverage after March 31, but the Department of Healthcare and Family Services says it is working to reduce that number and help those affected find health insurance elsewhere.

Medicaid is a health insurance program for poor and disabled people that is jointly funded by the federal government and the states.

The coverage “cliff,” as some have called it, is the result of a spending bill that Congress passed in December. It puts an end to a pandemic-era rule that sent billions of additional federal dollars to states if they agreed to keep Medicaid patients continuously enrolled in the program through the end of the public health emergency without having to go through the normal reapplication process.

Because that law separated the Medicaid rules from other emergency actions, the program will end sooner than the May 11 date on which both the White House and Gov. JB Pritzker plan to end their emergency declarations.

The change means many who have been receiving continuous Medicaid coverage throughout the pandemic will have to reapply for benefits, potentially leading to loss of coverage if the individual would no longer qualify for benefits or if they fail to complete a reapplication.

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What to Know Ahead of Pritzker’s Budget Proposal to Lawmakers

Proposed spending plan kicks off monthslong budgeting process each year

By Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

Gov. JB Pritzker’s second-term legislative agenda will kick off in earnest next week as he proposes his fifth annual state budget to lawmakers in the General Assembly.

But while a governor’s proposal usually provides the framework for the state’s annual spending plan, it rarely makes it through the General Assembly untouched by lawmakers who have their own spending priorities.

The monthslong negotiating process involves dozens of budget hearings and behind-closed-doors meetings, eventually culminating in the budget’s passage – in normal years – sometime before the end of the legislative session. This year, lawmakers are scheduled to adjourn on May 19.

Here’s what to watch for ahead of Pritzker’s Feb. 15 address.

Budget basics

While there are hundreds of funds in the state treasury with statutory requirements for how the money is spent, the most scrutinized is the General Revenue Fund, or GRF. That pool of money – which last year topped \$50 billion for the first time – is the state’s main discretionary spending account, meaning lawmakers have the greatest authority to move it around.

Generally, about 80 percent of GRF spending

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OP-ED

What is that Smell

By Scott Reeder

“Why aren’t you drinking?”

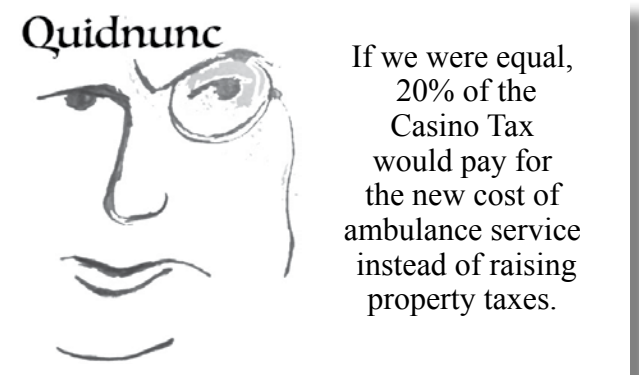
My former boss slurred those words as he looked across a table while he and my co-workers downed a pitcher of beer at a mandatory staff pizza party.

Drinkers ask that question. Not only is it off-putting and rude it’s ubiquitous.

I’ve never quite understood why that’s anyone’s business but my own; but it’s asked continually in the circles where I have worked: politics and journalism.


I don’t care if someone drinks around me. Why should they care if someone doesn’t drink around them?

Please note, I’m not talking about beer and burgers fellas or those who enjoy an occasional sip of wine. I’m talking about those who lack an



OBITUARIES

- Darcey Blazier, 58, Harvard, February 18
- Charles Crout III, 77, Harvard, February 17
- George Hasselmann, 82, Marengo, February 17
- Ruth Kiefer, 94, Belvidere, February 16
- Janice Krause, 84, Poplar Grove, February 20
- Joan Lecuyer, 83, Belvidere, February 15
- Joanne Nicholl, 80, Belvidere, February 12
- Jan Sherwood, 71, Poplar Grove, February 10
- Gary Walley, 71, Belvidere, February 15



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on/off switch, who don’t know when is when.

My first exposure to alcoholism was my maternal grandfather. He started the day with a shot of whiskey before breakfast and couldn’t function without some amount of alcohol flowing through his veins.

My recollections of him are primarily as a sad drunk, always in a stupor in his red recliner, smoking Marlboros and playing solitaire. Did I ever see him fully sober? I don’t know.

Neither his wife nor three children drank alcohol. Growing up, my mother remembered hellacious arguments as Grandpa disappeared with his drinking buddies to spend money on booze rather than food or rent.

Addiction is a pernicious disease.

My mother, a registered nurse, was convinced a genetic predisposition for alcoholism lurked in our DNA. Recent scientific studies have since found there is a genetic component to substance abuse. So, maybe she was onto something 40 years ago.

Regardless, I chose not to start drinking. I’m 58 years old and have never tasted alcohol. That’s not a badge of honor or disgrace. It’s just a choice. Interesting enough, both presidents Biden and Trump make the same claim about lifelong abstinence from alcohol. Both men also have a history of family substance abuse.

In school, I was hassled a bit for not engaging in the hard-drinking lifestyle. I chose friends who didn’t care.

But it’s in the workforce that I’ve found the pressure to conform to a particular behavior the most extreme. When I was a young reporter, my abstinence from alcohol was mentioned as a detriment during a formal job-performance evaluation.

The boss said a good reporter has to be a drinker to really understand the world. It would be easy to mark this off as one bad boss among many good ones. But it’s a situation I keep encountering.

Years later, I found myself in another state sitting next to another boss, as I sipped my Diet Coke, and he slurred, “Is this some sort of religious thing, you know, that you don’t drink?”

No, it isn’t. But if were, would it be any of your business?

By that time in my career, I was supervising people, some of whom had substance abuse problems.

During one out-of-state meeting, I saw one particular reporter’s hands shake and he’d shift uncomfortably in his chair. He’d then announce that he forgot something in his hotel room and disappear for a fix.

When I expressed concern, I was told, “He’s not an alcoholic – they go to meetings.” Not a compassionate way to deal with someone who is suffering – or a smart way to deal with a team member who is impaired.

The organization claimed it couldn’t afford an employee assistance program but hosted plenty of events with open bars. Usually before opening the bar the boss would point to one fellow who would often get sloshed at lunch before returning to work and announce, “Don’t get in front of him on the way to the bar, he’ll run you over.”

Where he saw amusement, I saw a problem. Alcoholism isn’t a matter of bad character. It’s a disease and should be treated as such.

But when I’d raise concerns to those above me about employees in my charge, it was dismissed with a wave of the hand as if to say, “You’re a teetotaler, what do you know about alcohol?”

Yeah, the problem is the folks who don’t drink – not the ones who can barely function. Privately, I guided one of my co-workers into a 12-step program.

At future work gatherings, he’d be sipping coffee while others were downing cocktails.

Inevitably, someone would ask, “Why aren’t you drinking?” He’d shift uncomfortably from foot to foot and try to come up with a response.

How about: It’s none of your business.

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

Push for State Child Tax Credit Begins, Could Face Uphill Battle

Low- and middle-income families would get \$700 per child

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

A group of Democratic lawmakers on Tuesday called for creating a state-level child tax credit that would give low- and middle income families up to \$700 per child each year in tax relief.

But whether Gov. JB Pritzker includes such a plan in his budget proposal, scheduled to be delivered Feb. 15 – and whether it receives the endorsement of top Democratic leaders in the General Assembly – remains an open question.

Erion Malasi, director of policy and advocacy at the advocacy group Economic Security for Illinois, pegged the plan’s cost at somewhere between \$700 million and \$800 million annually.

State Sen. Mike Simmons, D-Chicago, said passage of such a measure would benefit about half of all children in Illinois.

“It puts money in the pockets of struggling moms and dads all across the state,” he said during a Statehouse news conference. “And when we put money in the pockets of those working parents, we know that they can’t afford to save so they’re going to go out and spend that money on shoes for their kids, on health care that they’ve put off for too long, on food for their teenagers who love to eat.”

Illinois already offers an earned income tax credit, or EITC, which is available to people who meet certain income guidelines, even if they have no children. A child tax credit would be an additional payment to parents. Like the EITC, the child tax credit would be refundable, meaning if the amount of the credit exceeds the filer’s total tax liability, the excess amount would be repaid to the taxpayer.

The language of the proposal is contained in Senate Bill 1444, which Simmons introduced Tuesday. Under the legislation, individuals with income below \$50,000 and married couples filing jointly with incomes below \$75,000 would be eligible for a \$700-per-child tax credit.

For tax filers with incomes above those limits, the amount of the credit would be reduced by \$24 for each \$1,000 of additional income.

Simmons was joined at the news conference by other supporters of the idea, including Sen. Robert Peters, also a Chicago Democrat, whose district, he said, includes some of the wealthiest, and some of the poorest, ZIP codes in Illinois.

“No ZIP code should have that level of inequality,” he said. “This is a step for us to move away from income inequality and to something that says equity and equality itself is a necessary part of life.”

But the idea comes at a precarious time for Illinois, and it could face resistance due to its estimated annual price tag.

Although the state has been running multi-billion dollar surpluses in each of the last two

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Tax Credit

from page 2

years, the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget has projected that state finances could start running deficits as soon as Fiscal Year 2025.

Meanwhile, Illinois Comptroller Susana Mendoza has cautioned lawmakers not to use the current surpluses to enact new, permanent programs that would obligate the state to fund long into the future.

“What I would be opposed to is seeing new funding items – unless you can really sell that this is an extreme necessity for the state at this time – we want to stay away from funding new programs that are going to have to be funded year to year,” she told Capitol News Illinois during an interview in January.

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

Lost Speech
May Have Been
Lincoln’s Best of All

Delivered in Bloomington in May 1856

By Tom Emery

Abraham Lincoln is widely considered one of the foremost American orators. What may have been his best speech, however, is lost to history.

Dubbed the “Lost Speech,” the address was a fiery rebuttal of slavery in which Lincoln displayed emotion and intensity that shocked even his closest friends. But in one of the remarkable episodes in American history, no one took notes of the address – hence its nickname.

Lincoln’s speeches are among the seminal moments in American history, including the Gettysburg Address, the Second Inaugural, the “House Divided” speech, and the Cooper Union address. However, those in attendance for the “Lost Speech,” delivered at the first Republican State Convention in Bloomington in 1856, considered it Lincoln’s greatest of all.

Immediately after the oration, Jesse Dubois, a neighbor of Lincoln’s in Springfield, called it “the greatest speech ever made in Illinois, and it puts Lincoln on track for the Presidency.” Many modern researchers agree with Dubois’ conclusion.

May 29, 1856 was the second and final day of

the convention, held at Major’s Hall in downtown Bloomington. The convention was ostensibly a gathering of anti-Nebraska men, opposing the Kansas-Nebraska Act of Stephen A. Douglas from 1854. The 275 delegates were composed of ex-Whigs, anti-Nebraska Democrats and a hodgepodge of other affiliations, which gave rise to a cohesive, focused Republican Party.

Lincoln was not even listed on the program as the convention was nearing adjournment at 5:30 p.m. But calls for him to speak began to rise from the standing-room only crowd of 1,100 in the auditorium.

He accepted the invitation and rose, offering to make a few remarks from where he stood, but others implored him to take the platform.

Clutching a few scraps of paper, most expected him to speak for only a few minutes. But Lincoln held the platform for an hour and a half, mesmerizing his audience with forceful tone, occasional physical gestures, and raw emotion.

Though the first half-hour of his address was tepid, Elwell Crissey, who authored an exhaustive analysis of the speech in 1967, declared that Lincoln “stepped cleanly out of his character, and became for sixty or seventy minutes a different person – fiery, emotional, reckless, violent, hotblooded – everything which at other times he was not.”

The reaction of the crowd was overpowering, and decades later, those in attendance were still awestruck. John Moses, a Scott County delegate and a pre-eminent Illinois historian, wrote that “the immense audience rose to its feet and stood upon chairs and benches, at times hushed and breathless, with tears filling the eye and moistening the cheek...[they] sought relief in waving of hats and handkerchiefs, and in wild cheers that could not be restrained.”

Twentieth-century historians generally agree on the impact of the speech. Three weeks after the Bloomington convention, Lincoln received widespread support for the Vice-Presidential nomination at the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia, a measure of his growing national stature.

Dr. Wayne Temple of Springfield, who has been called the “greatest living Lincoln scholar,” assesses the speech as “one of the most important political addresses [Lincoln] ever made. He understood the times perfectly and expressed the feelings of the Republican Party so well that the leadership could no longer ignore him. It was truly the pivot of his life.”

The failure to make a record of a Lincoln speech is hardly unusual. Many of his speaking appearances, particularly on a local level, were not transcribed and correspondents, either from laziness or lack of interest, frequently chose not to

take detailed notes.

However, the venue and magnitude of the “Lost Speech” begs the question; why did no one take notes? At least forty editors were present that day, many of them seated at two press tables in front of the platform. The press included writers from Chicago, Bloomington, Springfield, Decatur, Rock Island, Peoria, and elsewhere.

Lincoln’s law partner, William Herndon, who was at the speech, later recalled, “I attempted for about fifteen minutes as was usual with me then to take notes, but at the end of that time I threw pen and paper away and lived only in the inspiration of the hour.”

Only one account of the speech is accepted by scholars as accurate, a 180-word synopsis in the Alton Weekly Courier, published eight days after the speech. The brief article was not discovered until 1930, seventy-four years after the Bloomington convention, and provides scant detail on the event.

As years passed, many onlookers raved about the electricity of the “Lost Speech.” But Lincoln’s exact words, which had riveted an audience and changed the course of state and national history as well as own life, were lost to history.

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ILLINOIS GAMING BOARD CASINO MONTHLY REPORT <i>Casino Summary</i> January 2022 - December 2022								
Casino	Square Feet	Admissions	Operating Days	Table Games AGR	EGD AGR	Total Adjusted Gross Receipts	Tax Allocations (Admissions + Wagering)	
							State Share	Local Share
Argosy Casino Alton	23,000	400,577	360	\$2,689,624.18	\$28,744,334.08	\$31,433,958.26	\$4,224,110.18	\$1,972,274.97
Bally's Quad Cities Casino & Hotel	39,604	656,516	365	\$3,242,356.30	\$51,308,839.42	\$54,551,195.72	\$8,150,240.44	\$3,384,075.70
DraftKings at Casino Queen	40,000	810,147	365	\$17,433,864.50	\$62,103,733.71	\$79,537,598.21	\$12,960,847.54	\$4,790,950.01
Grand Victoria Casino	29,850	922,236	365	\$34,007,569.65	\$120,441,690.91	\$154,449,260.56	\$31,714,156.93	\$8,644,699.11
Hard Rock Casino Rockford	20,000	463,960	365	\$0.00	\$54,747,268.39	\$54,747,268.39	\$8,871,055.37	\$3,201,323.50
Harrah's Joliet Casino & Hotel	39,000	729,015	365	\$21,286,905.25	\$113,887,775.80	\$135,174,681.05	\$27,475,247.64	\$7,487,749.06
Harrah's Metropolis Casino	24,269	405,301	365	\$11,412,701.30	\$51,390,840.06	\$62,803,541.36	\$9,139,811.19	\$3,545,478.11
Hollywood Casino Aurora	41,384	840,612	365	\$20,513,509.25	\$78,924,418.53	\$99,437,927.78	\$17,311,790.02	\$5,812,508.45
Hollywood Casino Joliet	50,000	652,183	365	\$11,229,093.21	\$75,855,329.20	\$87,084,422.41	\$15,162,490.86	\$5,006,404.19
Par-A-Dice Hotel Casino	26,116	432,334	365	\$11,316,918.25	\$49,387,241.69	\$60,704,159.94	\$8,764,130.54	\$3,467,538.50
Rivers Casino	78,500	2,786,917	365	\$205,565,036.75	\$323,173,453.62	\$528,738,490.37	\$146,211,643.68	\$29,223,841.51
Totals	411,723	9,099,798		\$338,697,578.64	\$1,009,964,925.41	\$1,348,662,504.05	\$289,985,524.39	\$76,536,843.11

Illinois casino gaming revenue for 2022 - Rockford based Hard Rock “Opening Act” generated from local residents losses a revenue allocation for the following municipalities: Rockford 70% which is \$2,240,926, Winnebago County 20% which is \$640,264, Loves Park 160,066. Machesney Park which is \$160,066, Belvidere 0% which is ZERO, and Boone County 0% which is ZERO.

and blueprint of the reconciliation. The Union was clearly winning the war, and Lincoln was already looking ahead to reunification. Refusing to praise his own efforts or his own armies’ successes, Lincoln instead chose instead to focus on the road to “achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace.”

“He was calling for a re-United States,” commented Harris. “Lincoln wanted to show the Confederacy that the country would work together when the war was over. He was kind of handing out an olive branch.”

Charles Francis Adams, a great-grandson of the second President, praised the address “in its grand simplicity and directness as being for all time the historical keynote of the war.” It is the third-shortest inaugural address ever delivered by a President, longer only than George Washington’s second inaugural (130 words) and Franklin D. Roosevelt’s fourth inaugural (550 words), and lasted only six or seven minutes.

The morning of March 4, 1865 in Washington began with a pouring rain that left women’s dresses splattered with mud. However, the sun broke through and bathed Lincoln in sunlight just as he was about to begin.

In the crowd was actor John Wilkes Booth, a Southern-sympathizing stage actor whose hatred of Lincoln continued to simmer. Booth later remarked how easily he could have assassinated the President that day. On April 14, Booth shot Lincoln, and the President died the following morning. Some scholars believe as many as five of Booth’s conspirators were also in attendance.

Contrasting with Lincoln’s dignity at the inauguration was incoming Vice-President Andrew Johnson, who earlier that day stunned onlookers with a rambling, incoherent speech in which he appeared drunk.

Polite applause arose from the crowd when Lincoln was finished, though many realized the greatness of the moment. Later that day, Frederick Douglass told the President the speech was a “sacred moment.”

Naturally, there were critics, including one Pennsylvania voter who called the speech “one of the most awkwardly expressed documents I have ever read.” He also blasted Lincoln for not making the speech “a little more creditable to American scholarship.”

However, the speech found favor in London, where the Spectator declared “no statesman ever uttered words stamped at once with the seal of so deep a wisdom and so true a simplicity.”

“Lincoln always had a way with words, and never spoke above anyone. I don’t think he had many speechwriters,” laughed Harris. “In the Second Inaugural, he was truly speaking from the heart. When you do that, it’s best to keep it simple.”

Many scholars point to the morality that prevailed in the address, while others cite the Christian themes. Douglass and others compared the speech to “a sermon.”

“I don’t know if I, personally, would call it a sermon,” remarked Harris. “But there are clear religious messages throughout the address. It’s a remarkable speech.”

Like Douglass, Harris believes the address would have been well-received by African-Americans. “I think they would have been pleased by Lincoln’s words,” she said. “People of color were finally being recognized as citizens. Though the Thirteenth Amendment didn’t pass until later that year, there was so much work behind the scenes at that time, and coupled with that, they would have felt good about what was happening.”

One of the few memorable statements ever delivered in a Presidential inauguration, the words of the Second Inaugural are inscribed on the walls of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington.

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The benefits to workers would be paid out of a newly created special state fund. The law would require employers to pay 0.73 percent of the wages for their employees and contractors into the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Fund, similar to the state’s Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. An additional fee of up to 0.05 percent could be imposed through administrative rules for administering the program.

Those who need paid leave would need to provide documentation of pregnancy, adoption or guardianship of a new child, their own injury or illness, or that of a sick family member. The leave policy would also cover military-related time off and time needed to recover from sexual assault or domestic violence.

Those workers, if approved for leave, would receive 90 percent of their average weekly wages for their leave period, up to a maximum of \$1,200 per week. Eventually that maximum would be adjusted to 90 percent of the average weekly wage in Illinois.

Those potential payouts are in line with the policies of the 11 other states with paid leave laws, although no other state’s law is quite as permissive as the proposal being pushed in Illinois. For example, although Massachusetts allows for up to 26 weeks of total paid leave in one year, it provides for only 12 weeks of paid leave for new parents and those caring for a sick family member, and 20 weeks for those who can’t work due to a long-term illness.

But advocates pushing for paid leave in Illinois are aiming for loftier goals than the programs in other states.

Christina Green, who now works for Chicago-based advocacy organization Women Employed, was only eligible for two weeks of leave when she gave birth to her son in 2020. She would only have had access to 12 weeks of paid maternity leave at the private school she worked at if she had been employed for seven or more years.

Instead of returning to work after those two weeks, Green said she drained her savings in order to take the 12 weeks she anticipated needing. And even then, Green said it wasn’t enough.

“It actually took me around 20 weeks to fully heal,” Green said. “Unfortunately I had no other options but to return to work...I literally budgeted down to the last dollar.”

Angelica Arreguin, a single mom and temp agency worker who organizes with the Chicago Workers Collaborative, shared through an interpreter that she was fired by her former employer when she couldn’t return to her job because her “injury did not heal on their schedule.”

“And if there comes a day that my children become ill and I need to leave work for a month, I expect to be fired instead of being allowed to return,” Arreguin said.

Advocates say paid parental leave would help ease the racial inequities suffered by women like Arreguin and Green, who is Black. The advocacy groups behind the proposal point to a permanent decrease in earnings for women who take time off to care for children or aging parents – an issue set to become more prominent as Baby Boomers age into needing more medical care over the next decade or so.

The coalition is also selling paid leave as a boon for businesses, especially in a labor market where many employers have found it difficult to find or re-hire workers in the wake of COVID-19.

House sponsor state Rep. Sonya Harper, D-Chicago, said lack of a safety net is preventing many women from re-entering the workforce.

“If women in Illinois participated in the labor force at the same rate as women in countries with paid leave, there would be an estimated 124,000 additional workers in the state and 4.4 billion more wages,” she said.

But business groups aren’t engaging with the proposal yet. Rob Karr, President and CEO of the influential Illinois Retail Merchants Association, turned the focus back to last month’s legislative

agreement on five days of paid leave. “Our focus is on the proper implementation of the historic paid leave bill that just passed the General Assembly and has yet to even be signed into law by the governor,” Karr said in a statement.

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Medicaid

from page 1

Nationwide, the federal government estimates that 15 million people, or 17.4 percent of Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program enrollees, will lose their coverage as a result of ending the continuous enrollment program. That would translate to roughly 700,000 people in Illinois if it follows the national pattern, but DHFS officials believe they can mitigate the impact of the rule change.

“At the state level, we estimate a total of roughly 384,000 will lose coverage because we believe in doing everything we can to help eligible Medicaid customers keep their benefits,” DHFS spokesperson Jamie Munks said in an email. “The truth is, nobody knows for sure. What we do know is that we are committed to ensuring everyone who is eligible maintains their coverage, and that those who are not are given information about alternative coverage.”

To avoid losing coverage, DHFS strongly urges Medicaid enrollees to fill out their renewal forms as soon as possible. The agency will resume regular verifications starting in late April, and people with a June renewal date will be the first ones to go through the restarted process. Those people will need to submit their renewal forms before June 1 so they can maintain coverage without disruption.

Munks said Illinois has been preparing for the eventual end of continuous coverage for months and has been communicating with Medicaid beneficiaries about the importance of updating their contact information on file with the Medicaid program.

“The state has and continues to increase customer service staff and enhance our systems,” she said.

Munks said customers can complete their renewal by phone, although online is the preferred method.

The agency will try to reach affected individuals by mail, email, text messaging, phone calls and paid advertising, she said. It will also work with partner providers, advocacy organizations, nonprofits and other government entities, she added.

Munks said people who are found to be ineligible may still have other options for low-cost insurance, including individual plans sold through the Affordable Care Act marketplace, which operates in Illinois under the name Get Covered Illinois. People who meet certain income guidelines can receive tax credits to pay all or part of their premiums.

Who is most affected?

Throughout the pandemic, people who were enrolled in Medicaid did not have to go through the normal process of reapplying every 12 months to determine whether they were eligible, even if there were changes in their income or household that would normally make them ineligible.

DHFS says that Illinois’ Medicaid enrollment grew by about 1 million enrollees during that period, to 3.9 million. But the state also received an additional \$3 billion in federal funding through the enhanced matching rate.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human

Medicaid from page 4

Services estimates that when the continuous enrollment program ends, about 9.5 percent of Medicaid enrollees nationwide, or 8.2 million people, will lose coverage because they are no longer eligible. The most common reasons for losing eligibility are changes in income or household makeup or moving out of the state in which they were covered.

But another 7.9 percent, or 6.8 million people, will lose coverage despite still being eligible for Medicaid because they don't complete their applications properly or the state is somehow unable to process the application – a process called “administrative churning.”

Children and young adults, ages 18-34, make up the largest categories of people expected to lose coverage. The change is also expected to disproportionately affect the Latino community, which makes up one quarter of those predicted to be ineligible and one-third of those expected to experience churning.

Black individuals make up 14 percent of those expected to lose Medicaid eligibility and 15 percent of those expected to experience churning.

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

Budget from page 1

is allocated between pension payments (roughly 21 percent in the current fiscal year), K-12 education (21 percent), human services (19 percent) and health care (17 percent). The fund's main revenue sources are personal and corporate income tax and sales tax, along with some federal revenues and other state sources.

Since each budget allocates money collected over a future 12-month period, lawmakers generally base their spending proposals on economic estimates provided by the state's two main forecasting agencies.

Those are the legislative Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability, also known as COGFA, and the Governor's Office of Management and Budget, also known as GOMB. Each provides sophisticated economic projections laying out pessimistic, optimistic and middle-of-the-road looks at how state revenues may perform.

Revenue projections

Illinois is coming off a record-high \$50.3 billion in base revenue for the fiscal year that ended June 30 – about \$8 billion more than had been anticipated when the Fiscal Year 2022 budget was initially approved in the spring of 2021.

Following that strong performance, lawmakers budgeted for an 8 percent decrease in the current fiscal year that began July 1. But in the seven months that have already passed in FY 2023, revenues are outpacing even last year's strong performance by \$2.3 billion, according to COGFA's January report.

The strong revenue performance led COGFA to up its projections by \$4.9 billion in a November forecast revision. The agency now anticipates revenue receipts will top last year's totals by

\$259 million. GOMB, meanwhile, was more conservative, projecting revenues to spike by about \$3.6 billion over initial estimates. That was the basis for a supplemental spending plan that included \$2.7 billion in debt repayment and savings measures approved in the January lame duck session.

As the economic forecasting agencies mull the likelihood of a recession, we'll be watching to see if Pritzker plans for a downturn in revenue or if the current-year projections for a surplus are updated in either direction.

Spending growth

In his second inaugural address last month, Pritzker telegraphed a few areas where he'd like to see increased state investment: child care, preschool and higher education.

“I propose we go all in for our children and make preschool available to every family throughout the state,” he said in his speech. “And let's not stop there. Let's provide more economic security for families by eliminating child care deserts and expanding child care options.”

On higher education, Pritzker said he'd like to make college tuition “free for every working-class family.”

Details on those plans are lacking, so one thing to watch will be whether the governor proposes spending amounts or any specifics as to how such plans would be implemented.

The governor's K-12 education funding proposal is worth watching as well. The state's school funding formula, revamped in 2017, calls for an added \$350 million each year until all districts reach a point of funding adequacy.

The budget met that mark in three of four years during Pritzker's first term, keeping funding flat in only the fiscal year that coincided with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. It bears watching to see if another \$350 million will be added to that in accordance with statute.

Spending growth is important to watch because GOMB's five-year budget analysis projected Illinois could be in for a deficit of about \$384 million and growing beginning in Fiscal Year 2025. Generally, that means the state must increase base revenues, cut expenditures or pass some combination of both.

While Illinois' base sales and income tax rates have not changed in Pritzker's time in office, the governor has taken credit for increasing revenues by eliminating some corporate tax exemptions and streamlining the way the state levies an online sales tax.

It remains to be seen what, if any, new revenue sources or structural spending reforms the governor might offer in his address next week.

Pensions

At about \$9.9 billion, the state's GRF pension payment was its single biggest expenditure for the current year, topping the \$9.8 billion spent on K-12 education.

And yet unfunded pension liability grew to \$139

billion last year, despite the state having upped its pension contribution by \$500 million beyond required levels over two years, including \$200 million in the current year.

Due to that added funding, COGFA predicted in a special November pension briefing that the required pension payment for the upcoming fiscal year will decrease by about \$38 million from the current year.

While that number reflects the payment required by law, the COGFA report outlined another annually repeated criticism of the state pension funding formula: accountants say it comes up short. The report estimated the state would have to increase its contribution by \$4.4 billion this year to stave off continued increases in unfunded liabilities.

While such a large infusion is unlikely – and the governor has staunchly resisted calls for a constitutional amendment to change pension benefits – we'll be watching to see if he'll propose any changes to the payment level required in law.

Lawmaker response

How easy a path the governor's budget will have can often be gleaned from the initial response to it. And with Democrats dominating both chambers of the General Assembly, the response from the governor's own party will likely be a stronger indicator.

Democratic comptroller Susana Mendoza, for example, said in a recent interview with Capitol News Illinois she'd be opposed to new ongoing spending initiatives. While she has no formal vote on the matter, her voice has proven an influential one at the Capitol.

But Republicans will also make their voices heard. The House GOP laid out its asks for the budget year last month, including greater GOP involvement, an earlier adoption of a revenue estimate and more time to review the budget. In recent years, state spending plans have frequently passed in the dead of night, leaving lawmakers mere hours to review their language.

The GOP's specific policy asks include eliminating the corporate franchise tax – a plan Pritzker approved in 2019 before he and Democratic lawmakers backtracked on it in future budget years. They also called for property tax relief and “reducing the harmful impacts of the estate tax on family farms.”

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

ROOM FOR RENT: Belvidere: Nice furnished room w/ fridge, near downtown, bus stop, Aldi, Drug & Dollar Stores. No Sec. Deposit. \$102/wk. or \$430/mo.
Call (815) 544-4466



Looking for a tax preparer? My clients file with confidence.

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Historically, lawyers have prepared tax returns. Using a tax attorney gives you a unique advantage: At least once a year, you can talk to an attorney and discuss what is important to you. We can discuss your will or trust, assist with an upcoming real estate transaction, or even put your business into an LLC to protect your assets. Or maybe just answer a question that's been bugging you for years.

When was the last time you had a legal question? Or had some large organization try to intimidate you, and you really weren't sure of your rights. Did you know someone you could ask? Or did you just “wing it” and hope for the best? My clients know they can call me anytime for some quick advice.

Owe the IRS money? Haven't filed? Afraid to file? Gotten a letter from them? I can help. With 35 years of experience as a tax attorney, I've helped many other people in your situation.

If your return consists of more than just a W-2, or you have a tax problem, please give me a call. Hours are by appointment.



CHARLES HERBST, J.D., LL.M.
LAW, PLANNING AND TAX
Belvidere and Rockford • 815 484 9482 • taxviking.com

LEGAL NOTICES

Public Notice
Early Voting for the February 28, 2023 Consolidated Primary Election will begin on Thursday, January 19, 2023 and end February 27, 2023. This election is only for City of Belvidere WARD 2 voters. Early Voting will be conducted at the Boone County Clerk’s Office, 1212 Logan Ave., Suite 103, Belvidere, IL 61008. The office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:00PM, except holidays. The office will also be open on Saturday, February 25, 2023 from 9:00AM to 12:00PM.
For more information about Early Voting please contact the Boone County Clerk’s Office at 815-544-3103.
* This Consolidated Primary includes ONLY a Republican Ward 2 Alderperson Race.
Published in The Boone County Journal Jan 12 to Feb 23, 2023

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, PLAINTIFF,
v. CASE NO.: 2022FC94
TOBY RAY ROBIN; BRITTANY NICOLE ROBIN; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; DEFENDANTS.
PROPERTY ADDRESS:
711 MCKINLEY AVENUE
BELVIDERE, IL 61008

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you: BRITTANY NICOLE ROBIN UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS that Plaintiff 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 real estate described as follows:
PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
BEGINNING AT A POINT IN THE EAST LINE OF THE ROAD OR STREET KNOWN AS MCKINLEY AVENUE, IN THE CITY OF BELVIDERE, BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, WHICH STAKE IS 12 RODS AND 8 FEET SOUTH OF THE INTERSECTION OF THE EAST LINE OF SAID MCKINLEY AVENUE WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF JACKSON STREET IN SAID CITY AS PLATTED AND RECORDED IN GEORGE W. CAMPBELLS SUBDIVISION OF THE CITY OF BELVIDERE, KNOWN AS MAPLE RANGE; THENCE RUNNING SOUTH ON SAID EAST LINE OF SAID MCKINLEY AVENUE 4 RODS; THENCE EAST AT RIGHT ANGLES 8 RODS; THENCE NORTH AT RIGHT ANGLES 4 RODS; THENCE WEST AT RIGHT ANGLES 8 RODS TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. SITUATED IN THE CITY OF BELVIDERE, COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.
Common Address: 711 MCKINLEY AVENUE BELVIDERE, IL 61008
PIN: 05-25-102-005
Said mortgage was executed by TOBY RAY ROBIN AND BRITTANY NICOLE ROBIN , as mortgagor(s) and MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. AS NOMINEE FOR ENVOY MORTGAGE, LTD, as mortgagee, on 12/8/2020 and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Boone County, Illinois as Document Number 2020R08144.
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 <http://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 and Answer/Response in this case in the office of the clerk of this court by 03/13/2023 A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE OR DECREEE BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED FOR IN THE PLAINTIFF’S COMPLAINT.
Thomas LaSalle 6340111
Robertson Anschutz Schneid Crane & Partners, PLLC
205 N. Michigan Suite 810
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: (561) 241-6901 E-mail: ILmail@raslg.com
File: 22-065508
THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.
6088-929997
Published in The Boone County Journal Feb 9, 16, 23

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
–BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,
vs. CASE NO. 2022FC96
BERENICE DOMINGUEZ; THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; MIDLAND FUNDING LLC, AS SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO SYNCHRONY BANK; OAKBROOK ESTATES HOMEOWNER’S ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS;
Defendant(s).
Property Address: 1180 Hazelwood Drive Belvidere, IL 61008
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION
The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you, OAKBROOK ESTATES HOMEOWNER’S ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS ; , defendants in the above entitled cause, that suit has been commenced against you and other defendants in the Circuit Court for the Judicial Circuit by said plaintiff praying for the foreclosure of a certain mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:
LOT SEVENTY-ONE (71) AS DESIGNATED UPON PLAT NO. 4 OF OAKBROOK WOODS, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (1/4) OF SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 43 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, THE PLAT OF WHICH SUBDIVISION IS RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NO. 2000R10175 IN THE RECORDER’S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS
P.I.N.: 07-02-179-011
Said property is commonly known as 1180 Hazelwood Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008 and which said mortgage(s) was/were made and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds as Document Number 2011R08239, and for other relief; that Summons was duly issued out of the above Court against you as provided by law and that said suit is now pending.
NOW THEREFORE, unless you, the said above named defendants, file your answer to the complaint in the said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Boone County on or before MARCH 13, 2023, a default may be taken against you at any time after that date and a Judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said complaint. 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 <http://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 www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp.
YOU MAY BE ABLE TO SAVE YOUR HOME – DO NOT IGNORE THIS DOCUMENT. By order of the Chief Judge of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit, this case is subject to Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program. For further information on the mediation process, please see the NOTICE OF MANDATORY MEDIATION on file with the Clerk of the Circuit Court by contacting the Plaintiff’s attorney at the address listed below.
This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC
Attorneys for Plaintiff
1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120
Naperville, IL 60563
Telephone: (630) 453-6960
Facsimile: (630) 428-4620
Attorney No. Cook 64727, DuPage 293191
Service E-mail: midwestpleadings@dallegal.com
6088-930019
Published in The Boone County Journal Feb 9, 16, 23

**TAX DEED NO.: 2023TX6
FILED: 1/17/2023
TAKE NOTICE**
County of Boone
Date Premises Sold: October 29, 2020
Certificate No.: 2019-00684
Sold for General Taxes of (Year): 2019
Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and Special Assessment Number: N/A
Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A
THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES
Property Located at: 1237 West 6th Street , Belvidere, IL 61008
Legal Description or Property Index No.: 05-35-301-013
This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on July 12, 2023.
The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming.
This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before July 12, 2023.
This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Boone County in 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008, Court Room 3, on July 25, 2023 at 9:15 AM.
You may be present at this hearing, but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time.
YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY
Redemption can be made at any time on or before July 12, 2023 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Belvidere, Illinois.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK
1212 Logan Ave.,
Suite 103
Belvidere, IL 61008
(815) 544-3103
Myriad Capital LLC
Purchaser or Assignee
January 26, 2023
Jessica Hartsock
Jessica Hartsock f/k/a Jessica Stensrud
Garland L. Hartsock
Occupant
Autumn P Stensrud
BMO Harris Bank National Association as Successor to Amcore Bank N.A.
BMO Harris Bank National Association as Successor to Amcore Bank N.A.
Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois
Claimants, Judgment Creditors, and Decree Creditors, if any of the above described as
“Unknown Owners”
“Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots”
Published in The Boone County Journal Feb 9, 16, 23

**TAX DEED NO.: 2023TX5
FILED: 1/17/2023
TAKE NOTICE**
County of Boone
Date Premises Sold: October 29, 2020
Certificate No.: 2019-00280
Sold for General Taxes of (Year): 2019
Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and Special Assessment Number: N/A
Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A
THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES
Property Located at: 626 Candlewick Drive NE, Poplar Grove, IL 61065
Legal Description or Property Index No.: 03-27-226-004
This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on July 12, 2023.
The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming.
This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before July 12, 2023.
This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Boone County in 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008, Court Room 3, on July 25, 2023 at 9:15 AM.
You may be present at this hearing, but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time.
YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY
Redemption can be made at any time on or before July 12, 2023 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Belvidere, Illinois.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK
1212 Logan Ave.,
Suite 103
Belvidere, IL 61008
(815) 544-3103
Equity One Investment Fund LLC, Purchaser or Assignee
January 26, 2023
Unknown Heirs & Devises for the Estate of Ivy V. Ventura

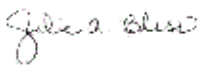
Iva V. Ventura, Gina M. Ventura, Deno M. Ventura, Deno M. Ventura
Deno M. Ventura
Charles T. Sewell, L.L.C., As Attorneys in 2022PR-29
Occupant
Candlewick Lake Association, Inc.
David Wiltse as President for Candlewick Lake Association, Inc.
Theresa Balk as R/A for Candlewick Lake Association, Inc.
Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois
Claimants, Judgment Creditors, and Decree Creditors, if any of the above described as “Unknown Owners”
“Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots”
6088-929830
Published in The Boone County Journal Feb 9, 16, 23



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BELVIDERE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**
Notice is hereby given that the City of Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chamber, Belvidere City Hall, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 upon the following:
Application of Belvidere Pizza Inc., 1946 Gateway Center Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008 on behalf of the property owner, Belvidere Gateway Center LLC, 2777 Finley Road #12, Downers Grove, IL 60515 for a special use to permit indoor commercial entertainment. Specifically, video gaming at 1946 Gateway Center Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008 (Belvidere Zoning Ordinance Sections 150.105(C)(4)(B)(2) Indoor Commercial Entertainment and 150.904 Special Use Review and Approval Procedures) in the PB, Planned Business District on 2.89 acres. The subject property is legally described as:
Lots (7&14) as designated upon Plat of Gateway Center, being a part of the Northwest Quarter (1/4) of Section 6, Township 43 North, Range 4 East of the Third Principal Meridian, according to the Plat thereof recorded March 23, 2005 in Plat Index File Envelope No. 316-A as Document No. 2005R03084 in the Recorder’s Office of Boone County, Illinois; situated in the County of Boone and State of Illinois.
Excepting therefrom Part of Lot Seven (7) as designated upon the Plat of Gateway Center; bounded and described as follows, to-wit: Beginning at the Northwest Corner of said lot; thence South 72 degrees 35 minutes 47 seconds East, along a North line of said lot, 251.76 feet; thence South 44 degrees 11 minutes 17 seconds West, 27.58 feet; thence South 89 degrees 25 minutes 13 seconds West, 195.58 feet to the West line of said lot; thence North 14 degrees 41 minutes 03 seconds West, along the West line of said lot, 100.34 feet to the point of beginning; situated in the County of Boone and the State of Illinois.
PIN: 08-06-101-011
All persons interested in the petitions may attend and be heard at the stated time and place.
Paul Engelman, Chairman,
Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 23, 2023

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BELVIDERE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**
Notice is hereby given that the City of Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chamber, Belvidere City Hall, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 upon the following:
Application of The City of Belvidere, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Belvidere, IL 61008 for a text amendment to the City of Belvidere Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 150 as amended) pertaining to Sections 150.706 Exterior Storage Standards for Residential, Office and Commercial Districts, 150.712 Fencing Standards, 150.1008 Changeable Copy Signs and Section 150.902 Amendment of Zoning Regulations (Text Amendments). Specifically, the amendments are in regards to commercial vehicles, barbed wire fencing and animated signage. The proposed text amendments are available for review at the Belvidere Community Development Department Office, 401 Whitney Boulevard during regular business hours.
All persons interested in the petitions may attend and be heard at the stated time and place.
Paul Engelman Chairman,
Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 23, 2023

REPUBLICAN SPECIMEN BALLOT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
CONSOLIDATED PRIMARY ELECTION
FEBRUARY 28, 2023

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS SPECIMEN BALLOT IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE OFFICES AND CANDIDATES TO BE VOTED IN THE CONSOLIDATED PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD IN BOONE COUNTY ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023.


JULIE A. BLISS, COUNTY CLERK
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

CITY OF BELVIDERE	
MUNICIPAL	
FOR ALDERPERSON WARD TWO	
(VOTE FOR ONE)	
 DANIEL K. SNOW	REPUBLICAN
 RONALD L. CHILSON	REPUBLICAN

Notice of Public Hearing - Boone County Subdivision Code Amendment
A public hearing will be held on Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the County Board Room of the Boone County Administration Campus located at 1212 Logan Ave, Belvidere, IL 61008 upon the following:

- Amending Section 506 of the Boone County Subdivision Code to allow for the adoption of a temporary moratorium on Impact Fees collected by the County.

All persons interested may appear at the hearing and be heard at the stated time and place.

TAX DEED NO.: 2023TX7
FILED: 1/17/2023
TAKE NOTICE

County of Boone
Date Premises Sold: October 29, 2020
Certificate No.: 2019-00775
Sold for General Taxes of (Year): 2019
Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and Special Assessment Number: N/A

Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A
THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES
Property Located at: 1966 Pearl Street Road, Belvidere, IL 61008
Legal Description or Property Index No.: 07-26-200-006

This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on July 12, 2023.

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

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before July 12, 2023.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Boone County in 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008, Court Room 3, on July 25, 2023 at 9:15 AM.

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

YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY

Redemption can be made at any time on or before July 12, 2023 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Belvidere, Illinois.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK

1212 Logan Ave.,
Suite 103
Belvidere, IL 61008
(815) 544-3103
Myriad Capital LLC
Purchaser or Assignee
January 26, 2023
Thomas M. Thompson, Occupant, Melinda Rivers
Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois
Claimants, Judgment Creditors, and Decree Creditors, if any of the above described as “Unknown Owners”
“Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots”
6088-929829
Published in The Boone County Journal Feb 9, 16, 23

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

BELVIDERE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the City of Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chamber, Belvidere City Hall, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 upon the following:

Application of Maggio’s Pizzeria, 132 N. State Street, Belvidere, IL on behalf of the property owner, Tyler Bauscher, 8510 Greenport Way, Rockford, IL 61108 for a special use to permit indoor commercial entertainment which allows for a bar/tavern and video gaming at 132 N. State Street, Belvidere, IL 61008 (Belvidere Zoning Ordinance Sections 150.105(C)(6)(B)(2) Indoor Commercial Entertainment and 150.904 Special Use Review and Approval Procedures) in the CB, Central Business District on 0.05 acres. The subject property is legally described as:

Commencing at a point in the Westerly line of State Street in the City of Belvidere, Ninety-one (91) feet and Ten (10) inches Southerly (measured on said Westerly line from the intersection of the Southerly line of Mechanic Street (now Lincoln Avenue) with the Westerly line of said State Street, running thence Southerly along said Westerly line of State Street Twenty (20) feet; thence Westerly and at right angles with State Street, One Hundred (100) feet; thence at right angles Northerly and parallel with State Street Twenty (20) feet; thence at right angles Easterly and parallel with Lincoln Avenue One Hundred (100) feet to the place of beginning, all situated in the City of Belvidere, County of Boone and State of Illinois; expressly excepting, however, all that portion of said above described premises lying West of a certain alley Ten (10) feet wide heretofore dedicated by contract to the City of Belvidere, by J Scott Clark; situated in the County of Boone and State of Illinois. PIN: 05-26-433-019.

All persons interested in the petitions may attend and be heard at the stated time and place.

Paul Engelman, Chairman,
Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 23, 2023



CONSOLIDATED PRIMARY ELECTION NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023, a Consolidated Primary Election will be held at the usual polling places in the County of Boone and State of Illinois, for the purpose of electing candidates for the following offices: REPUBLICAN PARTY TO BE NOMINATED:

BELVIDERE CITY ALDERMAN WARD 2 – 1 TO BE NOMINATED in the following precincts and polling places:

PRECINCT	POLLING PLACE & LOCATION
Belvidere 6	Boone County Clerk’s office 1212 Logan Ave #103 Belvidere
Belvidere 7	Boone County Clerk’s office 1212 Logan Ave #103 Belvidere
Belvidere 8	Boone County Clerk’s office 1212 Logan Ave #103 Belvidere
Belvidere 14	Boone County Clerk’s office 1212 Logan Ave #103 Belvidere
Belvidere 17	Boone County Clerk’s office 1212 Logan Ave #103 Belvidere

The polls of said Consolidated Primary Election will be open continuously from 6 A.M. to 7 P.M. on Tuesday, February 28, 2023. This Primary is only a Republican primary.
Dated at Belvidere, Illinois on February 17, 2023.

Julie A. Bliss
Boone County Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

BELVIDERE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the City of Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chamber, Belvidere City Hall, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 upon the following:

Application of Gunsteen Car Wash c/o Daniel Gunsteen, 651 S. Sutton Road, Ste 305, Streamwood, IL 60107 on behalf of the property owner, DM Enterprises of 651 S. Sutton Road, Ste 305, Streamwood, IL 60107 for a special use to permit in-vehicle sales or service and a special use to permit it indoor commercial entertainment. Specifically, a car wash with accessory retail sales with the potential for a restaurant, bar and video gaming at 1125 N. State Street, Belvidere, IL 61008 (Belvidere Zoning Ordinance Sections 150.105(C)(5)(B)(2) In-vehicle sales or service; 150.105(C)(5)(B)(2) Indoor Commercial Entertainment and 150.904 Special use Review and Approval Procedures) in the GB, General Business District on approximately 1.2 acres. The property is legally described as:

Lot Two (2) as designated upon the Plat of Dixon Commercial Subdivision, being a Subdivision of part of Section 26 Township 44 North, Range 3 East of the Third Principal Meridian, according to the Plat thereof recorded June 15, 2017 as Document No. 2017RO3026 in the Recorder’s Office of Boone County, Illinois; situated in the County of Boone and the State of Illinois. (PIN: 05-26-127-011)

All persons interested in the petitions may attend and be heard at the stated time and place.

Paul Engelman, Chairman,
Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 23, 2023

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 Online Plant Sales business in said County and State under the name of PLANTBY at the following post office address: 2914 Clines Ford Dr., 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: Alissa D. Usedom, 2914 Clines Ford Dr., Belvidere, IL 61008; phone # (815) 708-3997.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 7th day of February, A.D. 2023

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk
Published in Boone County Journal 2/9,16,23

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a online consulting business said County and State under the name of SHARI DANIELAK CONSULTING at the following post office address: 2247 Winding Creek Drive, 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: Shari Danielak, 2247 Winding Creek Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008; phone # (815) 566-9406.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 12th day of January, A.D. 2023

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk
Published in Boone County Journal 2/9, 2/16, 2/23 - P

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a carpentry business said County and State under the name of R&R REMODELING at the following post office address: 1316 11th 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: Alexis B. Rodriguez, 1316 11th Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008; phone # (815) 543-3924.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 9th day of February, A.D. 2023

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk
Published in Boone County Journal 2/16, 2/23, 3/2 - P

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a sale of handmade crafts business in said County and State under the name of THE SPIRIT OF SIRENS at the following post office address: 14288 KB Road, Capron, IL 61012 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: Jessica Lynn Smith, 14288 KB Road, Capron, IL 61012; phone # (815) 312-6525.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 13th day of February, A.D. 2023

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk
Published in Boone County Journal 2/16, 2/23, 3/2 - P

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a barbershop business said County and State under the name of UNDERGROUND BARBER SHOP at the following post office address: 2030 North State Street, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Angel Garcia, 119 West 4th Street, Belvidere, IL 61008; phone # (815) 494-1717.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 10th day of February, A.D. 2023

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk
Published in Boone County Journal 2/16, 2/23, 3/2 - P

STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF BOONE

No. DBA4131
ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

The undersigned person or persons do hereby certify that a ONE LINE RESALE business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of TK FLIPS. That its location is or will be 415 BIESTER DR. in BELVIDERE in the County of BOONE COUNTY, State of Illinois, and that the true or real full name or names of the person or persons owning, conducting, or transacting the same with the post office address or address of said person or persons is shown as below

TRAVIS JAMES TOLSMA, 415 BIESTER DR., BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS 61008.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 14th day of February, A.D. 2023

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk
Published in Boone County Journal 2/16,23 03/02

Pritzker Lays Out \$49.6 Billion Spending Plan

Calls for new investments in education, efforts to combat poverty

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

Gov. JB Pritzker on Wednesday laid out a \$49.6 billion spending plan for the upcoming fiscal year that calls for significant new spending for early childhood education and efforts to combat homelessness among other areas.

He also claimed credit for putting the state back on more secure financial footing.

Speaking to a joint session of the General Assembly, Pritzker delivered a combined State of the State speech and budget address in the House chamber since his pre-pandemic address in February 2020.

Pritzker’s proposed budget appeared to signal a transition to a post-COVID kind of normalcy, with a focus on typical state issues like education, health care and social services as opposed to grappling with a public health disaster and the economic calamity that came with it.

“The last time I stood here seems like a lifetime ago,” Pritzker said. “So many fiscal challenges laid ahead. And so much progress has been made.”

Pritzker came into office in 2019, succeeding Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner, whose single term was marked by a two-year budget impasse that resulted in a nearly \$17 billion backlog of past-due bills and multiple credit downgrades. But with those old bills paid and credit rating agencies now giving the state upgrades, Pritzker appeared to revel in pointing out the contrast.

“In the age-old fight between happy warriors and misery’s carnival barkers, we’ve shown that if we resolve to do it, happy warriors win every time. And we are winning,” he said. “Which is why, here in Illinois in 2023, I’m confident in saying the state of our state is stronger than it has been in decades, and we’re getting stronger every day.”

Early childhood ‘Smart Start’

The signature new program in Pritzker’s proposed budget is a multi-year plan called “Smart Start” that aims to expand child care services and make preschool available to every 3- and 4-year old in Illinois whose parents or guardians seek it over the next four years.

Beginning with a \$250 million appropriation in the upcoming fiscal year, Pritzker said his proposal would add 5,000 preschool spots in the upcoming year – the first in a four-year plan to increase those seats by 20,000. That quarter-

Continued on Page 8



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State of the State from page 7

million-dollar proposal would also stabilize funding for child care services to enable providers to boost workers’ salaries, and increase funding for early intervention services and home visits to reach families in need.

“Thanks to our stronger fiscal standing, we can afford to do this,” Pritzker said. “And as every provider, teacher, and parent in this state knows, we can’t afford to wait.”

The plan also calls for spending \$100 million from the Rebuild Illinois capital improvements program to build and upgrade child care buildings and facilities, including in areas he called “early childhood deserts,” essentially doubling the amount of money originally allocated for that purpose.

“Smart Start Illinois will save taxpayers \$7 for every one dollar invested and will vault Illinois to national leadership in early childhood development,” he said. “Enhancing quality early care and education is a win-win solution for remobilizing parents in the workforce, enhancing brain development and kindergarten readiness, saving taxpayers money, and increasing economic activity now and in the decades ahead.”

K-12 education

Pritzker is also proposing a \$350 million increase in Evidence Based Funding for K-12 education, which is the minimum year-over-year increase required under the 2017 law that overhauled school finance in Illinois.

Of that money, the first \$50 million is used to fund property tax relief grants to districts that apply for them. The other \$300 million is distributed primarily to school districts that are furthest away from their funding adequacy target.

That amount is consistent with what the Illinois State Board of Education had requested, but other school advocates, including Advance Illinois and the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, have urged the state to put in even more money.

During a House committee hearing Tuesday, Advance Illinois president Robin Steans said that if the state only adds \$350 million a year to the EBF formula, it would take until the year 2038 to reach the law’s goal of bringing all districts up to 90 percent of their adequacy target.

“And that is another 15 years, and that is a generation of students who will be in schools who will be in schools that are underfunded, in some cases by significant amounts,” she said. “So from our point of view, and we hope and trust from yours, that’s too long.”

Steans urged lawmakers to raise the minimum annual increase to \$550 million – including the \$50 million in property tax relief grants – which she said would put the state on track to reach the 90-percent adequacy goal within eight years.

Rep. Will Davis, D-Homewood, who chairs the budget committee that deals with K-12 education, said in an interview after Tuesday’s hearing that the final amount that goes into EBF funding will be a subject of negotiation.

“I personally would like to see it more than \$550 (million),” he said. “I mean I’d rather us get to full funding quicker rather than later. But it’s not a decision that I make in a vacuum by myself. It requires others participating and communicating. So we’ll see where we land.”

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The added spending brings ISBE’s total budget to \$10.3 billion, or roughly 20.5 percent of all General Revenue Fund spending.

Higher Education

While campaigning for reelection last year, Pritzker talked about wanting to make college education free for people who met certain income guidelines, and on Wednesday he claimed the budget he is proposing would go a long way toward accomplishing that.

Pritzker called for a \$100 million increase in funding for Illinois’ Monetary Award Program, or MAP grants, the state’s needs-based scholarship program.

That would bring the total amount of MAP funding to \$701 million, a 75 percent increase compared to the year Pritzker came into office.

According to the governor’s budget office, when combined with the federally-funded Pell Grant program, the increase in MAP funding would allow nearly every community college student and 40 percent of public university students whose household incomes are at or below median income levels to attend college free of tuition and fees.

The plan also calls for a 7 percent increase, or \$100 million, in basic operating funds for community colleges and public universities, which he said would be the largest increase in more than two decades.

“This is yet another way for us to make college more affordable,” Pritzker said. “After years of decline, we’re seeing growth across higher education in Illinois that’s well above the national average. This is our moment to take it all to the next level.”

The governor’s proposed higher education budget also calls for a number of investments geared toward workforce development: \$8.3 million for dual credit and noncredit workforce grant programs; \$11 million to develop advanced manufacturing, EV technology and data center workforce training programs; \$25 million for the Pipeline for the Advancement of Healthcare, or PATH Workforce Program; an additional \$2.8 million for the Minority Teacher Scholarship program; and \$750,000 to expand English language services.

Homeless services

Pritzker also proposed a \$50 million increase in services for people experiencing homelessness, bringing total funding in that area to \$350 million, through a program he called “Home Illinois.”

Pritzker said it’s estimated that over 120,000 people in Illinois experience homelessness annually, including 76,000 children, and that Black people are eight times more likely to experience homelessness than white people.

“But the faces of Illinoisans with no home to go to are not homogenous,” he said. “They include single parents with infants and toddlers. Sixth graders trying to complete their homework using toilets as a desk in temporary shared housing and LGBTQ-plus high schoolers who were kicked out of their homes by their parents. Homelessness is not an identity. It’s a set of

circumstances.” That money would go toward a variety of programs, including prevention services, emergency shelter, short-term rental assistance, development of new permanent supportive housing units, street outreach and employment assistance.

Pritzker’s budget proposal also calls for additional spending to combat poverty, including a \$50 million increase in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF, and \$20 million for a new Illinois Grocery initiative to eliminate food deserts by opening and expanding grocery stores in underserved areas.

State of the State

In addition to laying out a budget plan, Pritzker also spoke about social and political issues facing the state and nation, including the overturning of Roe v. Wade and the enactment of anti-abortion legislation in other states, including those that border Illinois.

Restrictions on abortion access in other states have resulted in a sharp increase in demand for abortion services in Illinois, where the procedure remains legal. That prompted Democratic lawmakers to take action during last month’s lame duck session, passing an omnibus reproductive health care law aimed at increasing the number of abortion providers in Illinois. But Pritzker said he intends to continue speaking out for abortion rights.

“There are women in this country right now who are facing untold mental and physical anguish because of the fall of Roe v. Wade,” he said. “Here in Illinois women know their rights are protected. But that doesn’t take away our obligation as Americans to speak up for the rest of the nation and we will keep doing it.”

He also commented on other social and political trends in the United States, including a rise in antisemitism, censorship and discrimination against the LGBTQ community.

“There is a virulent strain of nationalism plaguing our nation, led by demagogues who are pushing censorship, with a particular attack right now on school board members and library trustees,” he said. “It’s an ideological battle by the right wing hiding behind a claim that they would protect our children, but whose real intention is to marginalize people and ideas they don’t like.”

He said addressing such matters “doesn’t stop with just snuffing out ideas.”

“This afternoon, I’ve laid out a budget agenda that does everything possible to invest in the education of our children,” he said. “Yet it’s all meaningless if we become a nation that bans books from school libraries about racism suffered by Roberto Clemente and Hank Aaron, and tells kids that they can’t talk about being gay.”

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

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