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County Replaces a Bridge and Considers the Future

By David Larson

Boone County is replacing the bridge on Woodstock Road between Poplar Grove Road and Grange Hall Road. With the bridge replacement, the county has considered improving the intersection at Grange Hall Road, which is just east of the bridge. The Woodstock Road and Grange Hall Road intersection is an older, irregular intersection that dates from the pre-automobile era. Woodstock Road is the main highway between Boone County and Woodstock. Woodstock Road, along with Route 120 east of Woodstock, is also the most direct route to Waukegan, the Lake County Seat, for traffic from Belvidere and Rockford.

Under this plan, while the number of right-angle stops has not changed, the southern intersection has been moved north and shortened to keep Woodstock Road traffic from passing the old Andres farmstead on Grange Hall Road. On the map, the dashed line represents the current plan for the path of Woodstock Road west of Grange Hall Road. It is just slightly to the north of the original road, which is represented by a solid line. The dotted line near the letter D is a preferred path for Woodstock Road east of Grange Hall Road, but one not presently being acted upon.

While far from perfect, the relocated intersection should provide some degree of safety for the resident living in the farmhouse, which is located in front of the intersection.

At the June 1 Boone County Administrative Meeting of the Whole, Justin Krohn, County Engineer, said that, because of the additional cost and the likelihood of a court battle to buy the land needed for improvement D, this seems like the best option. Ryan Curry, (R) District 2, asked, "What is the point?" Curry felt that creating better traffic flow in the overall project(s) should be included. Krohn responded that the route east of Grange Hall Road could be changed or done sometime in the future.

Two-and-one-half miles west of this intersection is a project that the Illinois Department of Transportation has been ready to act on for the past 30 years. This project was also discussed at the meeting. This second plan would reroute traffic on Route 76 to Town Hall Road and is related to the bridge/intersection project as discussed above.

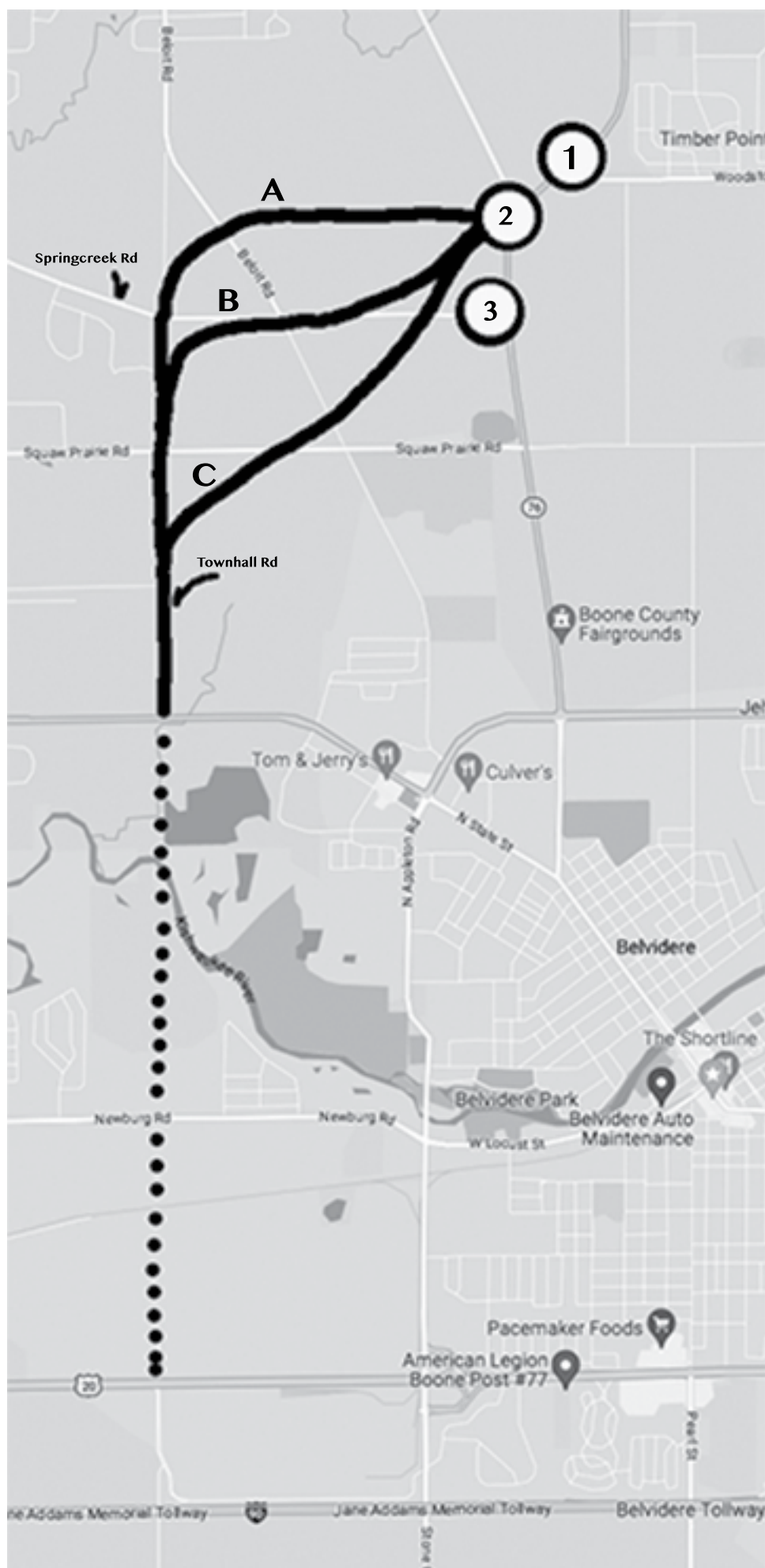
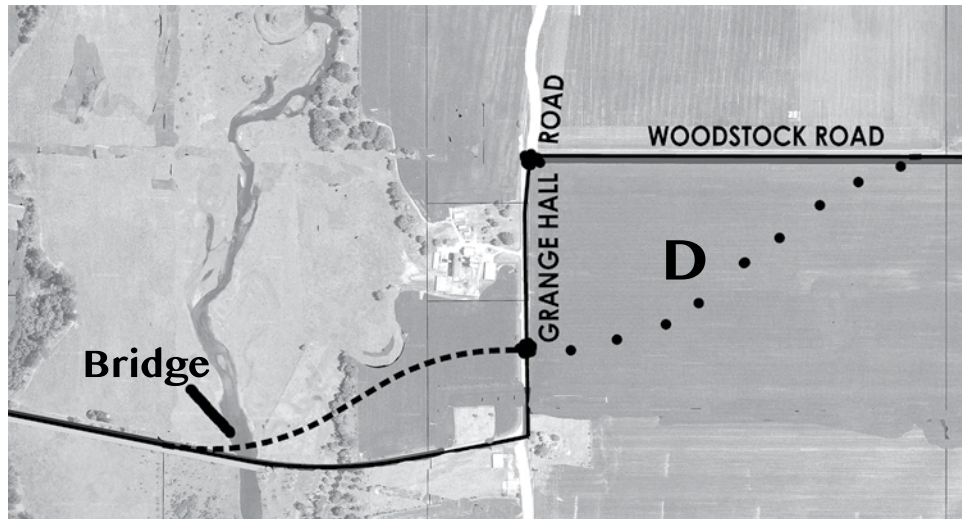
The plan envisions building three new roundabouts--at Woodstock Road and Route 76, (see lower map at 1), Caledonia Road and Route 76 (2), and Spring Creek Road and Route 76 (3)—to reduce fatal accidents in that area. Currently, there are frequent intersections on the existing, sweeping curve on Route 76. In order to move traffic to Town Hall Road, three different paths under consideration are identified as A, B, and C on the map.

Finally, Town Hall Road would also be extended to Route 20 near the Stellantis Plant. This extension is represented on the lower map as a dotted line.

If completed, the stretch of Route 76 south of Woodstock Road would be abandoned as a state highway to the county and the path to and including Town Hall Road would become a state highway.

These issues will be further developed as they move from Committee to the full County Board.

Krohn emphasized the importance of taking action sooner, rather than later, because there is very little development in the way now. In the future, homes and businesses, may fill in this area and make these projects more difficult and costly.



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 Jeanette "Jan" Holden, 82, Belvidere, May 28
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OP-ED

A Holiday By the People Not For the People

June 19 approaches. It is a holiday known as Juneteenth. It commemorates the day in 1865 when 2000 Union troops landed in the harbor at Galveston, Texas to announce the end of slavery, which had in fact ended earlier "back East"

It was a happy day, to be sure. But why do we add yet another holiday to the calendar? The Emancipation Proclamation had been in effect since January, 1863. The Thirteenth Amendment, outlawing slavery, was well on its way to ratification by the states. Lee had surrendered at Appomattox in April, 1865. Why add yet another, and relatively minor, day to commemorate-and one so late in the long march to freedom?

Juneteenth merits our acknowledgment and commemoration for several reasons. First, any limitation on slavery in our history demands recognition. Second, for these Americans living literally on the fringes of society slavery persisted until this day, even though it had been banned earlier elsewhere. We must remember that the termination of slavery was a rolling, cumulative accomplishment.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Juneteenth is a self generated holiday. African Americans named and celebrated this day long before others had even heard of it. Congress and the President eventually did get around to recognizing the day. Unlike many other holidays, however, this is not a holiday created "for" people. It is a self-proclaimed holiday, one created by fellow Americans to proclaim their own freedom. How fitting is that! How appropriate!

Bob Evans
 Rockford University

Who is Going to Hold Their Breath

By Scott Reeder

The worst kind of graft is perfectly legal. That's a lesson I've observed in my 35 years as a journalist.

I've been thinking about that lesson these past few weeks as revelations are brought forth about gifts U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas received from a rich buddy.

Let me preface my criticisms of the jurist by saying I often agree with his decisions. But that doesn't absolve him from the shady things he has done.

Thomas and his wife Ginni, received luxury vacations and private jet travel from Texas real estate magnate Harlan Crow. The justice contends he did nothing wrong and that these were just gifts from a friend.

I don't doubt that Thomas and his wife consider Crow to be a "dear friend." But a more appropriate question might be whether the billionaire would be chumming around with Thomas if he didn't happen to be a Supreme Court justice.

Democrats in Congress are squawking about how wrong this relationship is. What is happening here is wrong – but probably not illegal.

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Op-Ed

from page 2

When I was a young reporter in Galveston, Texas, the managing editor had a “Wheels” column in which he wrote a weekly love note to the auto industry.

The price of this journalistic prostitution? Every week, a car company would send him a new vehicle to “test drive” along with a press release espousing the model’s virtues.

His teenagers drove them to school. And even when they sent him a real dog with major mechanical issues, he wrote about how swell it was.

“There is no such thing as a bad car,” he told a group of young reporters who asked about the practice. We rolled our eyes.

Most journalists would say what he was doing wasn’t ethical. The readers were never informed of this cozy relationship. But it’s also the kind of graft that is legal.

If pressed as to why he did it, I suspect he would have justified his actions by pointing to his salary and saying he deserved some sort of perk.

Thomas, who earns \$184,000 a year as a Supreme Court justice, could make a similar claim, noting that he would make many times that in private practice.

That justification reminds me a bit of one given by another supreme court justice, Ray I. Klingbiel, who served on Illinois’ highest court in the 1960s. Before that he was East Moline mayor.

Sometime in 1966 Ted Isaacs, a member of then-Gov. Otto Kerner’s cabinet and a wheeler-dealer, managed to put himself in a position to allocate stock in the politically connected Civic Center Bank in Chicago.

At the time, the state high court was considering the dismissal of a 35-count felony indictment accusing Isaacs of bilking the Illinois Treasury. Shortly thereafter, the court unanimously affirmed the dismissal of Isaacs’ felony indictments in an opinion written by Klingbiel.

According to the book “Illinois Justice” by Kenneth Manaster, Klingbiel kept his 100 shares in a dresser drawer. Klingbiel insisted that the stock was merely a campaign contribution. But it was given after he had been elected and in the form of a stock certificate and it had been given to him by an associate of Isaacs, who had a case before the court.

“There is no doubt in my mind Isaacs was trying to influence the court with his actions,” Manaster told me.

So why do educated people like Thomas and Klingbiel do stupid things like this?

Manaster attributes Klingbiel’s transgressions to the Illinois political culture that he had been reared in. Klingbiel served as the Republican

mayor of East Moline for six years and before that worked as the city attorney. There were few regulations on campaign contributions in those days.

But that strikes me as a child’s excuse: “Everybody’s doing it.” Someone with a better moral compass would have known better.

Future U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens was appointed chief counsel to the five-member commission that investigated the allegations of wrongdoing.

Stevens was quoted in a 1969 Associated Press article saying, “Chief Justice Roy J. Solfisburg, Justice Ray I. Klingbiel and Theodore J. Isaacs are guilty of gross impropriety.”

But neither Chief Justice Roy Solisburg nor Klingbiel was ever criminally charged. “The short answer is they never could prove they took a bribe to the degree necessary needed in court,” Manaster said.

The worst kinds of graft are often legal.

Stevens insisted during his 1975 confirmation that he never would have been nominated for the supreme court if not for the work he had done investigating Klingbiel and Solfisburg.

One honest man rose as two dishonest ones fell.

The episode ended with Klingbiel retiring and Solfisburg resigning from the state supreme court.

Klingbiel’s final days were sad ones, Manaster said. He remained bitter about what he described as a “political push” to get him off the court.

Shaken and sorrowful, Manaster said he told one member of the commission, he knew in his heart he was not a crook, “but I was a damn fool.”

Will Justice Thomas have such a revelation? Don’t hold your breath.

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



USDA: Large Crop Estimates To Pressure Prices

By Daniel Grant
FarmWeek

USDA projects some record-large crops in the U.S. and South America this year and into 2024.

If realized, ending stocks are expected to rise while crop prices could plummet in the coming year based on the Ag Department’s

May world ag supply and demand estimates.

USDA projects this year’s corn crop, which U.S. farmers are still planting, could produce a record 15.3 billion bushels (up 10% from last year) with an average yield of 181.5 bushels per acre (up 8.2 bushels from last year).

Meanwhile, U.S. soybean production was pegged at 4.51 billion bushels this season, up 5% from last year.

The hefty crop production estimates pushed 2023-24 ending stocks estimates to 2.2 billion bushels for corn (up 805 million bushels from 2022-23) and 335 million bushels of beans, up 120 million bushels from the revised 2022-23 forecast. Ending stocks of wheat, though, could slip 11% to the lowest level in 16 years.

“We got the first look at the 2023-24 balance sheets and they were bearish for corn and soybeans,” Joe Camp, market analyst with CommStock Investments, told the RFD Radio Network. “Ending stocks were up a bit more than anticipated.”

USDA’s season-average price estimates reflected the bearishness of the big crops with 2023-24 projections at \$4.80 per bushel for corn (down \$1.80 from 2022/23), \$12.10 for beans (down \$2.10) and \$8 for wheat, down 85 cents from last year’s record.

This season’s crop production estimates, of course, are based on weather-adjusted trends assuming normal planting progress and summer weather.

“We know we’re going to go back to trading weather here pretty quickly,” Camp said as most crop markets were in the red following the May 12 release of the latest estimates. “That will be the big determinant of what the next crop looks like.”

Elsewhere, USDA pegged 2022-23 production in Brazil at a record 130 million metric tons (mmt) of corn, up 5 mmt from last month, and 155 mmt of beans, up 1 mmt.

Soy production in Brazil for 2023-24 could soar to a record 163 mmt, according to USDA. Planting for that crop will begin in October.

“We didn’t see any major changes on the global balance sheet,” Camp said. “They’re still sticking with big numbers in Brazil and a damaged crop out of Argentina.”

As for demand, USDA projects total corn use could increase 5% in 2023-24, with food, seed and industrial use up 55 million bushels, exports projected to rise by 325 million bushels to 2.1 billion and corn used for ethanol to edge 1% higher.

Meanwhile, demand for soybean oil as a

biofuel feedstock was projected to accelerate by 900 million pounds to 12.5 billion pounds in 2023/24. But, U.S. soy exports could slip by 40 million bushels to 1.98 billion in the next year due in large part to competition from South America.

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.



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Environmental Bills Seek to Improve Soil Health, Ban Use of Polystyrene Containers

Advocates have mixed feelings on legislature's environmental action this year

*By Andrew Adams & Nika Schoonover
Capitol News Illinois*

Several pieces of environmental legislation are making their way through the Illinois General Assembly on what was scheduled to be the final week of the spring legislative session.

The proposals range from shifting the state's procurement requirements to a measure aimed at improving soil health on Illinois farms.

But environmental advocates gave mixed reviews on the legislature's environmental record so far this year.

"There was movement on a number of issues this year, but I have an overall level of disappointment," Jen Walling, head of the Illinois Environmental Council, said on Wednesday afternoon.

Earlier this year, lawmakers considered a wide array of major environmental proposals that have, so far, not been moved forward. These include a pilot project for off-shore wind on Lake Michigan, a new regulatory framework for carbon sequestration and a measure that would provide relief to utility consumers.

Jack Darin, head of the Sierra Club's Illinois chapter, echoed Walling's sentiment, noting that advocates will continue to push for further environmental reforms when the General Assembly comes back in the fall or in next year's session.

"It's looking like we're going to have to wait for progress on a couple important issues," he said.

Lawmakers, meanwhile, appear poised to blow past a self-imposed deadline for the scheduled end of their spring legislative session on Friday. They can do so without much consequence, as session can be extended through May 31 without triggering the constitutional requirement that a three-fifths majority is needed to pass a bill with an immediate effective date.

Because a budget bill had not been introduced as of late Wednesday, the session was expected to continue at least until early next week.

Soil health and nutrient pollution

Senate Bill 1701 from Sen. Ram Villivalam, D-Chicago, creates a structure for the state to assess soil health through a newly created "Illinois Healthy Soils Initiative." These assessments would happen under the purview of the state Department of Agriculture as well as local soil conservation districts with the goal of identifying "voluntary and incentive-based strategies that improve healthy soils" as well as improving coordination on soil health strategies.

"This initiative focuses on enhancing soil health to improve water quality, maintain our ecosystems, protect our agricultural production and support wildlife habitats surrounding Illinois farmers," Villivalam said in a Thursday statement.

The measure passed the House 109-6 Tuesday and cleared the Senate unanimously Friday.

The bill, initially opposed by some farm groups, gained support from the powerful Illinois Farm Bureau as it was amended in the past few weeks. Emily Perone Hall, who works in legislative affairs for the organization, said the bill "strikes a balanced approach."

"This provides an incentive for farmers to voluntarily invest in on-farm conservation," Hall said in a Wednesday statement.

Advocates from the agricultural industry said the bill will help soil and water conservation districts better utilize federal funds. Others focused on the environmental impact of soil health.

Eliot Clay, who works on state programs for the IEC, hopes that Illinois will go further to incentivize farmers to voluntarily use more sustainable practices like planting cover crops or no-till farming methods.

"There's a cost benefit to farmers who go through with these practices," Clay said.

State police pointed to blowing dust from nearby farms as the cause of a major crash on Interstate 55 earlier this month that killed eight people. Other proponents of the bill have pointed to unsustainable farming practices as a cause of the dusty conditions that made the crash possible.

Poor soil health and the reliance on fertilizers can also lead to detrimental effects on the environment through nutrient pollution. This is a kind of pollution that occurs when phosphates and nitrates in agricultural runoff make their way into downstream ecosystems like the Gulf of Mexico. Nutrient pollution can wreak havoc to sensitive marine life.

Reporting from Capitol News Illinois last year revealed the extent to which the state has so far failed to live up to its goals on nutrient pollution.

Environmental justice proposal rejected

In a rare occurrence at the Illinois Capitol, House Bill 2520 failed on the floor on a 57-48 vote Wednesday. It needed 60 votes to pass.

The bill would have reformed the process for permitting construction of new sources of air pollution, including adding a new fee structure. As part of that new process, developers would have been required to potentially pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in fees, although a final figure was never reached.

Environmental justice communities are defined in other state laws and based on socioeconomic status, pollution levels and a community population's sensitivity to pollution among other factors.

Air pollution disproportionately impacts Black communities, according to research from Harvard University and the California-based Environmental Systems Research Institute.

Rep. Sonya Harper, D-Chicago, said legislation addressing those disparities is crucial to environmental justice.

"Everyone has a right to breathe, no matter their zip code," Harper said during debate on her bill.

Debate on the floor focused mostly on the fact that the bill was expected to be amended in the

Senate to change key provisions, including the amount of any potential fees.

"We need to make sure we have the bill in its final form before we vote on it," said Rep. Patrick Windhorst, R-Metropolis.

Advocates were disappointed in the bill's failure.

"These are communities that are not only overburdened but underpowered in a lot of ways," Walling said.

Gina Ramirez, a senior advisor with the Southeast Environmental Task Force, also said the bill's failure is disappointing.

"We've been trying to pass this bill for two years," Ramirez said. "I feel like environmental justice should be a priority for the state."

Ramirez also noted that there were procedural issues with passing the bill that led to several lawmakers not being in the House chamber for the vote.

"Literally and figuratively, folks didn't show up," Ramirez said.

Ban on plastic foam food containers

The House passed a bill this week that would prohibit state agencies from using disposable food containers made at least partly with polystyrene foam, often referred to by the brand name Styrofoam.

Senate Bill 58 cleared the House after a nearly unanimous Senate vote in March. It then passed the Senate 36-20 Friday, clearing the way for it to head to the governor.

Rep. Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz, a Democrat from Glenview and sponsor on the bill, said it's a first step to reducing waste in Illinois.

"I believe this is an important step forward, and to do so at least with our state agencies who can take a leadership role in reducing the impact of the environmental impact of polystyrene foam," Gong-Gershowitz said.

She also sponsored a similar measure, House Bill 2376, which would have prohibited restaurants from distributing plastic foam containers. That measure has stalled, and SB 58 applies only to state agencies and vendors that contract with the state.

The bill would prevent state agencies and departments from purchasing disposable food service containers that contain polystyrene beginning in 2025. Instead, they'll have to find compostable or recyclable containers.

After Jan. 1, 2026, vendors contracted through a state agency or department wouldn't be able to use containers made with polystyrene at any site owned or leased by the state.

This drew concern from Republicans who worried about the impact on businesses contracting with the state. The Illinois State Fair, held in Springfield, contracts a large number of vendors that would be subject to this law if passed.

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Environment

from page 4

Rep. Brad Halbrook, R-Shelbyville, said he's concerned about the costs private companies might incur as a result.

"[Polystyrene containers] are very reasonable to buy. That's why they're used. You're raising the cost of it," Halbrook said.

Government vehicles go electric

Senate Bill 1769 would require all passenger vehicles purchased by the state to be "zero-emission" by 2030, meaning they produce no greenhouse gases. This is intended to prompt the state to buy electric vehicles, although other technologies may fit the bill's definition of zero-emission.

After being amended in the House, the bill awaits action in both chambers before it can be sent to the governor.

"One of the biggest contributors to emissions and global warming is the transportation industry," bill sponsor Rep. Jay Hoffman, D-Swansea, said on Thursday. "So the state leading on electric vehicles is important."

The bill initially would have required all governments, including local governments, to move to electric vehicles, but a recent amendment restricted its effects to state vehicles. The bill also exempts law enforcement vehicles and vehicles bought by the Department of Transportation as part of a consolidated procurement from the requirement.

'Forever chemicals' in firefighting foam

House Bill 3508 would require the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and state fire marshal to create a "take-back program" for firefighting foam that contains perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, more commonly known as PFAS or "forever chemicals."

The bill passed unanimously in the Senate and House and will head to the governor.

"Research has shown that the PFAS in firefighting foam can seep into our water supply and cannot be removed in the water treatment process," bill sponsor Sen. Laura Fine, D-Glenview, said. "It is vital to stop the ongoing use of products with PFAS to preserve our environment and prevent adverse health effects."

The bill was significantly altered as it went through the General Assembly. When introduced, it would have required the IEPA to investigate the presence of PFAS in state waterways and wastewater treatment plants as well as allowing the agency to create maximum concentrations of the chemicals in wastewater sludge.

This proposal was one of more than a half dozen introduced this year concerning PFAS, although most did not make it far in the legislative process.

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Pritzker Set to Consider Signing More Than 500 Bills in the Next Three Months

Protections for noncitizens, criminal justice reform, education changes among bills passed in May

By Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

Illinois lawmakers passed 566 bills through both chambers of the General Assembly in the recently concluded legislative session – all but one of them in May.

It sets the table for an approximate three-month bill-signing season for Gov. JB Pritzker. That's because the state's constitution gives legislative leaders 30 days from a bill's passage to send it to the governor, who then has 60 days to sign or veto it.

If the governor takes no action in that time frame, the bill would become law automatically. Historically, the legislature has sent bills to the governor in batches, allowing his staff ample time to review the proposals.

Below are some of the bills that Pritzker will consider signing in the coming months.

Noncitizen licenses: A measure backed by Democratic Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias would allow residents of Illinois to obtain a standard driver's license, rather than the "temporary visitor driver's license" that is currently allowed under law. An applicant would be required to show their U.S. immigration documentation or, if they don't have that, a passport or consular card. They would also have to prove they have car insurance.

A standard license can be used as identification, whereas a TVDL cannot. Advocates said that has made tasks such as buying alcohol or picking up a prescription challenging for many TVDL holders. Under House Bill 3882, noncitizens would still be ineligible to receive a federal Real ID certified license.

According to the secretary of state's office, more than 300,000 people currently have a TVDL. Those would still be valid until their expiration date, but the state would not issue any new ones.

It passed the House 67-35 and the Senate 33-18.

Noncitizen law enforcement: House Bill 3751 provides that noncitizens can become law enforcement officers in Illinois if they're authorized by federal law to work in the country or if action on their immigration status has been deferred under the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals process.

Those individuals must meet all other state qualifications for being in law enforcement and must be authorized to possess a firearm under federal law.

The measure passed 37-20 in the Senate and 100-7 in the House.

License plate readers: Another measure backed by Giannoulias would prohibit any "user" of an automated license plate reader from sharing data collected by the device with out-of-state law enforcement officers who are investigating

activities related to abortion care or someone's immigration status.

Prior to sharing any data, an ALPR user – which includes law-enforcement agencies and other entities if they share the data with law enforcement – would first need a written declaration that the law enforcement agency would not use the data contrary to the bill's language. If no such declaration exists, the user would be prohibited from sharing the data.

House Bill 3326 passed 39-15 in the Senate and 69-34 in the House.

Native American repatriation: House Bill 3413 would streamline the process through which Illinois returns Native American remains and materials to their communities. In part, it would create a procedure in which the Illinois Department of Natural Resources would consult with affiliated tribal nations when returning remains.

The measure was spurred by reporting from ProPublica which showed the Illinois State Museum has the second-largest collection of unrepatriated Native American remains in the U.S. As of 2022, the state museum had only returned 2 percent of the 7,700 remains it reported to the U.S. government.

HB 3413 allows IDNR to establish burial sites for Native American human remains and other artifacts that are closed to the public and protected by the state.

Additionally, it creates a fund in the state treasury that would be paid into by violators of the act and subject to appropriation to cover costs including reinterment, repatriation, repair or restoration of human remains.

It passed both houses unanimously. One lawmaker voted "present" in the House.

Probation drug testing: Senate Bill 1886 would limit the circumstances under which a judge could order a person to refrain from cannabis and alcohol use and submit to testing while on probation. A judge could still mandate testing if the person is under 21 or was sentenced for an offense that included use of an "intoxicating compound."

Testing could also still be required if the person is in problem-solving court or if the person has undergone a clinical assessment that includes alcohol or cannabis testing. Courts could also still require a person to abstain from cannabis and alcohol for 30 days between sentencing and the person's participation in a clinical assessment.

The measure would also prohibit a court from banning cannabis use if it is prescribed by a medical professional and from assessing fees for mandatory drug or alcohol testing if the person is indigent as defined in state law.

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LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, Case No. 2023TX14, Guardian Tax IL LLC.

To: Harvest Farms II, LLC; Occupants of; Boone County Clerk; and all other persons/entities UNKNOWN having or claiming any right, interest or title in the following described real estate:

Lot 259 as designated upon Plat No. 4 of Central Park Subdivision, being a subdivision of part of Section 31, Township 45 North, Range 3 East of the Third Principal Meridian, City of Loves Park, Illinois, Boone County, Illinois, the Plat of which Subdivision is recorded in Plat File Envelope 370-B as Document Number 2007R03964 in the Recorder's Office of Boone County, Illinois, situated in the County of Boone and the State of Illinois.

Permanent Index No. 03-31-479-004

On April 27, 2023, Guardian Tax IL LLC filed a Petition for Order of Tax Deed. The object of the plaintiff's petition is to foreclose on the Tax Sale Certificate No. 2019-00369 for the delinquent taxes on real estate described above which was issued by the Boone County Treasurer on October 29, 2020. The taxes due under the certificate are for the 2019 tax year. The petition asks the court to direct the county clerk to issue a tax deed if the property is not redeemed from the sale on or before October 27, 2023, and that Petitioner, as grantee of tax deed be put in possession of said parcel of real estate. The Petition for Order of Tax Deed will be brought before the Boone County Circuit Court on November 14, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. in Courtroom 3 via Zoom (Meeting ID: 963 9791 8024). If you fail to redeem, the court may enter a judgment for the relief demanded in the petition.

Guardian Tax IL LLC, Petitioner

Stuart E. Morgenstern, #6275553

Attorney for Petitioner

1 W. Laurel Street

Pinckneyville, Illinois 62274

(618)357-5315

Published in *The Boone County Journal* June 1, 8, 15

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

PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC, PLAINTIFF,

VS. DEFENDANTS, NO. 23 FC 40

JENNIFER LEVROUW A/K/A JENNIFER RENE LEVROUW A/K/A JENNIFER R LEVROUW A/K/A JENNIFER RENE WORKS A/K/A JENNIFER R WORKS; JACLYN LEVROUW A/K/A JACLYN KELLY LEVROUW A/K/A JACLYN K LEVROUW; AQUA FINANCE, INC.; CANDLEWICK LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC.; STATE OF ILLINOIS; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, 137 HASTINGS WAY SOUTHWEST POPLAR GROVE, IL 61065

JUDGE

PRESIDING JUDGE

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO YOU,

Jennifer LeVrouw a/k/a Jennifer R Works

Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants

defendants, that this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, asking for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:

LOT EIGHTY-SEVEN (87) AS DESIGNATED UPON THE PLAT OF CANDLEWICK LAKE UNIT NO. 4, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PORTIONS OF SECTIONS 27 AND 28 TOWNSHIP 45 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE PLAT OF WHICH IS RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NO. 72-415 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as: 137 Hastings Way SouthWest

Poplar Grove, IL 61065

and which said Mortgage was made by,

Jennifer LeVrouw a/k/a Jennifer Rene LeVrouw a/k/a Jennifer R LeVrouw a/k/a Jennifer Rene Works a/k/a Jennifer R Works and Jaclyn LeVrouw a/k/a Jaclyn Kelly LeVrouw a/k/a Jaclyn K LeVrouw

Mortgagor(s), to

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Academy Mortgage Corporation

Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Boone County, Illinois, as Document No. 2019R05334; and for other relief.

UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before July 10, 2023, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT.

You have been sued. To participate in the case, you MUST file an official document with the court within the time stated on this Notice called an "Appearance" and a document called an "Answer/Response". The Answer/Response is not required in small claims or eviction cases unless ordered by the court. If you do not file an Appearance and Answer/Response on time, the court may decide the case without hearing from you, and you could be held in default and lose the case. After you fill out the necessary documents, you need to electronically file (e-file) them with the court. To e-file, you must create an account with an e-filing service provider. For more information, go to ilcourts.info/efiling. If you cannot e-file, you can get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. You may be charged filing fees, but if you cannot pay them, you can file an Application for Waiver of Court Fees. It is possible that the court will allow you to attend the first court date in this case in-person or remotely by video or phone. Contact the Circuit Court Clerk's office or visit the Court's website to find out whether this is possible and, if so, how to do this. Need help? Call or text Illinois Court Help at 833-411-1121 or go to ilcourthelp.gov for information about going to court, including how to fill out and file documents. You can also get free legal information and legal referrals at illinoislegalaid.org. All documents referred to in this Notice can be found at ilcourts.info/forms. Other documents may be available from your local Circuit Court Clerk's office or website. ¿Necesita ayuda? Llame o envíe un mensaje de texto a Illinois Court Help al 833-411-1121, o visite ilcourthelp.gov para obtener información sobre los casos de la corte y cómo completar y presentar formularios.

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC

Attorney for Plaintiff

1 N. Dearborn St. Suite 1200

Chicago, IL 60602

Ph. (312) 346-9088

File No. 23-15099IL-917945

13221655

Published in *The Boone County Journal* June 8, 15, 22 PNN

STATE OF WISCONSIN : CIRCUIT COURT : Dane COUNTY

John D. Baker as Trustee for the JOHN D. Baker LIVING TRUST
7270 State Road 69,
Belleville, WI 53508,
and

J&J HOLDINGS, LLC

7270 State Road 69,
Belleville, WI 53508,
Plaintiffs,

vs. Case No. 2023CV00778 Case Code: 30106

Jeffrey G. Petry AS TRUSTEE FOR THE Petry Trust No 1989

10905 Olson Road,
Belvidere, IL 61008,

1989 TR LLC a/k/a Petry Trust 1989 LLC,

10905 Olson Road,
Belvidere, IL 61008

Defendants.

PUBLICATION SUMMONS THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

To Jeffrey G. Petry as Trustee for the Petry Trust No 1989 named above as a Defendant:

You are hereby notified that Plaintiffs, named above, have filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you.

Within forty (40) days after June 8, 2023, you must respond with a written demand for a copy of the Complaint. The demand must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is: Clerk of Circuit Court, Dane County Courthouse, 215 S. Hamilton St., Madison, WI 53703, and to Attorneys Joseph D. Brydges, Tanya M. Salman, and Mason A. Higgins, of Michael Best & Friedrich LLP, Plaintiffs' attorneys, whose address is One South Pinckney Street, Suite 700, Madison, WI 53703-4257. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not demand a copy of the Complaint within forty (40) days, the Court may grant judgment against you for the aware of money or other legal action requested in the Complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

Dated: June 5, 2023

Michael Best & Friedrich LLP

By: Electronically signed by Tanya M. Salman

Joseph D. Brydges, SBN 1079318

jbrydges@michaelbest.com

Tanya M. Salman, SBN 1089151

tmsalman@michaelbest.com

Mason A. Higgins, SBN 1124805

mahiggins@michaelbest.com

One South Pinckney Street, Suite 700

Madison, WI 53703

Phone: (608) 257-3501

Fax: (608) 283-2275

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

Published in *The Boone County Journal* June 8, 15, 22

ASSUMED NAMES

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE COUNTY ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

No. DBA4145 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a CLEANING business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of LAS FLORES CLEANING CREW LLC that its location is or will be at 204 Warren Avenue in Belvidere in the County of Boone County, State of Illinois, and that the true or real name(s) of the person(s) owning, conducting, or transacting the same with the post office address or address of said person(s) is shown below.

Phone Number: 815-520-4515

Liliana Flores, 204 Warren Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008

I, Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk And Recorder of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do the hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: Wednesday, June 7, 2023, Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder Published in Boone County Journal 6/8, 6/15, 6/22 - P

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE COUNTY ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

No. DBA4150 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a SALES business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of BELVIDERE LIQUIDATION that its location is or will be at 8727 Town Hall Road in Belvidere in the County of Boone County, State of Illinois, and that the true or real name(s) of the person(s) owning, conducting, or transacting the same with the post office address or address of said person(s) is shown below.

Joe Altamore, 8704 High Gate Way, Belvidere, IL 61008

I, Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk And Recorder of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do the hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: Thursday, May, 2023, Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder Published in Boone County Journal 6/1, 6/8, 6/15 - P

Pritzker

from page 5

It passed 75-40 in the House and 31-18 in the Senate.

Child influencers: Senate Bill 1782 aims to protect "child influencers" who are under the age of 16 and featured in at least 30 percent of money-making internet videos, or vlogs, published by a family member in a 30-day period.

Vloggers who feature children under the age of 16 would be required to keep records of the children's inclusion in vlogs, proof of age and other documents. If they don't, the child would have a right to sue in civil court.

If the vlog reaches a platform's money-making threshold or generates at least 10 cents per view, the vlogger would be required to put a percentage of earnings into a trust fund for the child that is equal to half of the percentage of content that features the child. Percentages differ if multiple children are featured.

It passed the House 98-17 and the Senate 57-0.

Hotel worker protections: House Bill 2220 would give hotel managers greater authority to remove disruptive visitors from their premises. That includes individuals who refuse to pay, threaten employees, violate laws or posted hotel rules, or use "verbally abusive language."

The hotel industry pushed for the changes, which also state the removed guest must be refunded for unused portions of their stay. It also states the language can't be used to evict long-term residents or if the area is under a severe weather warning. It also may not be used to discriminate against a guest based on characteristics protected under federal, state or local law.

Hotel managers would be allowed to refuse accommodation to anyone who destroys or threatens to destroy hotel property or who is on the premises for the purpose of providing alcohol to an underage person or possessing a controlled substance.

It passed 108-3 in the House and 51-2 in the Senate.

Full-day kindergarten: House Bill 2396 would require Illinois elementary and unit public school districts to offer full-day kindergarten by the 2027-2028 school year. After that time, offering half-day kindergarten would be optional. Some districts would be able to apply for a two-year waiver based on their level of state funding.

The measure would also create a task force to study the number of districts offering kindergarten, the number of students enrolled and several other factors. The task force is to be named by October, with an interim report due to lawmakers by June 30, 2024, and a final report by Jan. 31, 2025.

It passed 52-1 in the Senate and 85-24 in the House.

New state flag commission: Senate Bill 1818 - numbered for the year Illinois entered the union - would create a commission to consider new state flag designs and make recommendations to the General Assembly as to whether the current flag should be replaced.

Members would be appointed by the governor and legislative leaders of both parties, as well as the secretary of state, the state board of education and the state museum. They would be unpaid other than a per diem reimbursement.

The commission would set "guiding principles" for a new flag, raise awareness for the effort and create a submission process for new designs. By Sept. 1, 2024, they would select 10 of those designs, and by Dec. 3, 2024, they would report to lawmakers with their recommendations.

It passed 39-16 in the Senate and 72-40 in the House.

Teacher licensure: Senate Bill 1488 will temporarily suspend and create a task force to review one of the tests prospective teachers must pass to be licensed in Illinois. The test is known as the Teacher Performance Assessment, or "edTPA," which would be suspended through Aug. 31, 2025, under the measure.

The edTPA is a performance-based assessment that requires applicants to submit a portfolio including lesson plans and tests they've administered while student teaching, along with examples of student work and other material. The portfolios are scored by outside teachers and teacher educators. It has been a requirement in Illinois since 2015 but was temporarily stalled by Pritzker's executive orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which expired May 11.

SB 1488 would also establish a task force to evaluate teacher performance assessment systems and make recommendations to the State Board of

Pritzker*from page 6*

Education and the General Assembly by Aug. 1, 2024.

It passed the House 84-19 and the Senate 55-2.

School district cash reserves: Senate Bill 1994, which passed both chambers unanimously, would require school districts to report their annual cash reserves and average three-year operating expenditures to the state. When reserves exceed 2.5 times the average three-year expenditures, the school district would be required to file a plan to the state board detailing how they plan to spend reserves down to 2.5 times their average expenditures or less.

Districts would not be required to spend reserves, but only to submit the plan detailing how they intend to do so over three years.

Editor's note: Capitol News Illinois reporters Peter Hancock and Nika Schoonover contributed to this report.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government. It is distributed to hundreds of print and broadcast outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, along with major contributions from the Illinois Broadcasters Foundation and Southern Illinois Editorial Association.

Dems Move to Allow Punitive Damage Awards in Wrongful Death Lawsuits

Illinois would join 34 other states, but business groups claim move will increase costs

By Hannah Meisel Capitol News Illinois

Democrats in the General Assembly this week lined up to push a measure that would allow state courts to award punitive damages in wrongful death lawsuits – a departure from the status quo for more than a century in Illinois.

Illinois is one of 16 states that does not allow for the recovery of punitive damages in wrongful death cases, though the state does allow for plaintiffs in personal injury cases to seek punitive damages.

“It’s only when the plaintiff has died from his or her injuries that punitive damages are precluded,” Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, said Thursday during a brief debate on House Bill 219. “The awarding of punitive damages should not turn on whether the injuries were severe enough to kill the plaintiff.”

HB 219 would take the standards for seeking punitive damages in personal injury cases and apply them to Illinois’ Wrongful Death Act. The bill is an initiative of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, which has historically been an ally to Democrats.

The state’s business community mounted a swift but ultimately ineffective opposition campaign against the bill after it popped up earlier this week, citing increased liability costs. The bill passed with only Democratic votes in both the Senate and House this week and will soon be sent to Gov. JB Pritzker for his approval.

ITLA President Pat Salvi Jr., a managing partner at prominent Chicago-based personal injury law firm Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard, told a Senate panel this week that allowing punitive damages only when a victim survives is “a defect in the

law.”

“We believe it is time to fix what the Illinois Supreme Court noted is ‘the often-repeated adage that it is cheaper to kill your victim than to leave him maimed,’” Salvi said, quoting from a 1983 opinion from the state’s high court that affirmed punitive damages are not allowed in wrongful death cases. “That cannot be.”

Punitive damages exceedingly rare

While compensatory damages are meant to compensate a victim or victim’s family for anything from lost wages and hospital bills to pain and suffering, punitive damages are meant to punish a defendant and deter the type of reckless action that led to injury or death.

Punitive damages are rarely asked for and even more rarely granted. According to ITLA, in the last decade, Illinois juries have awarded punitive damages of more than \$10,000 in only 18 personal injury cases.

The most recent nationwide study on the matter from the U.S. Department of Justice in 2005 found that, among successful cases, punitive damages were awarded in just 3 percent of the most common types of personal injury cases.

Punitive damages for product or premises liability and car crashes were awarded in 1 percent or fewer cases according to the DOJ’s report. The study was based on a survey of courts in the nation’s 75 most populous counties, including Illinois’ Cook and DuPage counties.

At the time of the DOJ report 18 years ago, the median punitive damage award in all successful tort cases was \$55,000; adjusted for inflation, that figure would be just under \$85,000 now.

Still, business groups said increasing opportunities for punitive damages could deter companies from moving to or expanding in Illinois due to increased liability. The insurance lobby also registered its opposition to the bill, and Republicans repeated the groups’ concerns during House and Senate debates this week.

“We could end up shutting down a business because of one or two bad actors,” Rep. Dan Ugaste, R-Geneva, said during debate in the House. “And I’m not defending the bad actors at all. I’m just saying there’s other people to consider here.”

Ugaste went on to imagine the ripple effects of shuttered businesses on workers and their families. But he also lamented that HB 219 didn’t contain any caps on punitive damages.

“The Supreme Court in Illinois has ruled that they’re unconstitutional,” Rep. Jay Hoffman, D-Swansea, told Ugaste, saying the legislature’s hands were tied as to including hard caps in the bill.

But Hoffman did note that the state’s high court has ruled that any punitive damages exceeding 10 times the amount of compensatory damages would be considered a violation of due process, in essence putting a soft limit on punitive damages.

According to ITLA, caps are in place in only nine of the 34 states that already allow punitive damages in wrongful death cases.

‘Grisly mathematics’

Even if placing caps on punitive damages was constitutionally feasible, Harmon maintained that writing caps into state law would set up a perverse incentive system for companies to do the “grisly mathematics” of a cost-benefit analysis. He cited the legal debacle over the Ford Pinto in the 1970s, when the company delayed recalling 1.5 million cars despite knowing about a dangerous design defect that caused gas tanks to explode even in low-speed crashes.

The company’s apparent cost-benefit analysis

found it would be less expensive for the company to settle cases with victims than to recall the cars and prevent the deadly explosions they were causing.

“Imagine someone sitting in a corporate boardroom saying we can kill 127 drivers before it’s more expensive to recall the car than it is to simply pay the capped punitive damages,” Harmon said.

In September, a Cook County jury granted \$325 million in punitive damages – on top of \$38 million in compensatory damages – to Sue Kamuda, who developed breast cancer in 2007 after living near the Willowbrook Sterigenics medical supply sterilization plant for years. It was the state’s largest punitive damage award in recent history.

The jury found the Oak Brook-based company did not invest in emissions-curbing technology, which would have reduced the amount of carcinogenic gas emitted from its Willowbrook plant, despite knowing the cancer risk ethylene oxide posed to neighbors.

Kamuda is one of hundreds of nearby residents who’ve filed similar claims since 2018, when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency published research that found people who lived in the area around the facility faced some of the highest cancer risks in the U.S. The state of Illinois ordered the plant to close temporarily in early 2019, and Sterigenics later voluntarily shuttered the plant permanently.

Salvi represented Kamuda in the case, and in an interview with Capitol News Illinois this week, he said despite the eye-popping figure his client was awarded in punitive damages, her case was one of only “five or six” times in his 16-year legal career that he’s filed for punitive damages.

And if punitive damages had been an option in wrongful death cases over that same time period, Salvi said he’d likely only have sought punitive damages in “less than five” additional cases, nearly all in suits involving deaths due to drunk drivers.

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Foster Votes to Avoid Catastrophic Default

Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL) issued the following statement after voting in favor of the Bipartisan Budget Agreement, which raises the debt limit until January 2025:

“Today, I voted to prevent a devastating default, which would threaten the economic security of millions of Americans. While I’m relieved a bipartisan agreement came together, I’m disappointed that my Republican colleagues again brought our nation to the brink of economic collapse in order to advance a partisan agenda.

“I’m grateful this agreement protects health care and retirement benefits, veterans’ medical care, and more. Still, this bill will force devastating cuts to the programs that Americans rely on, including housing assistance, K-12 education, and local police funding. It also delays the construction of new energy projects and makes it easier for corporations to circumvent environmental protections, which will harm the significant progress we’ve made in our fight against the climate crisis.

“I’ll continue my work in Congress to repeal the debt limit once and for all and protect the livelihood of hard-working American families from dangerous partisan tactics.”

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