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*The Congregational Church in Belvidere was located near the intersection of Logan Avenue and South Main Street. It was torn down in the early 1960s. Congregationalists today range from liberal to conservative on social issues. Their roots can be traced to the Puritans, the English Reformation, and the English Civil War. According to Wikipedia, the Congregationalists are theologically positioned between the Presbyterians and the Baptists.*

## On the Witness Stand, Ex-Legislator Finally Acknowledges He Wore Wire for FBI

*Former Sen. Terry Link testifies in bribery trial while awaiting sentencing on tax evasion charge*

*By Hannah Meisel Capitol News Illinois*

Former state Sen. Terry Link, a nearly 24-year veteran of the Illinois Capitol, publicly acknowledged for the first time this week that he'd worn a wire to secretly record a fellow lawmaker in 2019.

Link, a Vernon Hills Democrat, has spent years denying news media reports that he was the legislator-turned-cooperating witness described in charging documents made public after the arrest of ex-state Rep. Luis Arroyo in October of 2019.

But in a federal courtroom this week, Link was forced to finally acknowledge the truth as he testified in the second of five major public corruption cases involving Illinois public officials scheduled for this year.

Arroyo, a Chicago Democrat, is already

*Continued on Page 4*

## Pritzker Signs Anti-Book Ban Legislation

*First-in-the-nation law ties state funding to open access policies*

*By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois*

Gov. JB Pritzker signed legislation Monday that seeks to protect public and school libraries from pressure to ban, remove or restrict access to books based on "partisan or doctrinal disapproval."

Speaking at the Harold Washington Library Center in downtown Chicago, Pritzker said there were 67 attempts in 2022 to have various books removed from library shelves in Illinois, including books about LGBTQ-plus youths, the Black experience and racism.

"The argument for banning books always begins with the claim that it's about protecting the children, and yes, of course, we all want to protect our children so they're reading age-appropriate material," he said. "But banning books from libraries isn't about that at all. Book bans are about censorship, marginalizing people, marginalizing ideas and facts. Regimes ban books, not democracies."

*Continued on page 6*

## Pritzker Puts Final Stamp on \$50.4 Billion State Spending Plan

*Budget includes investments in education, violence prevention and business incentives*

*By Andrew Adams & Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois*

Gov. JB Pritzker signed the state's operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year on Wednesday, marking the first spending plan of his second term as governor.

The \$50.4 billion spending plan anticipates about \$50.6 billion in revenues for the fiscal year that begins July 1, making for a projected surplus of roughly \$183 million, according to the governor's office. That revenue estimate would be slightly below or roughly equal to what's collected in tax revenues for the current year, depending on June's final revenue collections.

The bill signing's venue, typically chosen to highlight an important aspect of the budget, was the Belmont Cragin campus of Christopher House in Chicago, a charter school that mostly serves low-income Hispanic families.

The signing was attended by a who's who

*Continued on Page 7*

**Quidnunc**



**Looks like Assange and Snowden have been getting some competition**

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Astrud Gilberto, 83, Brazil, June 5  
Pat Robertson, 93, Virginia Beach Virginia, June 8  
Treat Williams, 71, Albany NY, June 12  
James Watt, 85, Arizona, May 27  
Ted Kaczynski, 81, prison, June 10  
Silvio Berlusconi, 86, Milan, Italy, June 12

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David Grimm April 1938 - Dec. 2000  
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Each week, the Journal seeks to present a variety of voices.

**Letters.** Every attempt will be made to print all letters received with the exception of those that are libelous or obscene. Letters should be signed and include an ID or phone number, so that we can contact the author prior to publication to verify authenticity.

**Guest columns.** Community leaders are encouraged to submit guest columns consistent with our editorial guidelines for possible inclusion in the Journal.

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**Townhall Road Bridge Over Tollway to Reopen**

*Press Release*

The Illinois Tollway has completed repairs on the Townhall Road Bridge over the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) in Boone County and will reopen the bridge to traffic today, June 8, and remove the posted detour.

Improvements on the Townhall Road Bridge included placement of bridge approach pavement and parapet walls, bridge expansion joint replacement and slope wall repair, as well as drainage and landscaping work. Up to 475 vehicles use the Townhall Road Bridge daily.

In 2023, the Illinois Tollway repaired six bridges on I-90 in Boone, McHenry and Kane County, including: Townhall Road, Spring Center Road, Shattuck Road, Garden Prairie Road, Harmony Road and Illinois Route 47. All bridge repair work is scheduled to be complete on Friday, June 9.

In most locations, bridge improvements included bridge joint replacement and slope wall repairs, as well as drainage and landscaping work.

The work was coordinated with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Boone County, McHenry County, Kane County, local communities, as well as local fire and police departments.

The local crossroad bridges were repaired to extend the life of the structures. The work is funded by the Illinois Tollway's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future

**Foster's Statement on Federal Indictment of Donald Trump**

Today, Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL) issued the following statement after the Department of Justice unsealed an indictment of former President Donald Trump in its investigation of the mishandling of classified documents:

"Like every American, the former President is entitled to due process and the presumption of innocence until proven guilty in court. But let's be clear: these are serious allegations with national security implications, and there must be accountability for any laws that were broken.

"For our democracy to function, no person – not even a former President – can be above the law. I urge Americans across the political spectrum to respect the judicial process and allow the facts to be presented."

**Pritzker Touts New Budget's Higher Education Spending**

*MAP grant increase will make community college tuition-free for many*  
*By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois*

Governor JB Pritzker began a tour of the state to tout the new state budget that lawmakers passed last week, stopping at two university campuses Wednesday to highlight the spending plan's increased funding for higher education.

"With this new budget, we're making it



**Budget**

*from page 2*

possible for nearly every student from a low-, moderate- or middle-income family to go to community college tuition free,” Pritzker said at the University of Illinois Springfield. “Getting a college or university degree shouldn’t strap you in debt for the rest of your life.”

The \$50.6 billion budget, which has not yet arrived on Pritzker’s desk, includes a \$100 million increase in funding for the state’s needs-based Monetary Award Program, or MAP grants, bringing the total level of funding for that program to \$701 million – a 75 percent increase since 2019, when Pritzker first in office.

Pritzker noted that most undergraduate students at UIS start working on their degree at a two-year community college. He said the increase in MAP grant funding will mean that virtually all community college students from households at or below median income levels will have their tuition and fees fully covered between MAP and federal Pell grants.

The higher education budget also includes a \$15 million increase in the state’s AIM HIGH merit-based scholarship program and an overall 7 percent increase in the base operating budgets of universities and community colleges.

Pritzker said the increase in base funding was especially important to help schools recruit and retain the best faculty and staff.

“Look what happened in other states, and what happened in Illinois during those bad years five, seven years ago,” he said, referring to the state’s budget impasse of 2015-2017. “Universities had to either lay off faculty or faculty saw how uncertain funding was and they left. ... Now, because we’re funding universities properly, university professors, faculty, the people who work at universities have less to fear and more to be optimistic about it.”

In addition to increases in higher education funding, the budget also includes the statutorily required annual \$350 million increase in the Evidence Based Funding formula for K-12 schools and \$250 million to launch a four-year initiative called Smart Start Illinois that seeks to make early childhood day care and preschool available to every family in Illinois that wants it.

The budget passed through the General Assembly in the final days of their spring session with only Democratic support. Some Republicans, including House Minority Leader Tony McCombie, of Savanna, said they were concerned about whether all the new spending in the budget – including K-12 education and early childhood programs – would be sustainable in future years.

“There’s nothing worse than starting a new program and then having it not be sustainable,” she said during House floor debate early Saturday morning.

Pritzker, however, said his administration used conservative revenue estimates when building his budget proposal, and he said he was confident the new spending could be sustained.

“The baseline revenues of the state have risen,” he said. “There are a variety of reasons for that but one is the economy grew. The Illinois economy used to be \$800 billion when I took office, it’s now above a \$1 trillion. That gives you at least some idea of why our tax revenues are going up in the state of Illinois, because people are making more money, the economy is doing better.”

After speaking on the UIS campus, Pritzker traveled to the U of I’s Urbana-Champaign campus for a similar event.

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## State Board of Education Looking For New Providers in Preschool ‘Deserts’

*Agency looks to open 5,000 new slots in underserved communities*

*By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois*

Even though Gov. JB Pritzker has yet to sign the budget bill lawmakers just passed, the Illinois State Board of Education is seeking applicants for some of the new money contained in that bill.

ISBE is looking for new providers to offer preschool programs in areas of the state designated as “preschool deserts,” with the goal of creating 5,000 new preschool slots in the upcoming school year.

The \$75 million in new funding available for new preschool slots this year is part of Pritzker’s \$250 million “Smart Start Illinois” initiative, a four-year effort that seeks to make early childhood day care and preschool available and affordable to every family in the state who needs

it.

That will bring the state’s total funding for early childhood block grants to just over \$673 million.

“We are wanting to make sure that every community is aware that these grants are available,” State Superintendent of Education Tony Sanders said in a recent interview. “We want to make sure that school districts know. We want to make sure that day care centers, religious organizations, community-based organizations – that anybody that might serve children in pre-K opportunities knows about these opportunities and can apply.”

ISBE defines a preschool desert as an area where there is an insufficient number of publicly funded slots to serve at least 80 percent of 3- and 4-year-old children from low-income families.

“And you find them everywhere, from Belvedere to Springfield to Shawnee, all the way down in southern Illinois,” Sanders said.

The agency has identified 196 areas – including district regions, counties and ZIP codes – in the state that meet that definition. Each has a gap of 15 or more seats. Of those, 108 districts show a 100 percent need, meaning there are as many needed seats as there are priority eligible children. Those areas have a combined 5,100 needed seats.

The grants will fund the creation of new programs as well as the expansion of existing programs with priority being given to applicants who serve children in preschool deserts outside the city of Chicago, which has a separate appropriation for early childhood programs.

The grants provide funding for three programs:

- Preschool for All, which is 2.5 hours per day of preschool for 3-5-year-olds with licensed teachers and a standards-aligned curriculum
- Preschool for All Expansion, which offers five hours of preschool per day along with physical and mental health services for 3-5-year-olds in the highest need communities.
- Prevention Initiative, which offers child development and family support services for expectant parents and families with children from birth to age 3 who are at risk of academic challenges.

ISBE has developed a website that offers information about the grant programs and technical assistance for potential applicants. Applications are open to public entities as well as private nonprofit and for-profit organizations. Applications are due no later than 4 p.m. on June 14.

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**Wire** *from page 1*

10 months into the roughly five years he was sentenced to serve in prison in part because of his attempt to bribe Link. And Link himself is awaiting sentencing after pleading guilty to the tax evasion charge that led him to cooperate with the feds in the first place.

Link, who at one time was a regular poker buddy of future President Barack Obama when they both served in the Illinois Senate, is the star witness in the government's bribery case against politically connected businessman James Weiss.

Weiss had sought Arroyo's help to get the legislature to legalize so-called sweepstakes machines in Illinois. The devices are close cousins to the explicitly legal – and heavily regulated – video gaming terminals that have proliferated in Illinois for the last decade. But sweepstakes machines operate in a legal gray area and have neither been specifically outlawed nor regulated in Illinois.

Speaking slowly and with a tremor borne of a neurological condition that's worsened in the nearly three years since he left office, Link was concise when Assistant U.S. Attorney Christine O'Neill asked him to explain his crime in his own words on Wednesday.

"Underreported my income tax," Link said, adding that he did so "I wanna say (from) 2012 or 2013 to about 2016."

O'Neill clarified that the tax evasion was related to improperly spending money from his campaign account. Some of the money, Link said, went to help a longtime friend who had been in the throes of family and business problems. But not all of it.

"I used some of it for gambling," Link admitted.

After Arroyo's arrest in late October 2019, Link falsely denied reports that he was the unnamed cooperating witness described in his colleague's charging documents.

The former lawmaker took the stand for about 90 minutes on Wednesday afternoon, during which government lawyers introduced the first of several recordings of phone calls and meetings Link facilitated at the FBI's behest.

The most anticipated of the recordings will come when trial resumes Monday after an extended recess due to the presiding judge's work-related travel. In those recordings, the jury will hear Link ask Arroyo, "What's in it for me?" in regard to Arroyo's recruitment of Link in his push to legalize sweepstakes machines. And they will hear Arroyo tell his colleague, "this is the jackpot," when he made good on the bribe arrangement for Link.

**'Get the f--- out of here'**

Link and Arroyo have already acknowledged their roles in the alleged bribery scheme, but Weiss – the son-in-law of former Cook County Democratic Party boss Joseph Berrios and husband of former state Rep. Toni Berrios – has maintained his innocence.

In testimony so far in the trial, Weiss has mostly been a footnote compared to Arroyo's role in the narrative. State Rep. Bob Rita, D-Blue Island, and former state Sen. Tony Muñoz, D-Chicago, both described how Arroyo had suddenly become passionate about legalizing sweepstakes machines in fall 2018, with increasing persistence during the following spring legislative session.

"He continually pressed the issue to the point where I didn't even want to talk to him anymore," Rita said.

In spring 2019, Rita, Muñoz and Link were lead negotiators on what would become the biggest gambling-related legislation since Illinois

legalized casinos in 1990.

Unbeknownst to them, Arroyo's sudden interest in their closed-door working group meetings was prompted by his new side gig.

In fall 2018, Weiss' newly formed sweepstakes machines company, Collage LLC, began paying Arroyo \$2,500 per month to lobby the Chicago City Council against a proposed ban on the machines. During the trial's opening statements earlier this week, Weiss' attorney insisted they were "legitimate consulting payments," though the feds contend they are bribes.

Chicago didn't end up banning sweepstakes machines, and Arroyo pivoted his crusade to Springfield, where he sought "to make them legit," as Muñoz said during his testimony.

Rita, Muñoz and Link recalled that they'd briefly met Weiss in the Capitol in spring 2019, introduced by Arroyo when he approached them to talk about including sweepstakes machines in the major gambling expansion package.

Link described a time when he "lost it" on Arroyo when he tried to ask Link about the sweepstakes machines' fate toward the end of spring session in late May of that year – one of "a number of times" Arroyo had pushed the issue with Link.

"I kind of exploded and used some unfriendly language; 'Get out of here, it's not going to happen and I'm not going to let it happen,'" Link said.

Judge Steven Seeger told Link that he was welcome to be explicit about the actual words he used. Link obliged.

"I said 'get the f--- out of here.' And I apologize for saying that."

**Legal gray area**

Sweepstakes machines began popping up in Illinois in tandem with the introduction of legal video gaming terminals in 2012, according to Frank Scanio, an officer with the state police's division assigned to the Illinois Gaming Board. Scanio, the first witness the government called in the trial, explained the basics of how sweepstakes machines work.

According to Scanio, sweepstakes machines operate much like their heavily regulated counterparts, video gaming terminals. Just like VGTs, sweepstakes machines dispense a receipt to hand over to the establishment that houses the machine for players to cash out.

"The only difference" between regulated VGTs and sweepstakes machines, Scanio said, is that sweepstakes machines also dispense coupons for merchandise that can be purchased online – and offer the option to play for free.

However, he testified, the free play is not easy to obtain; in order to play the slot machine-like games for free on a sweepstakes machine, a customer has to get a special code from the machine, mail it to the company that operates it

and then wait about a month in order to get \$1 worth of credits to play on that same machine.

While the Illinois Gaming Board has long considered sweepstakes machines illegal, the agency has gotten involved in the seizure of machines only twice. The incidents both wound up in court, and on appeal, judges declined to directly rule on the legality of the machines.

The jury this week heard audio from two separate committee hearings from May 2019, when Arroyo went out of his way to get a direct answer from witnesses about sweepstakes machines' legal standing.

"Somebody here is lying," Arroyo said during one of the hearings, in the middle of testimony from Bill Bogot, a former attorney for the Illinois Gaming Board. "Why are you up here saying it's illegal? Either you're lying or the gentleman in the back (of the) room is lying."

Arroyo was referring to a proponent of sweepstakes machines, who had testified earlier in the hearing in favor of legalizing them. Bogot had been explaining why state regulators considered sweepstakes machines illegal.

Rita witnessed the exchange from his position as chair of the House Executive Committee, and in court this week told the jury that it's unusual for a representative to be so hostile to a witness tapped to give their expert opinion on a matter.

Rita said he was notified not long after that hearing that the latest amendment to the proposed gambling expansion bill included language legalizing sweepstakes machines – something he said he did not authorize. It was not included in the final bill.

"Do you think that someone was trying to sneak something into the legislation without you knowing about it?" the government attorney asked Rita.

That prompted an immediate objection from Weiss' attorney, which was quickly overruled.

"It appears that way, yes," Rita said.

The trial continues at 9:30 a.m. on Monday.

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## Former Gov. Rauner's Portrait Added to State Capitol's 'Hall of Governors'

Republican joins all Illinois' former governors except Blagojevich

By Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

Former Gov. Bruce Rauner's portrait has joined the "Hall of Governors" in the Illinois Capitol.

The Winnetka Republican-turned-Florida resident on Monday unveiled the portrait painted by Chicago Artist Richard Halstead and privately funded by Rauner. The 42nd governor of Illinois who served from 2015 to 2019, Rauner said he returns to the state every September for dove hunting season.

He downplayed the artwork as "not that big a deal" and declined to stray far from a message of "thanks" to the people of Illinois.

"The real reason that we wanted to do this, the real reason why (wife) Diana and I wanted to come and be with you is to say thank you," Rauner said. "To say thank you to each and every one of you here today, to say thank you to every citizen, every voter, every child, every newcomer, every immigrant to the state of Illinois."

Rauner stayed on message even while taking questions from reporters. Those mostly focused on Democrats' continued placement of blame on Rauner for a two-year budget impasse between him and Democrats in the General Assembly.

The political conditions leading to the impasse were set in motion when lawmakers declined to extend a temporary four-year income tax hike while Democrat Pat Quinn, Rauner's predecessor, was still governor. The decision to allow the higher tax rates to expire sent state revenues plummeting by billions of dollars in the first year of Rauner's term.

Democrats, led by now-indicted former House Speaker Michael Madigan, fought staunchly against Rauner's anti-union, pro-school choice reforms and other facets of his "pro-business" 44-point "turnaround agenda."

As Illinois operated without a budget for more than two years amid those disagreements, much of its spending was mandated by court decrees, and the state's backlog of unpaid bills reached nearly \$17 billion. The budget shortfall amid the impasse squeezed higher education institutions and crippled the state's social services.

The impasse finally ended when lawmakers – including a group of

Republicans – overrode Rauner's veto on a spending plan that included an income tax increase nearly to the level of the expired temporary tax rates.

Within two years, current Gov. JB Pritzker, a Democrat, had defeated Rauner in a landslide.

When asked about the frequency with which Democrats cite the Rauner years and the negative effects of the impasse in stump speeches, Rauner deflected. He also didn't mention Madigan – his nemesis and frequent political punching bag – or his indictment on corruption charges.

"Today, I really don't want to talk politics and, you know, the usual stuff," he said. "The one thing I will say, I am very proud of what we did while we were running the state, and I'm very proud of what we tried to do... A lot of headwinds, but I'll leave it at that today."

The one current legislative matter that Rauner did address was Illinois' Invest in Kids tax credit, a \$75 million program he signed into law as part of an education reform effort in 2017 that gives tax credits to people who donate to private school scholarship funds.

It wasn't funded for the upcoming budget year, is scheduled to be repealed on Jan. 1, 2025, and Pritzker has said it could still be extended and funded in the fall veto session.

"It's under threat today," Rauner said. "I hope the legislature will act to protect that program."

Otherwise, Rauner touted his signature on the public education formula overhaul that drives more money to the schools furthest from funding adequacy, a system that is still in place today. He signed it after vetoing a similar proposal and maligning it as a "Chicago bailout."

Continued on Page 8



Fire in the 1400 Block of Union Avenue Tuesday morning at 5:15am. Belvidere Fire Department responded and 23 firemen fought the blaze with 3 supporting engines. Estimated loss was \$50,000 and the cause of the fire is under investigation.

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

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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  
jdbrydges@michaelbest.com  
Tanya M. Salman, SBN 1089151  
tmsalman@michaelbest.com  
Mason A. Higgins, SBN 1124805  
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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

## IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARIE K. SHOOK, Deceased. CASE NO.: 2023 PR 27 CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Marie K. Shook. Letters of Office were issued on June 6, 2023, to Terry A. Shook at 507 Commander Place, Belvidere, IL 61008, who is the legal representative of the estate. The attorney for the estate is James Hursh, Guyer & Enichen, P.C., 2601 Reid Farm Road, Suite B, Rockford, IL 61114.

Claims against the estate may be filed on or before December 15, 2023, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of

Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975 as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, IL 61008, or with the estate's legal representative, or both.

Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office, Probate Division, must be mailed or delivered to the estate's legal representative and to his/her attorney within ten days after it has been filed.

DATED: June 15, 2023  
By: Guyer & Enichen, P.C.  
By: /s/ James Hursh  
Attorney for Terry A. Shook, Independent Executor  
James Hursh, #6230997  
Attorney for Estate  
Guyer & Enichen, P.C.  
2601 Reid Farm Road  
Rockford, IL 61114  
815.636.9600  
jhursh@guyerlaw.com  
Published in *The Boone County Journal* June 15, 22, 29

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

In the matter of the petition of Broderick Walker Sperry; Keagan Alexander Hooks By Ashley Marissa Kuznicki Case No. 2023MR23  
NOTICE OF FILING PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE OF MINOR CHILDREN

Notice is hereby given, that on July 25, 2023, at 9:30 am, I will present a Petition requesting that the Court change his/her present names of, Broderick Walker Sperry; Keagan Alexander Hooks minors, to the name of Broderick Walker Kuznicki; and Keagan Alexander Kuznicki. The hearing will take place at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008.

Broderick Walker Sperry; Keagan Alexander Hooks, minors, by, Ashley Marissa Kuznicki  
Published in the Boone County Journal 06/ 15, 22, 29

# 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 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

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

No. DBA4145 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a COLLECTABLES business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of SALLY'S DOLLS that its location is or will be at 7071 Blaine Road in Poplar Grove 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: 815-569-2252  
Sally Jeanne Dredske, 7071 Blaine Road, Poplar Grove, IL 61065  
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: Monday, June 12, 2023, Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder  
Published in Boone County Journal 6/15, 6/22, 6/29 - P

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

No. DBA4153 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a MOBILE TRUCK DETAILING business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of ALL AMERICAN MOBILE TRUCK WASH & DETAILING that its location is or will be at 317 White Oak Drive in Poplar Grove 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: 815-621-1188  
Sean Burger, 317 White Oak Drive, Poplar Grove, IL 61065  
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: Friday, June 9, 2023, Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder  
Published in Boone County Journal 6/15, 6/22, 6/29 - P

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

No. DBA4145 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of M&C HEATING AND COOLING that its location is or will be at 226 Andrews Drive 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: 815-721-1696  
Manuel Marquez, 226 Andrews Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008  
Jose Camargo, 1301 West 6th Street, 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: Monday, June 12, 2023, Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder  
Published in Boone County Journal 6/15, 6/22, 6/29 - P

## Book Ban from page 1

House Bill 2789 declares it to be the policy of Illinois to "encourage and protect the freedom of libraries and library systems to acquire materials without external limitation and to be protected against attempts to ban, remove, or otherwise restrict access to books or other materials."

It also requires that, as a condition for being eligible for state grants, libraries and library systems must adopt either the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights or some other written statement prohibiting the practice of banning books or other materials.

Tracie Hall, executive director of the Chicago-based ALA, called the bill signing a historic event.

"I could not be prouder that the American Library Association, founded in 1876, and based for much of its 147 years right here in Chicago, makes its home in a state that is first in the nation to create a law that stands up to censorship and calls it what it is – a threat to education, to libraries, to our individual freedoms, and a threat to our democracy," she said.

The bill was an initiative of Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulis, who serves as the state librarian and whose office administers grant programs for local public libraries and school libraries. He described it as the first of its kind in the United States and a needed response to a growing wave of antagonism toward libraries.

"Most of the premise of this bill and our inspiration for this bill was hearing from librarians throughout the state who have never seen a level of intimidation, threats to violence and job insecurity like they have across the state, whether it's in the western suburbs or whether it's in downstate Illinois. So that's been really troubling," he said. "We should be applauding them, and they've never felt this harassed. So hopefully this shows librarians across the state that we support them."

The bill passed through both chambers of the General Assembly with only Democratic support. Republicans argued that it undercut the authority of local library boards and school boards. Some also argued that it could lead to unintended consequences such as libraries being forced to carry books espousing racism or providing instructions in how to make a bomb.

"That's got nothing to do with this legislation," Giannoulis said when asked about this criticism on Monday. "That will not be the case, it will continue not to be the case. Again, what we're saying simply is a book cannot be removed that's already currently in circulation for partisan or doctrinal beliefs. It's very simple, straightforward, and our librarians have begged for this legislation. I could not be more proud of it."

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## Spending

from page 1

of state Democrats, with the governor, House Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch, D-Hillside, Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, and various members of the legislature’s Democratic leadership and budget negotiation teams.

Several of them highlighted the budget’s investments in education.

“Birth-to-five services and kindergarten readiness are the foundation for the rest of our children’s educational experiences,” Pritzker said.

The budget includes funding to launch Pritzker’s “Smart Start Illinois” early childhood education program. Earlier this year, he toured the state to promote the increased spending on pre-K and kindergarten, which includes \$130 million to fund a new system of contracts for early childhood workers and upping state funding for early childhood block grants by \$75 million. “Smart Start” also includes added funding for early intervention and home visiting programming.

The budget also increases state dollars going to the K-12 funding formula by \$350 million – the amount called for annually in state law – and puts \$45 million toward a three-year pilot program to fill teacher vacancies and provide scholarships to future teachers. It’s less than the \$70 million for that program that Pritzker included in his February budget proposal.

Higher education, a long-time budget priority of Pritzker’s, will also see increased funding. These include a \$100 million funding increase to the state’s Monetary Award Program, which provides need-based scholarships. It marks a 75 percent increase in funding for MAP grants since 2019. The budget also includes a \$15 million increase to the AIM HIGH merit-based scholarship program and a \$3.8 million increase to the Minority Teacher Scholarship program.

Despite praising Republican involvement in budget negotiations throughout the legislative session, Senate Minority Leader John Curran, R-Downers Grove, criticized the overall budget in a Wednesday statement while noting it included some common ground between the two parties.

“We negotiated in good faith, and as a result, there are some joint priorities in this budget, specifically to support the developmentally disabled and invest in education,” Curran said.

No Republicans in either chamber voted for the plan.

In the House, debate was more tense. Republican budget negotiator Norine Hammond, of Macomb, said the GOP was essentially cut out from the budget process by House Democrats. She had previously noted Republicans participated in more frequent budget talks with the governor’s staff.

“Another budget filled with broken promises, accounting gimmicks, and a lack of structural reforms to address the systemic outmigration of Illinois families,” House Republican Leader Tony McCombie, R-Savanna, said in a Wednesday statement.

McCombie also contradicted Curran’s read of the budget and said that it “shortchanges” the direct service professionals, or DSPs, that serve disabled people in community settings.

A state-commissioned 2020 study of the industry recommended increasing DSP wages to 150 percent of the state’s minimum wage, which is currently \$13 per hour and is set to increase to \$14 in January.

The budget includes provisions increasing DSP wage base rates by \$2.50 per hour, to

\$19.50, beginning in January. That would still fall short of the \$4 per hour needed to meet the study’s recommendation as of next year. Still, it marks a \$1 increase beyond what Pritzker had proposed in February.

Home workers who assist the elderly are also slated to receive a rate increase of \$24 million.

The budget also includes \$75 million for the Department of Children and Family Services. Pritzker’s office said this is expected to pay for 192 staff positions, expanded training, facility improvements and scholarships to children in DCFS care.

Services aimed at preventing homelessness are set to receive an increase of \$85 million through the Home Illinois program, a multi-agency initiative that will provide housing and services to homeless people.

The more than \$350 million in funding includes \$118 million for shelter and transitional housing services, \$50 million for rapid rehousing services, \$40 million in capital funds for permanent supportive housing units and \$37 million in funds to build new shelter units.

While Republicans have been critical of the budget, the House’s lead budget negotiator, Rep. Jehan Gordon-Booth, D-Peoria, said compromise was an essential part of the process.

“The budget is a reflection of our priorities,” she said. “It’s a reflection of everybody getting wins, but nobody got everything.”

Earlier this week, Pritzker noted the budget would exempt businesses from the first \$5,000 in liability under the corporate franchise tax, up from \$1,000. He called it a \$50 million tax cut that addressed at least one Republican budget priority. Pritzker and leaders in the General Assembly negotiated a phaseout of that tax in his only bipartisan budget passed in 2019, but Democrats ultimately reversed that action in a future budget year.

During debate last month, Republicans in both chambers were also sharply critical of the budget because it allowed for the expiration of the \$75 million Invest in Kids scholarship program for private school students. The program initially passed as part of a bipartisan agreement in 2017 with support from the school-choice movement and Republican lawmakers.

When asked on Wednesday, Pritzker said the conversation around funding that program is “ongoing,” and “there’s time still for that program to be considered,” potentially in the fall veto session, before its Jan. 1, 2024, expiration.

Democrats on Wednesday also alluded on several occasions to a two-year budget stalemate between Republican then-Gov. Bruce Rauner and Democrats in the legislature that lasted from July 2015 into August 2017. During that time, the state did not approve a full budget, causing havoc in education and the social services industry, both of which rely heavily on state funding.

“It’s no longer about how to keep the doors open and scrape by,” Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton said of the budget process.

At the bill signing, Pritzker also addressed a state-funded health care program for noncitizens, which his administration at one time projected would cost over \$1 billion in the upcoming fiscal year.

The program offers Medicaid-style benefits to noncitizens age 42 and older who would otherwise be eligible for Medicaid if not for their legal residency status. It was launched in 2021 and expanded twice to its current size. Because the individuals enrolled in the program are not eligible for standard Medicaid, which is jointly

funded by the state and federal governments, Illinois covers its entire cost.

A separate Medicaid-related bill, which Pritzker has not yet signed, will give him authority to rein in costs through the creation of administrative rules. His office has said options include limiting future enrollment, requiring copays from program participants, maximizing federal reimbursement and possibly moving participants to the Medicaid managed care system.

Pritzker noted that the program does not apply to asylum seekers, who are eligible for other federally funded benefits. He also said it is ultimately cheaper to provide preventative care to noncitizens rather than making them rely on emergency room visits to treat conditions that have gone undiagnosed and untreated due to a lack of health care benefits.

Pritzker’s February budget proposal accounted for about \$220 million in costs for the program, and the final budget did not include a measure sought by the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus that would have expanded it to noncitizens aged 19 and over. Those 18 years and younger are already covered under the Illinois AllKids program.

“We realized that if we could manage it properly, we could manage the program with the number of people that are in it now to about \$550 million,” Pritzker said Wednesday. “That’s more than we expected, but not nearly as much as it might have cost if we didn’t have the tools necessary.”

The governor’s office did not clarify whether that meant the program would be capped at current levels or if more people would be allowed to enroll in the upcoming fiscal year.

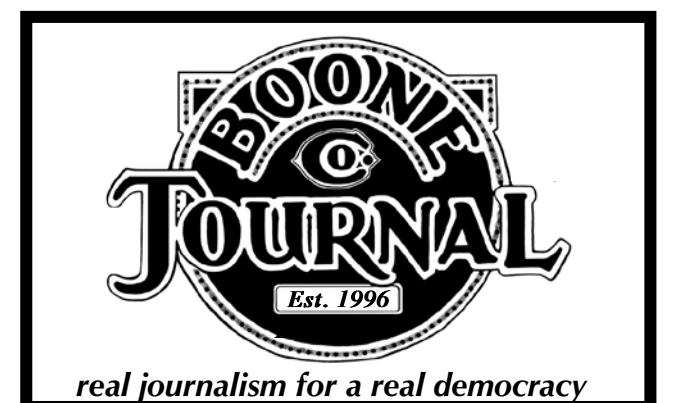
“We’ll have more on what steps we’ll need to take as we enter the new fiscal year and review costs,” a spokesperson said in a statement.

Pritzker’s signing included one change to the budget as it was approved by lawmakers last month. Lawmakers, agency directors and others in state government who would have received raises of 5.5 percent under an automatic pay formula will be capped at 5 percent to comply with state law.

“It is evident that the errors in the amounts to compensate all of these officers were inadvertent and that the General Assembly intended for the amounts set forth in Senate Bill 250 simply to implement the salaries provided by law,” Pritzker said in his “reduction veto” message.

Under law, lawmakers do not need to accept the reduction, so the budget can take effect without issue.

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**Rauner**

*from page 5*

Rauner took office after unseating Quinn, whose portrait now sits directly below Rauner’s on the Capitol’s second floor and reportedly included 44 “found items” summing up his legacy. Those range from a picture of him signing a bill authorizing a minimum wage ballot referendum to a portrait of President Abraham Lincoln.

Rauner’s portrait depicts him in front of an empty blue background with his ubiquitous Illinois-shaped lapel pin as the only non-clothing item depicted.

“I don’t think any portrait summarizes anybody’s legacy very well,” Rauner said when asked of the background choice.

Professionally, Rauner said he once again is in the business of investing in start-up companies and is a trustee for the Everglades Foundation conservation group. He also serves on the board for the Foundation for Excellence in Education, a Florida-based group founded by that state’s former governor, Jeb Bush, that promotes education reform and school choice.

He’s also a donor to Florida Republican Gov. and GOP presidential candidate Ron DeSantis.

Diana is in Chicago “full-time,” Rauner said, where she’s continued her longtime work as president of Start Early, a nonprofit that promotes early childhood development in underserved communities across Illinois.

Rauner’s portrait joins that of all former governors in the Capitol except for impeached Gov. Rod Blagojevich. In 2010, the General Assembly passed a law prohibiting public funds from being used for his portrait.

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**As Trial Begins,  
Politically Connected  
Businessman Claims  
Feds Set Him Up to  
Bribe Legislator**

*Case involves two ex-legislators – one acting as an informant – who already pleaded guilty*

*By Hannah Meisel Capitol News Illinois*

Nearly four years after his name first surfaced in connection with a bribe arrangement between two sitting lawmakers, politically connected businessman James Weiss is finally having his day in court.

Weiss, who is married to former state Rep. Toni Berrios, D-Chicago – the daughter of longtime former Cook County Democratic Party boss Joseph Berrios – stands accused of bribing two Democratic lawmakers in an effort to shield his fledgling business from threatened bans at the state and local levels.

Weiss was in the business of sweepstakes machines – devices that look similar to video gaming terminals that have proliferated in bars, gas stations and standalone gaming cafes in Illinois since their legalization a decade ago. But, unlike video gaming terminals, sweepstakes machines are wholly unregulated and are operating in a

legal gray area.

In the government’s opening statements on Tuesday, Assistant U.S. Attorney Christine O’Neill laid out Weiss’ alleged crimes to the jury.

“In 2019, ladies and gentlemen, the defendant had two sitting politicians on his company payroll,” O’Neill said of Weiss’ business, Collage LLC. “It was all to benefit his business, Collage, the sweepstakes machines and his own bottom line.”

Weiss’ attorney, Sheldon Sorosky, used his opening statements to characterize Weiss as a shrewd businessman who seized the opportunity to contract with and curry favor with influential lawmakers who could help him in Chicago and Springfield.

“So yes, Jim Weiss had a business motive to promote sweepstakes to help himself,” he told the jury. “That’s not a crime.”

The trial, which is expected to last about a week, will feature long-anticipated testimony from one of the two ex-legislators Weiss is alleged to have bribed: former state Sen. Terry Link, D-Vernon Hills. Link happened to be cooperating with the government and wearing a wire when then-state Rep. Luis Arroyo, D-Chicago, offered him a bribe in an attempt to further the cause of legalizing sweepstakes machines. Arroyo pleaded guilty to the bribery charges in 2021.

Other government witnesses will include a current high-ranking member of the Illinois House, a former influential member of the Illinois Senate and a longtime powerful Chicago alderman.

**‘What’s in it for me, though?’**

In a little over an hour of opening statements Tuesday, both the prosecution and defense painted a picture of two separate meetings involving Arroyo, Link and Weiss in August 2019.

On a hot Friday early that month, Arroyo arranged a meeting with Weiss, Link and himself at a Wendy’s restaurant in suburban Highland Park in an effort to convince Link to push for fully legalizing sweepstakes machines.

At that point, Arroyo, who had a lobbying business that lobbied the city of Chicago, had been receiving monthly checks from two sweepstakes machine companies related to Weiss for approximately 10 months. While the government characterized those \$2,500 payments as bribes, Sorosky characterized them Tuesday as “legitimate consulting fees.”

During the 2019 meeting, Link asked to step outside so he could speak with Arroyo alone. But the ensuing conversation would not stay between the two of them; Link was cooperating with the government after having been caught underreporting his income for several years to evade taxes. As part of the cooperation deal, he was wearing a wire that day, and federal agents were watching from afar.

“What’s in it for me, though?” Link asked Arroyo as the two stood in the Wendy’s parking lot.

Arroyo offered Link a menu of options,

according to a partial transcript of their conversation published in an October 2019 affidavit.

“I’m a paid consultant, okay?” Arroyo explained to Link. “If you want to put a price on it, I mean, if you want to get paid, you want somebody else to get a check monthly, a monthly stipend, we could put them on contract. We could put you on a contract. You tell me what it is. Tell me what you need.”

The exchange would eventually contribute to the end of both men’s political careers. Arroyo began serving a 57-month prison sentence last summer after pleading guilty on bribery charges, while Link is still awaiting a sentencing date for his admission of guilt on one count of tax evasion.

Weeks later, Weiss and Arroyo again traveled north to see Link, this time at a diner in Skokie. But Weiss was left in the car for that Aug. 20, 2019, meeting while Arroyo went inside to deliver three things to Link: Weiss’ business card, a copy of draft legislation that would explicitly legalize sweepstakes machines, and a signed \$2,500 check with the payee line left blank.

Link told Arroyo that the name on the check would be a “friend” of Link’s named Katherine Hunter – who turned out to be a fictional person made up by the feds.

Sorosky told the jury on Tuesday that Weiss honestly believed that Katherine Hunter existed, and therefore hired her in good faith to appease Link, who at the time was the lead negotiator on gambling legislation in the Illinois Senate.

He also directed the jury to focus on Link’s “What’s in it for me?” question to Arroyo, noting that it occurred “outside the hearing and presence of Jim Weiss” and was a clear indicator that Link solicited a bribe at the behest of federal agents.

“And with all due respect,” Sorosky said, “the original bribe in this case is created by the government.”

As she wrapped up the government’s opening statements, O’Neill previewed a recording the jury will hear during trial of the FBI’s surprise October 2019 interview with Weiss. She characterized Weiss as changing his story as to whether he knew Katherine Hunter was real.

“You’ll hear the defendant’s lies from his own mouth,” O’Neill said.

Sorosky preempted that argument telling the jury that Weiss was caught off guard and had believed he once briefly talked with the fabricated woman when Arroyo passed him his phone during a loud lunch meeting.

“If he said something inaccurate, he did not intend to lie,” Sorosky said of his client.

The trial will continue at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday.

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