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Rockford, Belvidere YMCAs Merge Facility Upgrades Planned

The YMCA of Rock River Valley and the Belvidere Family YMCA have formally merged, a move leaders say will strengthen programs, expand services, and position the organization for long-term sustainability across Boone and Winnebago counties.

The merger follows a management agreement that began July 7, 2025, when the YMCA of Rock River Valley assumed operational oversight of the Belvidere facility in partnership with the Belvidere local board. The transition to a full merger unites the two organizations under one structure while maintaining services in both communities.

“This is about ensuring the Y remains strong and accessible for families in Boone County for years to come,” said Brent Pentenburg, CEO of the YMCA of Rock River Valley. “By sharing resources, we can grow membership, expand programming, and increase our overall impact.”

The Belvidere Family YMCA Board of Directors has played an integral role in the partnership between the two YMCA associations. Going forward, a member of the Belvidere Board will serve on the YMCA of Rock River Valley Board of Directors to ensure representation for the community. The remaining Belvidere board members will serve as a branch advisory council.

“This merger represents an investment in the future of the Belvidere community,” said Deb Yunk, Belvidere Family YMCA Board President. “We have already seen an influx of donor support since partnering with the YMCA of Rock River Valley. Those dollars will remain in Belvidere and help us renovate and expand our amenities. We are excited about the Y’s future in Belvidere to continue sharing the YMCA’s mission, helping individuals and families thrive, and strengthening our communities for generations to come.”

As part of the merger, the Y is planning upgrades to the Belvidere facility and is actively seeking donor support to fund improvements. The Peggy & Jack Wolf Charitable Foundation has made a lead gift of \$500,000, which kickstarts renovations this year.

“The Jack Wolf family has been deeply connected to the Belvidere Family YMCA for generations and remains committed to its mission and future growth,” said Amy Wolf Wilcox. “In 1967, Jack Wolf played a key role in raising funds for the YMCA’s major expansion and renovation, which allowed the facility to open debt-free — an



The Belvidere YMCA on Locust Street

achievement he often called one of his proudest.

Today, the Peggy & Jack Wolf Charitable Foundation is honored to support the YMCA’s expansion and facility upgrades, strengthening an organization that has long served our community while promoting wellness, connection, and opportunity for future generations.”

Proposed projects include relocating the fitness center to the first floor to improve accessibility and visibility, along with adding a new functional training and turf area to better serve a range of fitness needs.

Belvidere Family YMCA Senior Operations Manager Cherie Dollinger will remain on-site, continuing to lead day-to-day operations.

“The Y has been part of this community for more than a century, and this step allows us to build on that legacy,” Dollinger said. “With additional resources and support, we have already begun to strengthen our programs and better serve current and future members.”

Belvidere YMCA members will continue to have access to all YMCA of Rock River Valley locations, along with some new service amenities. Belvidere members will join YMCA of Rock River Valley members in getting free access to Rockford Park District pools. Construction on the fitness center is expected to start in August and be completed by December 2026.

Bears ‘Advance’ Unspecified Indiana Stadium Plan — But Keep Illinois Lawmakers on The Line

A top Senate negotiator says the team is still engaging with Illinois

Brenden Moore *Capitol News Illinois*

First Arlington Heights was the sole focus. Then it was Chicago. Then back to Arlington Heights. Then either Arlington Heights or Hammond. Then perhaps Chicago if the other two options fell through. And now, apparently Hammond.

The long, winding Chicago Bears stadium road took another turn Friday, when the team announced that its board of directors “voted to advance” a stadium project across the state line in Indiana. It comes just days after Illinois lawmakers failed to advance legislation that would have granted the organization tax certainty on a stadium project in Illinois.

“We believe a world-class stadium project in

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What Does an El Nino Summer Mean for Illinois Crops?

By Rhiannon Branch
FarmWeek

As tropical weather patterns suggest a shift to El Nino conditions, *FarmWeek* interviewed Eric Snodgrass, a principal atmospheric scientist with Nutrien Ag Solutions, to see what Illinois farmers should be watching as summer nears.

Q: What is the short-term weather forecast for Illinois?

A: The beginning of June is going to start off with much warmer temperatures, which a lot of growers in Illinois need. May was not a warm month, so to be able to get extra heat units into the ground is going to be huge for this crop. But we also don't want to see extended time periods

of dry weather, which is what I think we're going to see finishing May and starting June.

Q: What does a shift to El Nino mean for Midwest crops?

A: Historically, when you have rapidly developing El Ninos, which we do this year, June does tend to be drier. But when you look at the same years, July tends to come in with quite a bit of storms and our crops tend to do OK with that. But if it's ill-timed, maybe we stay dry too long into July and bring the rain later in the month rather than earlier, then you could be looking at a situation that is unfavorable for crop development. It's just a little too far out to tell.

Q: How much impact does El Nino have in the Midwest during summer months?

A: We have to be careful with how much we attribute to El Nino. It's going to be huge, but we'll talk so much more about El Nino in the fall and winter than we will during the summer. The correlation between summer weather and El Nino is about 0.3%, which means you can only attribute about 9% of the variance of summer weather to El Nino and that's not enough.

Q: Are you watching weather patterns in any other areas?

A: If I were going to make a call for a super hot and dry summer, I would need to see the Northeast Pacific. There's a decently strong correlation with cold water off the west coast of North America to summer heat and drought stress in the Midwest. Right now those ocean temperatures are not cold. So that is another thing that points to a possible stormy summer rather than one that's bone dry all the way through July and August. If on June 21, the solstice, I'm looking at the Northeast Pacific and it has cooled off dramatically, then I'm going to be really worried because that is going to start to give us a drier signal for July and August.

Q: Is there potential for Illinois to experience rapid onset drought like it did last fall?

A: Yes. But even though we're drier for at least the next two weeks, the question is will it be dry longer term? For the next two weeks it is going to be wet to our south, and usually our biggest drought events start when it's too dry to our south. If they're humid and there's a lot of soil moisture then the moisture goes right over the top of them comes to us. So, I'm not overly worried about rapid drought. If you were to call me back in two weeks and the dryness didn't break, I'm going to start ringing the alarm bell. But if it is in fact just a two-week hiatus in the rainfall and we return wet again, it's going to be huge for this crop.

Q: Does it look like 2026 will continue to be an active severe weather year?

A: We do think it will. But we'll transition in June from having flow that generates thunderstorms that come out of the west and southwest and by July, a lot of our storm trajectory will be coming out of the northwest and we want that. That is a very healthy summer pattern for delivering rainfall.

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.



C.E.S. Inc. Announces Hiring of Veluru

C.E.S. Inc., a locally owned and operated Civil Engineering and Land Surveying company with offices in northern Illinois, is proud to announce the hiring of Narasimhanaidu "Simha" Veluru as their newest Project Engineer at the company's Belvidere office.

Veluru earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Annamacharya Institute of Technology & Sciences in 2021 and later earned his Master's degree in Construction Management from Lawrence Technological University in 2024.

Veluru brings experience in civil engineering and construction management, having previously worked as a Project Engineer with Civil Engineering Solutions, Inc. and completed an internship with G2 Consulting Group, LLC. His background includes work on residential and commercial infrastructure projects, including utility design support, field inspections, and project coordination.

Veluru holds several industry certifications, including OSHA 30-Hour Construction Safety training from the Great Lakes OSHA Education Center, ACI Concrete Field-Testing Technician – Grade I certification from the American Concrete Institute, and Density Technology certification from the Michigan Department of Transportation. He is also a Certified Construction Manager in Training (CMIT) and a member of the Construction Management Association of America.


As Project Engineer, Veluru will assist with a variety of engineering projects for residential, commercial, industrial, and municipal clients throughout northern Illinois. His responsibilities include project coordination, engineering design support, scheduling assistance, and preparation of plans and technical documentation to help ensure projects are completed efficiently and to high quality standards.

Veluru brings strong technical knowledge, attention to detail, and a commitment to delivering quality engineering solutions. C.E.S. Inc. looks forward to his contributions as the company continues to provide dependable engineering and surveying services across the region.

C.E.S. Inc. has more than 34 years of experience in Engineering and Land Surveying across 45 communities in 12 counties in northern Illinois, maintaining a steady tradition of quality service and controlled growth.



- Dennis Alderman, 79, Cherry Valley, June 3
- Roger Fleury, 83, Poplar Grove, May 31
- Russell Geishert, 91, Poplar Grove, May 30
- Jerrold "Jerry" Hart, 86, Belvidere, May 31
- Winifred "Suzann" Kaltenbach, 89, Belv. May 31
- Donald Peterson, 82, Harvard, June 2
- James "Jim" Rayborn, 86, Cherry Valley, June 1
- Gwendolyn Ekman Wylie, 83, Belvidere, June 4



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

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419 S. State St • Belvidere, IL 61008
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Midterms Approach But All is Not Well

Bob Evans

Midterm elections generate turnout much lower than general, Presidential elections. Presidential election turnout can approach 60% of registered voters. That is, by the way, lower than many, if not most, other democracies for various reasons. Midterm election turnout tends to average 40% or less. The primary reason for the lower turnout is obvious.

Midterm elections are, however, very important. This one will be more important than most. All seats in the House will be at stake. One third of the 100 Senate seats will be open. Currently Republicans hold a razor thin majority. They hold 217 House seats. Democrats hold 212 seats. There are five vacancies. Republicans hold a 53-47 majority in the Senate.

Since 1934, the majority party in the House has lost an average of 28 seats in midterms. During that period, the majority party has lost an average of four seats in the Senate each midterm. One can see how Republicans would perceive their peril. Imagine what life would be like for a Republican minority with an embattled President Trump over the next two years. Multiple impeachments. Stalled legislation. Repealed legislation slamming into multiple Presidential vetoes. Congress could take on the aspect literally of a cock pit in the original meaning of that term.

But this midterm election will also be vitally important for a second, altogether different, reason. This election is important because it will subject Republicans in Texas and Democrats in Maine to a test—a test they appear likely to fail.

We should take away a lesson from this test. Republicans and Democrats will be tested in two

states by being compelled to examine their most deeply held political beliefs. Let us examine the two cases in the two states.

In Texas, Republicans appear to be willing to overlook the personal and professional flaws in the record of Attorney General Ken Paxton in order to preserve the open Senate seat for Republicans, and thus maintain their razor thin majority.

In Maine, Democrats appear willing to overlook the manifest flaws in the record of Graham Platner in order to “flip” the seat of Republican incumbent Susan Collins, and thus chip away at that razor thin majority.

Both candidates in both states exhibit flaws that would ordinarily discredit and disqualify them. For both candidates there is an alternative—an available qualified candidate. Voters do not have to accept the flawed candidate in order to fill the office. Voters appear likely, however, to do just that.

Republicans in Maine contend that Platner’s record and flaws disqualify him. Democrats in Texas contend that Paxton’s flaws and record disqualify him.

Neither side accepts the obvious conclusion. The obvious conclusion is that if the flawed candidate in one state is disqualified then, by the same logic, the flawed candidate in the other state should be disqualified. Neither side accepts the obvious conclusion, that by the logic they apply both of the flawed candidates in both states must be disqualified.

In other words, for you the quality of the candidate should be the paramount consideration. For me, however, the ultimate goal of Senate control should be the paramount consideration.

This is what Republicans in Texas and Democrats in Maine appear to be saying and doing. This is the test of citizenship that they appear to be ready to fail. We should demand better behavior on the part of our fellow citizens.

Foster Introduces Legislation to Expand Broadband Access For Students

Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL) representing Belvidere introduced the Closing the Digital Divide for Students Act to expand broadband access for low-income families in HUD-assisted housing. This bill would allow families living in HUD-assisted housing, whose children qualify for free or reduced lunch, to use federal assistance on broadband internet access.

Currently, families who live in HUD-assisted housing receive financial assistance for utility bills like electricity and gas. This legislation would expand what utilities are permissible, allowing families to use this assistance on basic broadband internet.

“As AI continues to reshape the future of the workforce, it is more important than ever for students to have access to reliable internet connectivity at home,” said Congressman Foster. “Schools are increasingly incorporating technology into their curriculums and students should not be disadvantaged by the high price of internet access. This bill would help close the divide for the millions of students who lack broadband internet access in their home, allowing them to succeed in their courses.”

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The League of Woman Hosting an Event in Boone County!

On the Anniversary of the first No Kings event, two celebrations will occur on June 14 - one local and one national.

Flag Day: Liberty and Justice for All at Big Thunder Park, 699 Van Buren St, Belvidere at 1pm. This event celebrates our flag, the freedoms it represents and the American way of life. Together the attendees will honor the values of liberty, unity and justice for all. There will be music, a rally, a march and hands-on activities such as post card writing and art projects. Attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable food for distribution at Boone County Food Pantries. The League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford (serving Boone and Winnebago Counties), AAUW, Rockford Urban Ministries and Trogg Hollow are sponsoring this celebration.

June 14 Rise Up, Sing Out is a concert for the First Amendment. This National Concert celebrates the freedoms that belongs to all of us: speech, assembly, protest, religion, press, and expression. It is an evening to build community. People can sign up to watch the concert virtually at no cost at Rise Up Sing Out — A Concert for the First Amendment at 6:30pm Central Time.



Detention Centers, Exoneree Restitution, Foster Care Protections Among Final Bills to Pass

Dozens of bills passed on the final session days — here are some of the most significant

*Nikoel Hytrek & Jenna Schweikert
Capitol News Illinois*

Nearly 400 bills cleared both chambers of the General Assembly this session, with more than 150 of them moving in the session's final week.

Aside from the \$56 billion budget package, the wide range of bills would limit where the federal government can build immigrant detention centers, regulate plastic pellets and increase exoneree restitution, among others.

The measures all await a signature from Gov. JB Pritzker before they can become law.

Exoneree restitution

House Bill 3663 would increase the amount of money paid to people who have been wrongfully imprisoned in Illinois and bring the state in line with federally recommended minimum standard set in 2004.

The Court of Claims would now be able to award an exoneree up to \$50,000 for each year wrongfully spent in prison and \$25,000 for each year wrongfully on parole, probation or a sex offender registry with no upward cap. The court could also pay out associated attorney fees and

costs.

The previous system set specific payouts based on the range of years served, with a maximum total payout of \$199,150 that's hit once a person has served at least 14 years wrongfully.

It unanimously passed both chambers of the General Assembly on Sunday and Monday.

The bill is the product of years of work by the Illinois Innocence Project.

Detention center limitations

House Bill 5024 would ban the construction or operation of new immigration detention centers within 1,500 feet of any home, school, day care center, park, forest preserve, cemetery or place of worship.

Sponsored by House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, D-Hillside, the bill passed along party lines in both chambers. Welch's district includes the neighborhood of Broadview, the location of a detention center that was the focal point of some protests during Operation Midway Blitz last summer.

The bill is not retroactive, so it won't apply to Broadview or any existing detention centers.

It received heavy criticism from Republicans who called it a political stunt. The federal government is generally exempt from state and local zoning restrictions, so the bill is likely to face legal challenges.

Plastic pellet protections

House Bill 4418 creates the Plastic Pellets Pollution Control Act, which takes a step toward controlling the amount of plastic that ends up in Illinois waterways.

The bill makes Illinois the first Great Lakes state to classify plastic pellets as pollutants.

It instructs the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to implement a program to control plastic pellets, which are a byproduct of plastic production that frequently end up in Illinois waterways through spills. The pellets are a major source of microplastics as they break down.

The measure doesn't specifically spell out what the plan would entail but gives the IEPA one year to implement the requirements to be included in National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits.

Republicans generally criticized the broad authority the measure gives to the IEPA.

The bill passed the Senate with a 44-13 vote. It passed the House in April with a vote of 69-33.

Foster placement

Lawmakers passed a bill to protect the personal information of children in foster care, especially if they're placed out of state.

House Bill 4966, known as the Safeguards to Ensure Continuity and Uphold Rights and Equity, or SECURE, Act, would strengthen nondiscrimination protections for youth in the care of the Department of Child and Family Services and establish that Illinois children placed in out-of-state homes are under the jurisdiction of Illinois and should receive the same services and care they would have in Illinois.

The bill would require DCFS to protect a child from unnecessary and unapproved disclosure of

any personal information that could be linked to the child's sexual orientation or other protected characteristics like gender. It also establishes guidelines for the department to share that information if needed.

The bill would also give children age 8 years and above some input into their placement if that child expects they might be mistreated or wouldn't be able to access certain healthcare like gender-affirming care or reproductive services.

"Beyond the fact that this federal administration is hell-bent on rolling back civil rights protections, the SECURE Act is necessary because youth in care deserve to have their rights protected and their voices heard," Rep. Kelly Cassidy, D-Chicago, the House sponsor of the bill, said.

Republicans in floor debate mainly argued the bill might make placements more difficult and strain DCFS resources if the department has to find homes that will affirm a child's sexual orientation or gender identity.

The measure passed the Senate with a 35-19 vote on Friday, and it passed the House Sunday 75-40.

Mandated reporters

House Bill 4911 would expand the list of mandated reporters to include investment advisers, certain dealers, salespersons and branch managers of financial institutions. It is intended to expand reporting of financial exploitation and other forms of abuse or neglect of older adults.

Those individuals could also place a 15-day hold on a transaction if they suspect financial exploitation. The bill passed unanimously in both chambers.

Reports would be provided to the Department of Human Services and the Department of Healthcare and Family Services. The state's Department on Aging and Department of Financial and Professional Regulation would set minimum training standards for financial institution employees.

Construction site sanitary facilities

Senate Bill 3465 would require construction sites with 10 or more employees and at least one woman to provide sanitary facilities for people "who are menstruating, lactating, or both" and defines the minimum hygienic standards for those facilities. Sites must also provide lactation stations for employees upon request.

The bill was inspired by a similar one in Washington and is meant to help women access appropriate sanitary facilities without having to leave the work site and be docked pay, Rep. Theresa Mah, D-Chicago, said.

The bill passed both chambers along party lines, as Republicans criticized the bill for capturing a wider population of people — anyone who menstruates and any woman despite age — than they thought was necessary.

Nonprofit investment fund

Senate Bill 2968, an initiative of state treasurer Michael Frerichs, would establish a state-run investment fund for nonprofits to receive grants from.

Pritzker vetoed a version of the legislation last summer out of concern that extremist groups could

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LEGAL NOTICES

TO: James M. Grisanzio; James A. Grisanzio; Occupant; Kayla E. Eisman; Melania Villela; Karen M. Grisanzio; Amy Ohlsen, County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois; Claimants, Judgment Creditors, and Decree Creditors, if any of the above described as "Unknown Owners"; "Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots".

**TAX DEED NO.: 2026TX16 FILED: 5/11/2026
TAKE NOTICE**

County of Boone

Date Premises Sold: October 30, 2025

Certificate No.: 2024-00098

Sold for General Taxes of (Year): 2024

Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and Special Assessment Number: N/A

Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A

THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES

Property Located at: 12357 Cameron Court, Caledonia, IL 61011

Legal Description or Property Index No.: 03-32-476-013

This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on November 4, 2026.

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

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before November 4, 2026.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Boone County in 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008, Room 3, on November 24, 2026 at 9:30 AM.

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

YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY

Redemption can be made at any time on or before November 4, 2026 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Belvidere, Illinois.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK

1212 Logan Ave., Suite 103

Belvidere, IL 61008

(815) 544-3103

Private Equity Group, LLC.

Purchaser or Assignee

May 12, 2026

13287208

Published by The Boone County Journal May 26; Jun 2, 9, 2026 PNN

TO: Steiner Management Group Inc.; Illinois Secretary of State for Steiner Management Group Inc.; Carl Triplett as R/A for Steiner Management Group Inc.; Carl Triplett as R/A for Steiner Management Group Inc.; Dawn M. Moyer; Dawn M. Moyer; Occupant; Rebecca L. Carlson; E-Z Towing; Esy Towing Recovery; Logan Automotive & Tire; Auction Z 2 Inc.; Greg Bingham as President for Auction Z 2 Inc.; Eeservices, Inc., as R/A for Auction Z 2 Inc.; Nikles of Petersburg, Inc.; Franks Gerkin Ponitz Greeley P.C., as Attorneys in 2022AR11; State of Illinois Department of Revenue; State of Illinois Department of Revenue; Attorney General for State of Illinois Department of Revenue; Illinois Department of Employment Security; Attorney General for the Illinois Department of Employment Security; Reno & Zahm, LLP as Attorneys in 2023FC9; City of Belvidere c/o City Clerk; City of Belvedere c/o City Council; Logan Auto Body, Inc.; Manufacturers Bank & Trust Company; Northern Illinois Community Development Corporation; John J Phelps as R/A for Northern Illinois Community Development Corporation; William Lee; Amy Ohlsen, County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois; Claimants, Judgment Creditors, and Decree Creditors, if any of the above described as "Unknown Owners"; "Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots".

**TAX DEED NO.: 2026TX18 FILED: 5/11/2026
TAKE NOTICE**

County of Boone

Date Premises Sold: October 30, 2025

Certificate No.: 2024-00224

Sold for General Taxes of (Year): 2024

Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and Special Assessment Number: N/A

Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A

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Property Located at: 1011 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008

Legal Description or Property Index No.: 05-36-206-062

This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on November 4, 2026.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK

1212 Logan Ave., Suite 103

Belvidere, IL 61008

(815) 544-3103

Private Equity Group, LLC.

Purchaser or Assignee

May 12, 2026

13287209

Published by The Boone County Journal May 26; Jun 2, 9, 2026 PNN

TO: Steiner Management Group Inc.; Carl Triplett as R/A for Steiner Management Group Inc.; Carl Triplett as R/A for Steiner Management Group Inc.; Illinois Secretary of State for Steiner Management Group Inc.; Dawn M. Moyer; Dawn M. Moyer; Occupant; 30 60 90 Tools Espinoza S Tires; Alpha Autos, Inc.; Belvidere General Rental Center; Espinoza's Tire Shop Inc.; Genoa Heating and Air Conditioning; Logan Auto Sale Inc.; Seven Day Auto; State Street Automotive; Woodruff's Body Shop; Xa Team Testing; Auction Z 2 Inc.; Eeservices, Inc., as R/A for Auction Z 2 Inc.; Greg Bingham as President for Auction Z 2 Inc.; Nikles of Petersburg, Inc.; Franks Gerkin Ponitz Greeley P.C., as Attorneys in 2022AR11; State of Illinois Department of Revenue; State of Illinois Department of Revenue; Attorney General for State of Illinois Department of Revenue; Illinois Department of Employment Security; Attorney General for the Illinois Department of Employment Security; Reno & Zahm, LLP as Attorneys in 2023FC9; City of Belvidere c/o City Clerk; City of Belvedere c/o City Council; Manufacturers Bank & Trust Company; Northern Illinois Community Development Corporation; John J Phelps as R/A for Northern Illinois Community Development Corporation; William Lee; Amy Ohlsen, County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois; Claimants, Judgment Creditors, and Decree Creditors, if any of the above described as "Unknown Owners"; "Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots".

**TAX DEED NO.: 2026TX17 FILED: 5/11/2026
TAKE NOTICE**

County of Boone

Date Premises Sold: October 30, 2025

Certificate No.: 2024-00223

Sold for General Taxes of (Year): 2024

Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and Special Assessment Number: N/A

Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A

THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES

Property Located at: 1007 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008

Legal Description or Property Index No.: 05-36-206-061

This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on November 4, 2026.

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

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before November 4, 2026.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Boone County in 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008, Room 3, on November 24, 2026 at 9:30 AM.

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

YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY

Redemption can be made at any time on or before November 4, 2026 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Belvidere, Illinois.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK

1212 Logan Ave.,

Suite 103

Belvidere, IL 61008

(815) 544-3103

Private Equity Group, LLC.

Purchaser or Assignee

May 12, 2026

13287211

Published by The Boone County Journal May 26; Jun 2, 9, 2026 PNN

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
FOR BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS –
CHANCERY DIVISION

CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC, Plaintiff,
vs. Case No.: 2026FC38

JOSEPH M. KRIEGL; LISA J. KRIEGL; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

Property Address:

337 West Boone Street, Belvidere, IL 61008

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING,

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:

BEGINNING AT AN IRON STAKE IN THE SOUTHWESTERLY CORNER OF LOT THREE (3) IN BLOCK FIVE (5) OF ISAAC MILLER'S ADDITION TO BELVIDERE; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY ALONG THE NORTHERLY LINE OF BOONE STREET, NINETY (90) FEET TO AN IRON STAKE; THENCE NORTHWESTERLY AT A RIGHT

ANGLE WITH SAID STREET LINE, ONE HUNDRED FORTY-EIGHT AND FORTY-FIVE HUNDREDTHS (148.45) FEET TO AN IRON STAKE; THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY, PARALLEL WITH SAID STREET LINE, NINETY (90) FEET TO AN IRON STAKE; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY, ONE HUNDRED FORTY-EIGHT AND FORTY-FIVE HUNDREDTHS (148.45) FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING.

THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PREMISES INCLUDED A PART OF BLOCK 71 OF THE ORIGINAL TOWN OF BELVIDERE, SITUATED IN THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 26, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, AND PART OF LOTS 2 AND 3 IN BLOCK 5 OF ISAAC MILLER'S ADDITION TO BELVIDERE, SITUATED IN THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 26; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as: 337 West Boone Street, Belvidere, IL 61008
Names of the titleholders of record: Joseph M. Kriegl.

Date of the Mortgage: April 23, 2007.

Name or names of the mortgagors: Joseph M. Kriegl; Lisa J. Kriegl.

Name of the mortgagee: Countrywide Home Loans, Inc..

Date and place of recording: May 3, 2007; Office of the Recorder of the Deeds of Boone County, Illinois.

Identification of recording: Document No. 2007R04913.

NOW THEREFORE, unless you file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before July 2, 2026, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exceptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://illinoiscourts.gov/self-help> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org. For information about defending yourself in a court case (including filing an appearance or fee waiver), or to apply for free legal help, go to www.illinoislegalaid.org. You can also ask your local circuit clerk's office for a fee waiver application.

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.

Lender Legal PLLC

1800 Pembroke Drive, Suite 250

Orlando, FL 32810

Tel: (407) 730-4644

Service Emails:

mjdiaz@lenderlegal.com

EService@LenderLegal.com

Joseph M. Kriegl 16582-4563

_____/s/ Meaghan Diaz de Villegas, Esq. ____

Meaghan Diaz de Villegas, Esq.

Counsel of Record for Plaintiff

ARDC # 6340688

Published by The Boone County Journal Jun 2, 9, 16, 2026 PP

TAKE NOTICE

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

CASE NO. 2026TX14

To: Estate of Robert Armbruster, Jr., deceased; Amanda Armbruster; Joshua Armbruster; Unknown Heirs/Devises of Robert Armbruster, Jr., deceased; Amy Ohlsen, Boone County Clerk; Persons in occupancy or actual possession of said property, unknown owners or parties claiming any right, interest or title in the described real estate:

Property located at: 570 Warren Ave, Belvidere, IL

Property Index No. 05-25-386-007

Tax Sale Certificate No. 2022-00137

This property was sold on October 26, 2023 for delinquent general taxes for the year of 2022. A Petition for Tax Deed for this property was filed on April 10, 2026.

Your right to redeem the property from the sale will expire on October 6, 2026. If you fail to redeem by that date, the court may enter a judgment granting petitioner a tax deed.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this county in Belvidere, Illinois on October 20, 2026 at 9:30 AM before Judge Balogh via Zoom (Meeting ID: 963 9791 8024; Passcode: None), or whomever may be sitting in his or her stead.

JICTB, INC., Petitioner

Angela L. Tucker, Esq.

JICTB, INC.

1701 Broadmoor Dr. Ste 100

Champaign, IL 61821

Published by The Boone County Journal Jun 2, 9, 16, 2026

TAKE NOTICE

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

CASE NO. 2026TX13

To: Ennis Montgomery; Spouse of Ennis Montgomery; Dwan Montgomery; Integrity Investment REO Holdings, LLC; Boone County, as Trustee; Ally Financial, Inc.; Amy Ohlsen, Boone County Clerk; Persons in occupancy or actual possession of said property, unknown owners or parties claiming any right, interest or title in the described real estate:

Property located at: 1210 E Madison St, Belvidere, IL

Property Index No. 05-25-129-002

Tax Sale Certificate No. 2022-00117

This property was sold on October 26, 2023 for delinquent general taxes for the year of 2022. A Petition for Tax Deed for this property was filed on April 10, 2026.

Your right to redeem the property from the sale will expire on October 6, 2026. If you fail to redeem by that date, the court may enter a judgment granting petitioner a tax deed.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this county

in Belvidere, Illinois on October 20, 2026 at 9:30 AM before Judge Balogh via Zoom (Meeting ID: 963 9791 8024; Passcode: None), or whomever may be sitting in his or her stead.

JICTB, INC., Petitioner
 Angela L. Tucker, Esq.
 JICTB, INC.
 1701 Broadmoor Dr. Ste 100
 Champaign, IL 61821

Published by The Boone County Journal Jun 2, 9, 16, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SELF STORAGE AUCTION

Notice is hereby given that Boxed Up Self Storage, or its affiliates, on behalf of the Owner of the facilities indicated below, intends to hold its public sale to satisfy a lien by selling personal property belonging to those individuals listed below for cash on June 24, 2026, at approximately 7pm CST.

Boxed Up Self Storage – Poplar Grove
 4431 IL Route 173, Poplar Grove, IL 61011-9754

Unit # - Tenant
 # 250 – Boykin, Bob
 # 311 – Delong, William
 # 326 – Herriman, Robin

Boxed Up Self Storage – Belvidere
 1930 W Chrysler Dr, Belvidere, IL 61008

Unit # - Tenant
 # 516 – Goldsmith, Taleah

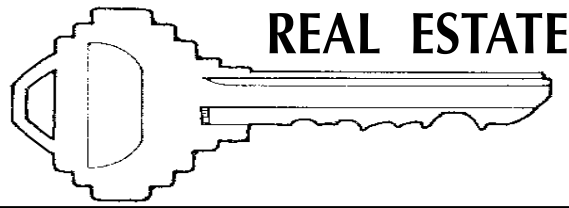
The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage-treasures.com. See website for terms and conditions. Units will be available for viewing prior to the sale on www.storage-treasures.com. A buyer's premium up to 15% and a cleaning deposit will be charged per unit. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at Boxed Up Operations Center located at 1511 E Riverside Blvd, Loves Park, IL 61111 to complete the transaction. Boxed Up Self Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property. All sales are final.

Published by The Boone County Journal June 9, 16, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
 HOLCOMB STATE BANK AKA HOLCOMB BANK, Plaintiff,
 -v.-2025 FC 75

BRUCE K. HOBSON Defendant

NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE PUBLICATION NOITCE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on February 10, 2026, the Sheriff of Boone County will at 10:00 AM on July 17, 2026, at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main, (West door), BELVIDERE, IL, 61008, sell at a public in-person auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 647 WEST LINCOLN AVE, BELVIDERE, IL 61008 Property Index No. 05-26-379-001 The real estate is improved with a single family residence. The judgment amount was \$128,073.63. Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the auction; the balance, in certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and is "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after the confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: James E. Stevens, BARRICK, SWITZER, LONG, BALSLEY & VAN EVERA, LLP 6833 STALTER DRIVE, ROCKFORD, IL, 61108, 815-962-6611. Please refer to file number 71575.110. E-MAIL: jstevens@bslbv.com CASE # 2025 FC 75 Published in The Boone County Journal JUNE 9, 17, 25, 2026



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
 HOLCOMB STATE BANK AKA HOLCOMB BANK, Plaintiff,
 -v.-2025 FC 75

BRUCE K. HOBSON Defendant

NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE PUBLICATION NOITCE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on February 10, 2026, the Sheriff of Boone County will at 10:00 AM on July 17, 2026, at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main, (West door), BELVIDERE, IL, 61008, sell at a public in-person auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 647 WEST LINCOLN AVE, BELVIDERE, IL 61008 Property Index No. 05-26-379-001 The real estate is improved with a single family residence. The judgment amount was \$128,073.63. Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the auction; the balance, in certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and is "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after the confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: James E. Stevens, BARRICK, SWITZER, LONG, BALSLEY & VAN EVERA, LLP 6833 STALTER DRIVE, ROCKFORD, IL, 61108, 815-962-6611. Please refer to file number 71575.110. E-MAIL: jstevens@bslbv.com CASE # 2025 FC 75 Published in The Boone County Journal JUNE 9, 17, 25, 2026

Glock Ban, Prescription Drug Board Among Measures That Stall In Final Days

Bills likely to be discussed throughout the summer for possible revival in veto session

Ben Szalinski, Nikoel Hytrek, & Jenna Schweikert

Capitol News Illinois

While hundreds of bills are heading to Gov. JB Pritzker's desk, several key measures debated during this spring's legislative session failed to move forward and will be put off to future months or years.

The stalled issues range from long-discussed proposals to create a prescription drug board and allow composting of human remains to bills banning Glocks or reforming election laws that surfaced in the final days of session. Though the bills didn't move this spring, negotiations could continue throughout the summer, allowing lawmakers to move them during the November veto session or January lame duck session.

Data centers

Despite months of committee conversation and advocacy from environmental groups, a massive bill to regulate data centers failed to advance.

House Bill 5513, or the POWER Act, would have required data centers to pay for and supply their own renewable energy, track and report how much water they use, and enter community benefits agreements in the places where they're built.

During committee hearings, lawmakers heard about the massive demand data centers put on the electric grid, risks posed to water sources and impacts on communities.

They also heard warnings from labor unions and the data center industry that onerous regulations might lead to developers pulling their projects from Illinois, meaning communities could miss out on property and utility tax benefits.

Lawmakers said negotiations will continue over the summer.

Glock ban

Illinois did not become the fourth state legislature to pass a bill banning the firing mechanism design of Glock guns. Despite passing it through a House committee on May 20, the General Assembly did not take up House Bill 4471.

The bill would have banned the sale of any semi-automatic pistol with a cruciform trigger bar in Illinois, though current Glock owners would not be subject to any restrictions. Gun rights advocates and Republicans vigorously opposed the bill, arguing it would have no effect on public safety.

Supporters said the design could be easily modified with already illegal switches and essentially turned into a machine gun. Rep. Justin Slaughter, D-Orland Park, said Chicago police have recovered 1,300 modified Glocks used in crimes. The city sued Glock two years ago, alleging the company makes guns that it knows can be easily modified with illegal

continued on page 8

Bills Passed from page 5 access the fund.

Eligible nonprofits must be based in Illinois, have a certain tax status and provide recent audited financial statements or charitable filings. They must also have a purpose or mission meeting specified nonprofit categories and not be on state suspension lists, which should exclude any extremist groups.

"Nonprofits are on the front lines every day, helping families, strengthening neighborhoods, and meeting critical needs in communities across Illinois," Frerichs said in a statement. "At a time when federal funding cuts are creating uncertainty for many organizations, Illinois is stepping up."

It passed the House 75-36 and the Senate 41-16.

High school voter registration

House Bill 4339 would require high schools to offer eligible students the opportunity to register to vote. The bill, however, creates no consequences if a school does not offer that opportunity.

The bill is named for the Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr., a voting and civil rights activist who died earlier this year. The bill passed with bipartisan support in both chambers.

It passed the Senate 41-12 and the House 77-24.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

ASSUMED NAMES

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

No. DBA4285 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a INSURANCE AGENCY business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of MAPS MEDICARE AND PRESCRIPTION SERVICES that its location is or will be 10511 SADDLE PATH 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.

Phone Number: 815-885-2301

CARL E. RITZ 10511 SADDLE PATH ROAD
 BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS 61008

I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: May 20, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County

Published in Boone County Journal 5/26, 6/2, 6/9/26 - P

Stalled Bills

from page 7

switches. The lawsuit is still making its way through the courts.

Prescription drug board

A yearslong push to establish a board limiting the prices of certain prescription drugs fell short in the Senate after the House narrowly passed it May 21.

In a news conference on May 29, bill sponsors Rep. Nabeela Syed, D-Inverness, and Sen. Graciela Guzmán, D-Chicago, said they were still talking with senators, suggesting Senate Bill 3496 didn't have the 30 votes needed to pass in the upper chamber. They confirmed it wouldn't move forward in the final hours of session but said they will continue working on the bill.

Advocates and lawmakers of both parties had varying concerns about the bill, including accountability and oversight. But they were most concerned that while other states have taken steps to pass similar legislation, none have implemented the maximum selling price, so it's hard for lawmakers to know what this board would do in practice—including whether it would actually create savings.

Election law changes

A late-arriving amendment to House Bill 1832 would have changed several election rules, particularly around mail voting, but it wasn't called for a vote in either chamber.

The bill would allow Illinois election authorities to begin counting mail-in ballots seven days before Election Day rather than after polls close. It also has a provisional measure that would go into effect if the U.S. Supreme Court rules that states can't count mail-in ballots that are received after Election Day. Such a ruling would invalidate a state law allowing ballots postmarked by Election Day to be counted if received up to two weeks after the election.

If the high court doesn't indicate when a ballot is considered received, the bill would provide that definition and consider a federal ballot received when it's in the custody of the election authority by the close of polls on Election Day.

The bill would also require clerks to establish websites to post election results and allow voters to request vote-by-mail ballots.

The State Board of Elections and county clerks would also be required to implement a statewide service for voters to track their mail-in ballots so they can see when their ballot is accepted and, if not, why it was rejected.

Algorithmic pricing

It's becoming increasingly common for companies to alter their prices based on data stored in a consumer's device. Lawmakers tried to ban that process, known as surveillance or algorithmic pricing, but fell short.

House Bill 4248 would've banned companies from using a person's personal data—like zip code, age, income and browsing history—to create a personalized price for them. It would not apply to things like loyalty programs or any algorithms that use that data for a specific purpose like credit checks.

"They (consumers) cannot comparison-shop fairly if the price itself is changing based on hidden surveillance of their personal behavior," bill sponsor Rep. Maura Hirschauer, D-Batavia, said at a news

conference May 21. "Consumers should know that when they enter the marketplace, they are competing on equal footing, not against invisible algorithms trained on their personal lives."

The measure originally passed 78-19 in the House and 41-16 in the Senate, but a Senate amendment did not receive a vote in the House before adjournment.

Downtown Springfield development

After a wide-ranging megaprojects bill that included plans to help redevelop downtown Springfield blew up in the Senate, Sen. Doris Turner, D-Springfield, separated a Springfield-centric proposal into House Bill 4496. The bill would create the Capital Area Tourism Authority to facilitate economic development in downtown Springfield, including building a new hotel and expanding the Bank of Springfield convention center.

"I've lived in Springfield all my life, I love this city, and as much as I hate to say it, it pains me to go, or even drive, through downtown," Turner said.

Downtown Springfield has increasingly suffered economically in recent years from numerous business closures, including the city's largest hotel.

The bill would also allow Sangamon County to impose a 3% tax on hotel stays, which would give Springfield the second-highest combined state and local hotel tax rate in Illinois at 14% behind Chicago's 19%.

Republicans slammed the bill for its high tax rate and said it fails to address the root causes of downtown Springfield's economic issues.

"The reason why downtown Springfield struggles is because all the jobs that have been shifted to Chicago or to the west side of Springfield," Sen. Jason Plummer, R-Edwardsville, said. "State government needs to reinvest in downtown Springfield."

The bill passed the Senate shortly before midnight on Sunday and was not considered in the House. There it is sponsored by Rep. Mike Coffey, a Springfield Republican who owns a restaurant near the convention center and proposed hotel site.

Human composting

A bill allowing human composting as a burial option stalled yet again. House Bill 5425 would have established a lengthy series of regulations for composting human bodies that cemeteries, crematories and other funeral service providers would follow.

The bill has struggled to move forward in Springfield despite years of debate. But despite new changes to the proposal this year, the bill is still opposed by the Catholic Church, Cemetery and Funeral Home Association and comptroller's office—which enforces cemetery regulations in Illinois. The latest amendment to the bill shifted sole responsibility for regulations to the comptroller rather than the Department of Public Health.

The bill passed the House 64-36 in April but was not considered by the Senate.

Abortion fund

An abortion access measure that would allow people with limited or no insurance to get financial assistance for abortion care in Illinois also failed to advance.

House Bill 5408 would take advantage of an under-used provision of the Affordable Care Act that requires insurance plans that offer coverage for abor-

tions in instances that go beyond rape, incest and life of the mother to collect at least \$1 a month from enrollees to cover the cost of abortion claims.

Federal law requires the insurers to segregate that money and use it only for abortion care, and Illinois' bill would have allowed the state to exert greater authority over the funds and directly state how insurers should use the collected money.

It passed the House in early April with a vote of 69-36, but it didn't get a committee hearing in the Senate.

Sexual assault in schools

Senate Bill 939 sponsored by Sen. Steve McClure, R-Springfield, would have require students who initiate sexual assault to be expelled for at least one year and at least six months for initiating non-consensual sexual acts. The bill would apply to incidents that happen at school, school property such as buses, and school-related events.

The bill was filed last year after an incident in Taylorville where a 10-year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted by a 14-year-old male student on the bus, who then chased the girl from the bus stop and raped her, according to the girl's mother. She obtained an order of protection, and the student was removed from the school for the rest of the semester but later returned.

The bill passed the Senate in May 48-3, with two voting present, but never progressed in the House where it is only sponsored by Republicans.

Home for Good

Despite passing in the House in mid-April, legislation establishing secure, affordable housing and community services for those exiting the prison system languished in the Senate.

House Bill 624 would have provided rental assistance and established reentry housing developments to help the formerly incarcerated establish accessible housing. It would also provide reentry services and establish the Home for Good Institute, aimed at helping them access job training, health and behavioral services, transportation, food, furniture, childcare and more.

It carries an up-front cost of \$50 million, a cost which bill sponsor Rep. Maurice West, D-Rockford, said would have been mitigated by helping these individuals reenter the community and therefore reducing rates of reoffending.

State sandwich

The Senate apparently had a beef with a bill to establish an official state sandwich. Rep. Rick Ryan, D-Evergreen Park, filed House Bill 4669 to bestow the honor on the Italian beef as the official sandwich and the horseshoe as the official open-faced sandwich.

The bill was a result of a compromise between Chicago-area lawmakers who favored the beef and Central Illinois representatives who like the horseshoe—a Springfield creation of meat on a slice of bread with cheese fries on top. Though the bill passed the House in April, the Senate had no appetite for it.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.