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Daytripping Every Veteran Is a Story

By Charles Herbst

One of the more interesting aspects of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum is its central theme: Every Veteran Is a Story. The museum endeavors to tell the collective, but also the individual stories of the soldiers from Wisconsin who have served in the United States Armed Forces from the Civil War until the present. While the focus of the Madison-based museum is meant to honor the service of Wisconsinites, the experiences of these men and women closely parallels those of veterans from other jurisdictions.

The museum is divided into three galleries, the first two contain permanent exhibits and a third, which hosts special exhibitions.

The permanent galleries are organized in chronological order, beginning in the mid-19th Century, with the Civil War. One of the first exhibits you'll see introduces you to Col. John W. Jefferson, commander of the Eighth Wisconsin Infantry Regiment.

Col. Jefferson is indeed a story. He was born John W. Hemings in Charlottesville, Virginia in 1835. His paternal grandparents were Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings, one of Jefferson's slaves at Monticello. John Hemmings was born after his father, Eston Hemings, had been freed upon Thomas Jefferson's death in 1826. Shortly after John's birth, the family moved to Chillicothe, Ohio, where he grew up in a free Black community. In 1852, due to the dangers of being kidnapped after passage of the Fugitive Slave Act, the family moved to Madison, Wisconsin, used the surname of Jefferson, went into business and hid their ancestry. While in Madison, Jefferson operated a hotel along with other family members.



John Costello, United States Army

Jefferson served throughout the Civil War in fear that he would lose his commission if his ancestry was discovered. He was wounded in Vicksburg and at the Siege of Corinth. John never married or had children. During and after the war, Jefferson also worked as a newspaper correspondent. After the war, he moved to Memphis, bred horses, and became a highly successful cotton broker. Jefferson died in 1992 and is buried in the family plot in Madison's Forest Hill Cemetery. He left a sizeable estate. Like his Presidential grandfather, Jefferson had red hair, gray eyes, and bore a strong resemblance to Thomas



Majil Steiner's evening gown

Jefferson.

The permanent collections contain many dioramas, each of which focuses on a separate war or conflict. These attempt to give a sense of the conditions under which they were fought, whether it's Civil War soldiers marching through a cornfield or fighting from a Huey helicopter in Vietnam. Artifacts and pictures from each theater are presented along with the dioramas.

The museum is quite comprehensive and even contains an exhibit on the Philippine War in the Early 20th Century. Sadly, the museum is running short

Continued on page 5

Local VFWs Partner with Rock River Valley Blood Center

Press Release

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and Rock River Valley Blood Center (RRVBC) want to invite the public to join us in the Annual Veterans Day blood drives. This is to honor and support all of the local Veterans. VFW and RRVBC are partnering Monday November 11th through Thursday November 21st at five local VFWs. To make an appointment to donate blood you can call RRVBC at 815-965-8751 or go online to rrvbc.org/donate.

Donors will receive a free t-shirt from Humana and VFW District 6, while supplies last.

Blood Drive information:

VFW Post 998, 210 W. Spring St, Freeport, IL: Monday November 11th from 12:00 to 5:00 PM

VFW Post 2955 and RREACH, 11385 2nd St., Roscoe, IL: Tuesday November 12th from 12:00 to 6:20 PM

Continued on page 2

Early Results Democrats Likely to Maintain Supermajorities in Illinois General Assembly

Sorensen holds on to 17th congressional seat as Trump outperforms past 2 elections

By Peter Hancock, Andrew Adams & Jerry Nowicki

Preliminary, unofficial election results show no seats in the state House or Senate have changed party hands, although a few races remained too close to call according to the Associated Press.

That means Democrats will maintain supermajorities in each chamber of the General Assembly even as President Donald Trump appears to have vastly outperformed his previous two showings in the state in 2016 and 2020.

The AP called the presidential race for Trump early Wednesday, and with an estimated 93% of votes counted, he trailed Vice President Kamala Harris in Illinois by about eight percentage points. If the total holds, it's about half of the margin of victory

Continued on page 4

Pritzker's Budget Office Projects \$3.2b Deficit in Early Look At Upcoming Year

Despite string of recent surpluses, report could foreshadow a challenging budget year

By Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

The first extensive public look at next year's state finances contains a warning to lawmakers from the governor's office: "The ability to fund new programs will be severely limited" next fiscal year.

That comes from the Governor's Office of Management and Budget, which projected a potential budget shortfall of \$3.2 billion for fiscal year 2026, which doesn't begin until July 1.

The Illinois Economic and Fiscal Policy Report published each November is often seen as a table-setter for the budgeting negotiations that will ramp up in earnest when lawmakers return to the Capitol for the legislative year that begins each January.

Continued on page 7



Quidnunc

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Dr. Cassandra Schug
District 100 Board
Teachers and staff

These successes
are what moves this
community forward.

OBITUARIES

Larry Gaupp, 85, Marengo, Oct. 27
Anna Geisel, 89, Harvard, Oct. 26
Qani “Johnny” Hasa, 87, Marengo, Oct. 28
Margaret Pearson, 76, Belvidere, Oct. 29
Nancy Walsh, 74, Harvard, Oct. 28

Quincy Jones 91, Los Angeles, Nov 3

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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.

Opinions. The opinions expressed in the Journal are those of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Boone County Journal management or ownership.

Blood Drive

from page 1

VFW Post 1461, 1310 W. Lincoln Ave,
Belvidere, IL: Thursday, November 14 from 1:00
to 6:00 PM

VFW Post 3878, 318 4th Ave, Rochelle, IL,
Monday, November 18th from 11:00 AM to 5:00
PM

VFW Post 9739, 1310 W. Washington St.,
Oregon, IL: Thursday November 21st from 12:30
to 5:30 PM

“This simple act of blood donation shows your
support to local Veterans on a day that we remember
them for their service to our community.” said VFW
District 6 Blood Donor Chairman, Rob Bland.

Statewide Effort
Planned to Boost
Student Math Scores

As reading scores rebound, math scores
remain below pre-pandemic levels

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

Illinois education officials plan to launch a statewide initiative over the next several months aimed at boosting student performance in math.

State Superintendent of Education Tony Sanders made that announcement during a recent media briefing to unveil the most recent school report card. That annual report shows how individual schools, districts, and the state as a whole are performing across a wide range of educational measures, including academic performance in English language arts, and math.

“This will be the first-of-its-kind effort here in the state of Illinois,” he said. “As a state, we adopted new learning standards for math in 2010, but there’s never been a concerted statewide effort to provide support to educators in understanding and implementing these shifts in instruction.”

The new report, which is based on standardized tests students took in the spring of 2024, shows student scores in English language arts have fully recovered statewide from the hit they took during the pandemic.

More than 39% of all students scored at or above the state standards for proficiency in English language arts, including a record-high 41% for students in grades 3-8.

But in math, where proficiency rates have always been lower, overall scores remained troublingly low. Only about 28% of all students, and 28.3% of students in grades 3-8, met or exceeded state standards for proficiency.

Math scores also continued to show disturbing gaps across racial and ethnic lines. Across all grade levels, 38% of white students met the state’s proficiency standard, compared to just 15.3% of Hispanic students and 8.9% of Black students.

Sanders cautioned against drawing overly broad conclusions from those numbers, noting that Illinois sets a relatively high bar for what qualifies as “proficient.”

The report card

divides test scores into five broad categories, based on the state’s definition of “proficient.” The two highest categories are “met” and “exceeded” the standard. Below those are “approached,” “partially met,” and “did not meet” the standard.

But the dividing line that marks the “proficiency standard” in Illinois – what testing officials refer to as the “cut score” – is higher than it is in most other states, Sanders said.

“We frequently mislabel students who are actually college and career ready as not being proficient,” he said. “We have already begun the work to realign our proficiency benchmarks, to give us more accurate data, to better support our outcomes. You’ll see that effort unfolding over this coming school year.”

Sanders pointed to other elements of the report card showing improvement in the rate at which schools are preparing students for college or a career after graduation.

For example, the four-year graduation rate rose to 87.7% for the class of 2024, an increase of 1.5 percentage points from the pre-pandemic class of 2019.

The 2024 report card also showed fewer students being required to take remedial math or English courses in community college after graduating from public schools in Illinois. That figure is 27.7% for the graduating class of 2022, down from 39.1% for the class of 2019.

“We have succeeded in reducing the number of students who have to take remedial coursework by implementing transitional math and English courses in high school statewide,” Sanders said. “Passing a transitional math or English course guarantees a student direct placement into credit-bearing courses at all community colleges and accepting Illinois universities without a placement test.”

Sanders offered few details about what would be included in the upcoming math and numeracy plan, except to say it would largely mirror the statewide literacy plan that the State Board of Education launched in February, a program he said was at least partially responsible for the increase in English language arts proficiency rates.

“The comprehensive literacy plan that we developed has been noted nationwide as being probably a model for how to approach literacy instruction,” Sanders said.

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.

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Jury Sees More Evidence of Payments to Madigan Campaign Worker Ousted for Sexual Harassment

Prosecutors play more wiretapped calls focused on scheme to help ex-staffer in day nine of the trial
By Hannah Meisel Capitol News Illinois

On the eve of his retirement announcement in late 2016, longtime Statehouse lobbyist Mike McClain wrote letters to longtime colleagues, expressing his appreciation for them.

In one letter – shown to four federal juries in the last two years – McClain effusively praised his close friend, then-Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan, referring to him as his “real client” and pledging that “at the end of the day I am at the bridge with my musket standing with and for the Madigan family.”

McClain also co-opted the language of war in another letter sent to loyal Madigan campaign foot soldier Kevin Quinn. At the bottom of the note, which quoted from the memoir of United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld, McClain wrote Quinn an additional message in handwriting that ended with a directive:

“Please stay in the foxhole with the speaker!”
Less than 2 ½ years later, FBI agents would collect that letter in a search of Quinn’s Chicago home as evidence in the feds’ sprawling investigation into Madigan and his inner circle. And on Monday, a jury saw the letter as prosecutors began their third week presenting evidence in their bribery and racketeering case against both Madigan and McClain.

But in the time between McClain’s retirement letter and the FBI raid in May 2019, it was Quinn who was the beneficiary of platoon-like loyalty from his fellow Madigan acolytes.

Quinn was ousted from the speaker’s political organization after being publicly accused of sexual harassment in early 2018 at the height of the #MeToo movement. As jurors first heard last week, McClain arranged payments for Quinn later that year from a small group of lobbyists close to the speaker.

Continued on page 5

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Belvidere CUSD 100 Celebrates Improved Academic Achievement, Increased Graduation

Press Release
Rates and Decreased Absenteeism on the 2024 Illinois Report Card

District 100 today celebrates another year of improved academic achievement, as the Illinois State Board of Education releases the 2024 Illinois Report Card, a detailed look at student performance data from the 2023-24 school year.

This report card reflects some truly remarkable improvements in our overall district achievement and engagement data from the 2022-2023 school year and last school year. Our chronic truancy rate decreased by almost 30 percent, and our graduation rate increased by over 2 percent. Our elementary and middle school math achievement data increased by almost 16% and our ELA proficiency increased by over 30%. Our out-of-school suspension incidents decreased by over 40% and our in-school suspension incidents decreased by over 50%. While we know that there is always still work to do on continuing to grow our achievement and close our opportunity gaps, we are proud of these achievements, and we strongly feel like the goals that we have worked on in the D100 strategic plan have set us up on the right pathway for success for our students and our families.

“I am incredibly proud of all of the dedication and professionalism of our staff as they have worked to focus on improved student achievement, improved graduation rates and decreased absenteeism,” said D100 Superintendent, Dr. Cassandra Schug. “To see improvement in these areas is a testament to the efforts of our staff, our students, and our families. In D100 we set specific goals around these areas and then worked to achieve those goals. We are so fortunate to serve outstanding students and families in the Belvidere community, and I am confident that as we work together with our students and families to implement our new strategic plan, we will be able to see continued positive growth and improved achievement results and student success.”

One component of the School Report Card is the annual summative designation. Illinois is required by

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Whether you want to make simple changes to an existing will, establish a trust, or have something else in mind, please let me be of assistance. With over 35 years of experience as an attorney, I'll be glad to help.

CHARLES HERBST, J.D., LL.M.

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federal accountability law to assign each school a descriptor of how well it is meeting the needs of its students. This designation is based on several indicators of academic performance. This year in D100, seven of our schools received a commendable designation, two of our schools received a targeted designation, and one of our schools received a comprehensive designation.

Commendable means that our schools are performing well and meeting the needs of all of our student groups. Targeted means that overall the school is performing well, but there is room to improve in how an individual student group is performing. Comprehensive for our comprehensive school means that the targeted population after a four-year improvement cycle.

District 100 is absolutely committed to the success of all of our students, and our schools that have a targeted or comprehensive designation will be receiving a federal grant to specially address how they can seek to improve achievement for all students.

D100’s ongoing efforts to improve academic achievement as well as ensure that all of our schools are places where all of our students and families feel welcomed and are able to thrive are making a difference. As we work to implement our strategic plan goals around improved achievement, improved sense of student belonging, improved family and community partnerships and providing a premier workforce, we are confident that we will continue to see academic gains in D100.

The Illinois Report Card provides the school community with an opportunity to reflect on last year’s strengths and discuss areas for continuous improvement. D100 believes every single student can meet high expectations and that parents/caregivers and community members are a critical partner in each child’s education.

The Journal
has old newspapers free
for picking up from time to time.
Call to see if any are available

Geologic Study of Boone County Slated To Begin Soon

Dan Kane, PG
Water Resource Specialist, BooneCounty

Like most of us, I wake up every morning and seek out the coffee pot. That first cup gets the day started and provides me with a great lead into the topic of water for this article. All of us depend on water. Boone County residents(rural and in town) are completely dependent on groundwater; often referred to as well water. Groundwater is a natural resource that all of us use and consume every day. Because other sources of water are not available to us it is becoming increasingly important to gain a better understanding of this essential water supply.

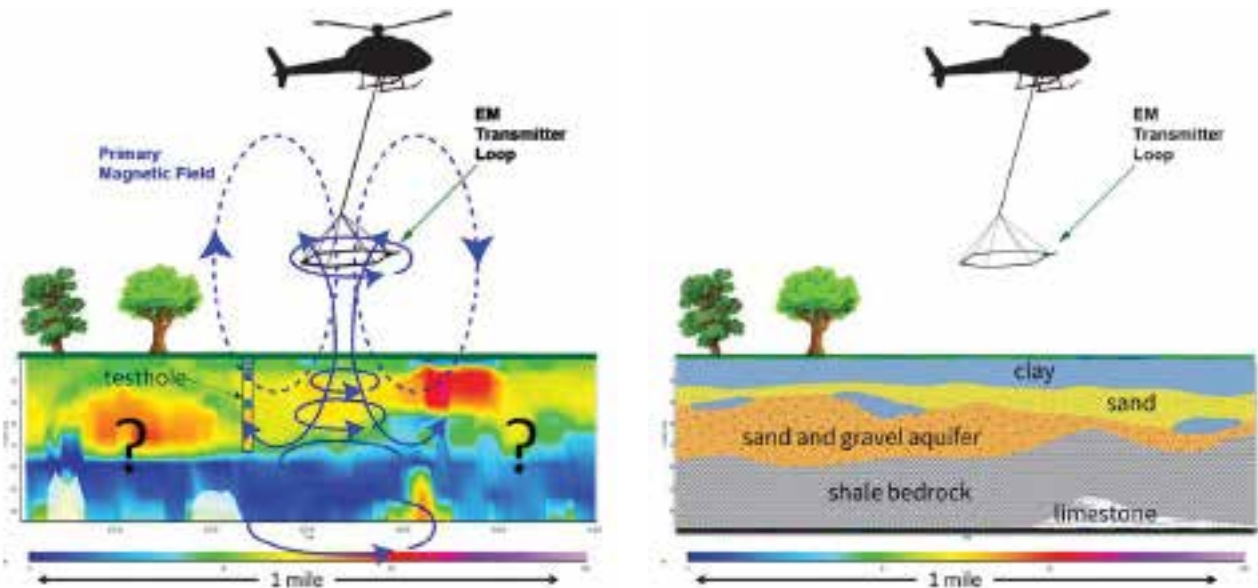
To accomplish this, Boone County has contracted with the Illinois State Geologic Survey to complete a new study that will significantly improve our understanding of the local geology. The importance of this study ties right back to that first cup of coffee we drink every day! What we know and understand about our local water supply is pretty basic – even those of us who have knowledge on the topic are limited to the few studies that have been done for this area. This new mapping project will provide detailed information about the local geology and the system of aquifers that provide our precious water supply.

Newtechnologyisprovidinguswiththeopportunity

to gain a whole new level of understanding about the local geology.The new tool can peer into the ground about 1,000 feet using electromagnetic signals. The returned signals are precisely located and recorded. A team of geologists and other scientists will process the signals collected with software that converts it into a very detailed picture, profiling the different layers of sediment, rock and geologic structure being observed. The process involves a helicopter carrying a geophysical tool below it (see figures 1 & 2 below). The pilot flies nearly overlapping passes across most of the county collecting a swath of detailed data with each pass.

Scientists will analyze and process the information gathered, calibrate that data with cores taken from drilled wells and other sources of geologic information to create a very accurate picture of the strata below the ground. It is like taking an MRI of the earth with each pass across the county being combined to the previous passes forming a nearly seamless perspective of the subsurface layers.This is how the 3-dimensional view is created. The ISG Steam of scientists hopes to begin data collection flights in late February or early March 2025. I will be providing more information about this project leading up to the start of these flights.

The product of this process will be an exciting new set of tools, including very detailed 3- dimensional maps of the local geology. The applications and use of these interactive tools will, among other features, provide our community with a powerful new perspective about where the water for that first cup of morning joe comes from!



Figures 1&2. Depiction of Planned HTEM Geophysics as provided by Jason Thomason with the Illinois State Geological Survey.



Participants in the spectacular Halloween Parade sponsored by the IOU Club since 1925.

Early Results from page 1

enjoyed by Democrats in the state in each of the past four presidential cycles. Illinois’ representation in Congress also appears unlikely to change. Democratic U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen withstood a challenge in the 17th Congressional District of northwest Illinois, beating Republican challenger Joe McGraw, 54% to 46%, meaning Democrats will keep their 14-3 advantage in the state’s congressional delegation.

“Now, it’s about coming together to do what’s best for all of us and I am proud to be the good neighbor to represent you,” Sorensen said in a statement late Tuesday night. “We have a lot of challenges and hard work ahead of us, but I can tell you the sun will rise tomorrow morning and our forecast is bright.”

And in Cook County, early returns showed Democrats poised to sweep all county-level offices that were up for election, including state’s attorney, while voters in Chicago cast ballots in their first-ever elections for local school board seats.

General Assembly

As of early Wednesday, unofficial results showed Democrats were poised to likely keep their 78-40 supermajority in the Illinois House and their 40-19 control of the Senate, although a few races proved to be highly competitive.

That was true in the 52nd House district, where incumbent Republican Rep. Martin McLaughlin, of Barrington Hills, was leading Democratic challenger Maria Peterson, 51% to 49%, a margin of fewer than 1,000 votes.

And in the 47th House District, incumbent Republican Rep. Amy Grant, of Wheaton, was leading Democrat Jackie Williamson, 50.4% to 49.6%, a margin of just 500 votes.

Another uncalled race is in the 76th District that includes parts of DeKalb, LaSalle and Bureau counties. Democrat Amy Briel led Republican Liz Bishop by less than 700 votes in the race to succeed retiring Democrat Lance Yednock.

The race was also too close to call for a pair of incumbents – 91st District Rep. Sharon Chung, D-Bloomington, and 104th District Rep. Brandon Schweizer, R-Danville, in two central Illinois races. As of Wednesday morning, the AP hadn’t tallied all the votes in Champaign or McLean counties. A Capitol News Illinois analysis 91st District data showed Chung handily winning that race by about 3,500 votes, while Schweizer had a lead of 771 votes in the 104th District with some mail votes outstanding.

In the 112th District in the Metro East area outside St. Louis, Democratic Rep. Katie Stuart, of Edwardsville, was leading Republican challenger Jay Keeven, also of Edwardsville, 54% to 46%.

That district was at the center of a debate during
Continued on page 7

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Huey helicopter atop Vietnam exhibit.

Museum

from page 1

of space, but it is making an admirable attempt to adequately cover more contemporary wars, such as the War on Terror and Operation Desert Storm. John Jefferson isn't the only veteran whose story is told at the museum. The museum has a permanent collection of over 2800 oral history interviews with veterans from World War I through the 21st Century. In addition, the museum has a database of Wisconsin veterans and their service record. Many stories of D-Day and Vietnam are found on the museum's website. The current special exhibit running through 2024 is called Souvenirs of Service, The Things They

ter being rescued by local Chinese farmers, Steiner mailed the parachute that saved his life to his wife, Majil in Eau Claire, asking her to make a dress for herself. Majil's dress was completed in 1945. She had a portrait made of her wearing the dress and mailed it to Steiner in India. Steiner carried the photograph with him for the remainder of his tour. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is located at 30 West Mifflin Street on the western corner of Madison's Capitol Square. The Museum is part of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 until 5. Admission is free.

Madigan

from page 3

On Monday, the jury heard more calls from the day McClain arranged the payments in late August 2018. The first call was to longtime Democratic House member-turned-lobbyist John Bradley, who was less than eager to participate in McClain's scheme, pointing out that it was "such a delicate thing – that could really hurt us." But he still agreed to \$1,000 monthly checks for Quinn from his lobbying and law firm, which the jury also saw on Monday along with the checks from McClain and three others. "I want you in the room," McClain told Bradley. "Thank you, Hamilton," Bradley joked back, an apparent reference to the Broadway musical "Hamilton," which was still enjoying peak popularity in 2018. After a few more calls later in the morning on Aug. 28, 2018, McClain then spoke with Madigan.

"So, Speaker, I put four or five people together that are willing to contribute to help a monthly thing, for the next six months like I mentioned to you for Kevin Quinn," McClain said before asking whether Madigan wanted to tell Quinn's brother, Chicago Ald. Marty Quinn, about the arrangement or if he should. "Yeah, I think I ought to stay out of it," the speaker replied. McClain then called Ald. Quinn, who told him he also would "rather stay in the dark" about the payments to his brother. The Chicago Tribune first reported the feds' interest in the checks McClain arranged for Quinn in 2019, citing emails to the group thanking them for their "wonderful sacrifice" and warning Quinn to "keep all of this confidential." Madigan vehemently denied involvement in McClain's efforts to pay Quinn after the Tribune's report. Last week, defense attorney Daniel

Kept. It contains memorabilia that soldiers have brought back from the battlefield. Over 400 enlarged pictures line the walls in this impressive, award-winning exhibit. One of these was of a soldier, John Costello, posing in front of the Eiffel tower. Other souvenirs range from Zippo lighters to artillery shells to pennants from places visited.

One of the most interesting souvenirs is an evening gown made from parachute cloth. Dick Steiner's B-29 bomber plane was attacked over Japan. The crew managed to keep the plane airborne and bail out over Japanese-occupied territory in Eastern China. Af-

Collins set the table for continued denial during cross-examination of another participant in the payments to Quinn, longtime Madigan staffer-turned-lobbyist Will Cousineau, who said he was "confused" about whether the speaker really knew the extent of McClain's plan. Quinn's accuser, political strategist Alaina Hampton, is expected to testify as early as this week. Also on Monday, the jury heard more wiretapped recordings from the tense hours and days after Madigan fired his longtime chief of staff Tim Mapes after his own sexual harassment allegations were made public in early June 2018. McClain stepped away from a wake to take a call from Madigan the afternoon of Mapes' allegations and subsequent firing, telling the speaker that the "only tears" he'd shed that day were over the whole situation. McClain then pivoted to asking permission to contact a crisis management public relations firm on Madigan's behalf. A few days later, Madigan updated McClain on the progress he'd made speaking to women on the Democratic State Central Committee, and told him that his new chief of staff, who was a woman, had called every female member of the House Democratic Caucus to ask "what we can do better or different."

In late June, McClain asked Madigan what he thought of Democratic strategist Anita Dunn, who the speaker's inner circle was vetting to handle PR in the wake of the harassment allegations that had hit Madigan World in recent months. "Oh I think she's fine," Madigan said. "I think she's fine, yeah." McClain talked up her credentials, telling the speaker she'd "do a good job for ya." "Will and I loved the optics of it," McClain said, referring to Cousineau, who'd been the first to suggest getting a "real PR firm" for Madigan in a wiretap the jury heard last week. "She's part of the #MeToo movement. She's got clients that are also part of the #MeToo movement," McClain said. "She's obviously a progressive. She comes from a history of working for Democrats. And if our goal is really to reelect you as Speaker, and tamp down some of this negative stuff ... we like the optics but want you to start thinking about it." Madigan ended up contracting with Dunn and paying her \$200,000 from campaign accounts. It wasn't until last year that NPR reported Dunn had been doing so while Hampton received support on her case from Dunn's firm, which partnered with the Time's Up Legal Defense Fund. Dunn's firm eventually apologized to Hampton. 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.

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff,
-v.- 2023 FC 92
ANTONIO ACUNA BENITEZ et al. Defendant
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on August 20, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on November 22, 2024, at the Advocus National Title Insurance, 530 S. State, Suite 201 (Logan Avenue entrance), Belvidere, IL, 61008, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

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Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g) (1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver’s license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff’s Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

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BURR RIDGE IL, 60527
630-794-5300

E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com
Attorney File No. 14-23-07768 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002
Case Number: 2023 FC 92 TJSC#: 44-2337

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff’s attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Case # 2023 FC 92 13254184
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Oct 24 and 31, 2024 PNN

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
BOONE COUNTY
DATE FOR REQUEST OF NAME CHANGE (ADULT):
Case: 24MR20
KRISTA MARIE BRINKMEYER

There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from: KRISTA MARIE BRINKMEYER to the new name of KRISTA MARIE MCCORMICK. The court date will be held on 12/10/2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008 in Courtroom #3

Published in the Boone County Journal – 10/17,24,31. (P)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SEL 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 s public sale to satisfy a lien by selling personal property belonging to those individuals listed below for cash on November 20 2024 at approximately 8pm CST.

Boxed Up Self Storage – Popular Grove
4431 IL Route 173 Popular Grove IL, 61011-9754
Unit #-Tenant
#226 Williams, Keith

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 buyers 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 in order 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 in *The Boone County Journal* Oct 24 and 31, 2024 Z

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BOONE COUNTY-IN PROBATE
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: GEORGE H. PETERS,
Deceased.
No.2024 PR 43

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given of the death of GEORGE H. PETERS, who died on August 22, 2024. Letters of Office were issued on October 9, 2024, to Kelly A. Peters, who is the Administrator of the estate, 1325 11th Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois. The attorney for the estate representative is Attorney Jennifer M. Holder, 6067 Strathmoor Drive, Suite 3, Rockford, IL 61107.

Any claims against the estate may be filed on or before April 24, 2025, 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 18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act of 1975, as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed on or before that date shall be barred.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the estate representative or the Office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk - Probate Division at

the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, or both.

Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk’s Office - Probate Division, must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to her attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

DATED: October 17, 2024
Kelly A. Peters, Administrator
Jennifer M. Holder, #6320793
CROW LAWL LLC
6067 Strathmoor Drive, Suite 3
Rockford, IL 61107
(815) 255-4529

Attorney for the Estate of George H. Peters, Deceased
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Oct 24, 31, and Nov 7 2024

STATE OF ILLINOIS, COUNTY OF BOONE, ss.
— Circuit Court of Boone County, County
Department, Domestic Relations Division.

In re the Parentage Petition of ANA CRISTINA MERCADO PER-ALTA, Petitioner, and)
LEONEL SANTANA ROJA , Respondent. Case No. 2024FA61.

The requisite petition for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you, the above named Respondent, that a Petition has been filed in the Circuit Court of Boone County, Illinois, located at 601 N Main St, Belvidere, IL 61008 , by the Petitioner, for Petition for Al-location and Parental Responsibilities and for other relief; and that said suit is now pending.

Now, therefore, unless you, the said Respondent, file your response to said Petition or otherwise make your appearance therein on or before December 11, 2024, a default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a Judgment for Allocation of Parental Responsibilities entered in accordance with the prayer of said Petition. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider.

ENTER: 10/2/2024
JUDGE
Order Prepared by: JohnCumyn, Attorney for Petitioner
LAW OFFICE OF JOHN CURNYN
701 Main Street, Suite 202
Evanston, Illinois 60202
(312) 636-8997 (office)
(312) 854-0801 (fax)
email: john@curnynlaw.com
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Oct 24, 31, Nov. 7, 2024

STATE OF ILLINOIS CIRCUIT COURT BOONE COUNTY
PUBLICATION NOTICE OF COURT DATE FOR REQUEST FOR NAME CHANGE (MINOR CHILDREN)
Case No. 24-MR-18
REQUEST OF: YAZMIN IVETH HUIZAR HERRERA to change name of minor child: Current Name of Minor Child: JESUS EDUARDO MARTINEZ; Proposed New Name of Minor Child JESUS EDUARDO HUIZAR. Court Date information: on December 10, 2024, at 9:15am, Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008 Courtroom #4
Published in the Boone County Journal 10/31, 11/7, 11/14 - P

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF Boone - Belvidere, ILLINOIS
HSBC BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE
FOR SG MORTGAGE SECURITIES TRUST 2006-FRE1, ASSET
BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-FRE1, Plaintiff
vs. 24 FC 8
NANCIE WIENK, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD
CLAIMANTS, Defendant

CALENDAR
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on December 19, 2024, at the hour 12:15 p.m., Entrance of the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, IL 61008, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

LOT NINE (9) AS DESIGNATED UPON THE PLAT OF LUNGSTROM’S SUBDIVISION BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 4, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, THE PLAT OF WHICH IS RECORDED IN BOOK 8 OF PLATS, ON PAGE 445 IN THE RECORDER’S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND THE STATE OF ILLINOIS. P.I.N. 06-20-301-004.

Commonly known as 8403 Grange Hall Road, Garden Prairie, IL 61038.

The real estate is: single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff’s Attorney, Marinosci Law Group, PC, 2215 Enterprise Drive, Suite 1512, Westchester, Illinois 60154. (312) 940-8580. 23-03585

INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
intercountyjudicialsales.com
13255146
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Nov 7, 14, 21, 2024 PNN

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Boone County Government is soliciting bids labeled BCG-2024-12 for Construction for the Renovation and Expansion of the Boone County Courthouse located at 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, IL 61008.

Bid documents will be available on November 7, 2024. Those interested in more information may visit the Boone County Website www.boonecountyl.gov. Drawings and specifications will be available for viewing in the online plan room at YCS Printing. To order documents contact YCS Printing at 815-636-2058 or email print@ycsprinting.com. No sets of prints will be provided to bidders by the Owner or Architect. All printing costs shall be at the expense of the bidders.

There is a pre-bid meeting for the project on Friday November 15, 2024 at 1:30 P.M. at the Boone County Courthouse 601 N Main Street, Belvidere IL 61008.

Sealed bids will be accepted at the Boone County Clerk’s Office located at 1212 Logan Avenue Suite 103, Belvidere, IL 61008 until Wednesday December 4, 2024 at 3:00 P.M. Bids will be publicly opened at 3:15 P.M. the same day in the Boone County Board Room located at 1212 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois 61008.

Boone County Government reserves the right to accept or reject all bids.

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Nov 7, 2024

Official Notice of Bid

Bids are now being accepted by the Boone County Conservation District for a three-year agricultural lease. Instructions, specifications, and proposal forms may be viewed and obtained at 603 N Appleton Rd., Belvidere IL 61008, Monday-Friday 8AM-Noon and 1PM-4:30PM or at www.bccdil.org. Bids will be opened on December 17th at 9AM. The BCCD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Boone County Housing Authority
public comment period for rent changes

Boone County Housing Authority proposes to increase the rent for project-based vouchers

at Pearl Place. All documentation for the increase can be requested during normal

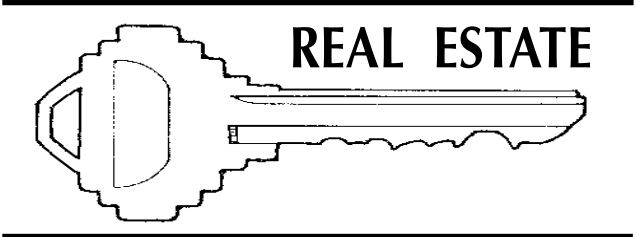
business hours at Boone County Housing Authority 2036 N. State Street, Belvidere, IL 61008 or by email from DAIfredson@wchauthority.com.

The public comment will begin on October 14th and run through November 14th, 2024.

Written comments can be submitted until November 14th at 3:00 pm to DAIfredson@wchauthority.com or 2036 N. State Street Belvidere, IL 61008.

A public hearing will be held at:
2036 N. State Street, Belvidere, IL 61008 on November 15th, 2024@ 9: 00 am.

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Nov. 7, 2024



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF Boone - Belvidere, ILLINOIS
HSBC BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE
FOR SG MORTGAGE SECURITIES TRUST 2006-FRE1, ASSET
BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-FRE1, Plaintiff
vs. 24 FC 8
NANCIE WIENK, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD
CLAIMANTS, Defendant

CALENDAR
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on December 19, 2024, at the hour 12:15 p.m., Entrance of the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, IL 61008, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

Commonly known as 8403 Grange Hall Road, Garden Prairie, IL 61038.

The real estate is: single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff’s Attorney, Marinosci Law Group, PC, 2215 Enterprise Drive, Suite 1512, Westchester, Illinois 60154. (312) 940-8580. 23-03585

INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
intercountyjudicialsales.com
13255146
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Nov 7, 14, 21, 2024 PNN

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff,
-v.- 2023 FC 92
ANTONIO ACUNA BENITEZ et al. Defendant
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on August 20, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on November 22, 2024, at the Advocus National Title Insurance, 530 S. State, Suite 201 (Logan Avenue entrance), Belvidere, IL, 61008, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 2400 RIDGEFIELD DRIVE, BELVIDERE, IL 61008
Property Index No. 06-31-327-025

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, 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 in “AS IS” condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g) (1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver’s license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff’s Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100
BURR RIDGE IL, 60527
630-794-5300

E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com
Attorney File No. 14-23-07768
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002
Case Number: 2023 FC 92
TJSC#: 44-2337

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff’s attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Case # 2023 FC 92 13254184
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Oct 24, 31 and Nov 7, 2024 PNN

Budget from page 1

GOMB projects that revenues will remain flat at roughly \$53.4 billion for the upcoming year, while spending will grow by \$3.2 billion.

While the overall numbers can change quickly in the eight months between now and the start of fiscal year 2026, the report could forebode an even more challenging budget process than the one that wrapped up in May. Lawmakers entered last year’s session staring down a roughly \$891 million deficit, according to last year’s GOMB report.

After lengthy and sometimes fraught deliberations, Democrats in power narrowly approved a budget that filled the gap by extending a cap on corporate net operating losses (\$526 million), capping a tax discount claimed by retailers (\$101 million), increasing the state’s tax on sports betting (\$200 million) and other smaller accounting measures or tax changes.

As for the impending \$3.2 billion deficit, the report noted only it “will be addressed in the Governor’s Fiscal Year 2026 Introduced Budget.”

But, the report noted, spending reductions “cannot be implemented broadly across-the-board,” especially for the 40% of spending that is mandated either by court order, law or other obligations, such as debt service, pension payments and Medicaid. Another 24% of state spending goes to areas such as education and higher education.

‘True-up’ drives revenue stagnation

The expected deficit is attributable in part to both rising expenditures and revenue stagnation as some one-time sources disappear.

The projected spending for FY 26 includes an additional \$350 million to K-12 education, while pension costs are expected to increase by \$440 million among other “moderate growth” in state spending across the board.

Health care costs are expected to grow by \$1.1 billion, due in part to “the impact of medical inflation and drop off of one-time FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) reimbursement revenues” for Medicaid and state health care plans. FEMA had still been reimbursing some pandemic-era costs borne by state government, according to the governor’s office, but that’s expected to drop off in the upcoming fiscal year.

Revenues are expected to stagnate in part because of a “true-up” process at the Illinois Department of Revenue that has temporarily inflated state coffers over the past two years, stemming from a complicated miscalculation by the department.

In short, IDOR overdistributed the amount of money collected in Corporate Property Replacement Taxes – which primarily go to local governments – in tax year 2021 by about \$800 million. Corporate income taxes were overestimated by \$200 million, while individual income taxes from pass-through entities were underestimated by \$1.1 billion. The miscalculation, according to IDOR, “was caused by tax policy changes,” at the federal and state level affecting businesses.

The department began a “true-up” process in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 that is aimed at fixing the “overpayments” to local governments while boosting state general revenues in the process.

It’s had the effect of driving general revenues up by about \$1 billion in each of fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

But the same won’t happen in FY26, the legislature’s Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability noted in its September report, because IDOR adjusted its disbursement percentages in 2023.

As a result, COGFA noted, general fund receipts could be “notably weaker” in the upcoming fiscal year – and GOMB’s report indicates the same.

Revenues are also expected to slow as the Federal Reserve decreases interest rates, lowering the state’s investment income.

The state is also entering the final step of a five-year process of shifting the sales tax collected on motor fuel from the General Revenue Fund to the Road Fund. That shift was included in Pritzker’s first budget in 2019 as part of the Rebuild Illinois infrastructure plan.

Still, the report projects about \$1 billion combined growth in corporate and personal income tax, while sales taxes are projected to fall by \$330 million, marking a mixed bag for the state’s “big three” revenue sources.

A history of surpluses

What comes of the projected deficit and how it is defrayed will be up to the governor and the new General Assembly that is seated in January.

Thus far in his tenure, Pritzker’s administration has shown that it can work with lawmakers to balance the books. Every year since the COVID-19 pandemic upended state finances in 2020, the state has seen significant surpluses. Those occurred for several reasons, including better-than-expected revenues as consumers spent more on goods, and government stimulus checks that boosted the economy.

Some years have been buoyed by one-time factors, such as the “true-up” process of the past two years and the state’s retroactive collection of Medicaid dollars in fiscal year 2024.

But the surpluses are also partially attributable to the Pritzker administration’s conservative estimates early in the budgeting process. In past years, that allowed lawmakers to kick extra revenues to the state’s “rainy day” fund that now has a record balance of \$2.2 billion while paying down about \$11 billion worth of outstanding debts.

Late payment interest expenditures have dropped from about \$980 million at the height of the state’s two-year budget impasse between Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner and Democrats in the General Assembly in fiscal year 2018, to \$137 million in Pritzker’s first year in office and \$13 million last fiscal year.

The forecast from GOMB anticipates a surplus for the current year as well, prior to next year’s deficit. Personal income tax and interest income have been higher than expected, while corporate income taxes are coming in lower than originally projected, mirroring national trends.

All told, the state is now looking at a \$262 million current-year surplus, according to the report, but \$246 million of that would be reserved in the Budget Stabilization, or “rainy day” fund.

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.

Early Results from page 4

the spring legislative session when Democrats pushed through a bill to ban the practice of political parties “slating” candidates for a race after a primary election if no candidate from that party ran for the nomination.

That bill passed the General Assembly in May, even though candidates from both parties, including Keeven, were already actively gathering petition signatures to fill vacant ballot positions.

The Illinois Supreme Court eventually ruled that law couldn’t go into effect in 2024, allowing Keeven to remain on the ballot.

And in the neighboring 114th District, former Democratic Rep. LaToya Greenwood, of East St. Louis, appeared far behind in her attempt to retake the seat she lost following redistricting in 2022 to Republican Rep. Kevin Schmidt. Unofficial returns from that rematch showed Schmidt holding onto lead of less than 2,000 votes with 78% of votes counted.

Although the AP had not called the race as of Wednesday, Schmidt issued a news release claiming victory.

Statewide and local referendums

Three statewide “advisory questions” all passed on Tuesday, although they don’t carry any legal weight.

The first question concerned whether candidates should be subject to civil penalties if they interfere with election workers’ official duties. That passed with 88.9% of respondents voting ‘yes’ with an estimated 89% of votes counted.

The second asked voters whether Illinois should modify its constitution to allow for higher taxes on those with incomes over \$1 million to pay for property tax relief programs. With an estimated 89% of votes counted, ‘yes’ had carried about 60.3% of the vote.

The third asked whether the state should require insurers that cover pregnancy benefits to also cover assisted reproductive treatments like in vitro fertilization. ‘Yes’ received 72.4% of the vote with 89% of votes counted.

Downstate, seven counties asked voters to consider whether they should explore separating from Cook County to form a new state, with all seven voting in favor of similarly phrased referendums.

This result means that 33 counties so far have voted in favor of exploring separation, just under one-third of Illinois’ 102 counties. In total, about 10.9% of Illinois’ population has voted on this issue, with every county where the question appeared on the ballot voting in favor of separation.

Madison County, which held a referendum on Tuesday, was the closest referendum yet – passing with 56.5% of the vote. The other six counties that voted on Tuesday ranged from about 71% to 77% voting in favor.

Chicago-area races

Chicagoans voted – for the first time – for elected school board members. Ten seats were up for grabs this election and the fiercely fought races brought out millions of dollars in spending from candidates and political committees.

As of Wednesday morning, three races were still too close to call. Of the seven where a winner is clear, three went to candidates backed by the Chicago Teachers Union. Three seats were won by candidates endorsed by either the charter school group INCS Action, a political action committee associated with the conservative Illinois Policy Institute or both. The final candidate wasn’t endorsed by any of those groups.

Recent decisions from leaders in Chicago Public Schools have raised questions about what actions the state might have to take in response. Some state Democrats began publicly considering looking at the level of state oversight at CPS following the resignation of its entire board last month amid tensions with Mayor Brandon Johnson and the CTU.

The election itself follows a fight among state-level Democrats earlier this year that saw competing proposals and a monthslong debate surrounding ethics rules for the reformed board and a timeline on when to hold the board’s first elections.

Other Cook County offices that were up for election were swept by Democrats, including county clerk, circuit court clerk and state’s attorney. Retired judge Eileen O’Neill Burke defeated Republican Bob Fioretti, a former Chicago alderperson, in a closely watched race to replace outgoing State’s Attorney Kim Foxx.

The outgoing prosecutor drew national attention for her progressive policies and her office’s handling of the 2019 Jussie Smollett case.

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.

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Russell-Smith Insurance & Law
Cheryl Russell-Smith
Insurance Agent & Attorney
519 S. Main St. ~ Belvidere, IL
815-544-3461

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Nathan Noble
Attorney at Law
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Danndi Storage
13511 Harvest Wy, Poplar Grove
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BELVIDERE CEMETERY
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