

To be notified of new issues online, register at www.boonecountyjournal.com

Whistle Stop

By David Larson

President Theodore Roosevelt made a whistle-stop in Belvidere during his campaign in the 1912 Presidential Election. The date of the photograph was October 13, 1912 and is particularly propitious. October 13 was the day before an unsuccessful assassination attempt was made on Roosevelt's life in Milwaukee, as he made his way along the campaign trail.

The candidate's visit to Belvidere was part of a whistle-stop tour of the nation, which was how national candidates met their constituents in 1912. The first commercial radio broadcast did not occur until 1920. It was not until his cousin Franklin D. Roosevelt, made the use of radio in his famous Fireside Chats did the nation hear a President's words. 1912 was a time before the invention of radio, television, or Internet, all of which, to streamlined the campaign process. However, though the campaign process has become streamlined with social media, TV, and radio, the process of choosing between candidates was in 1912, somehow, less messy, with only reliable or unreliable newspapers to evaluate the best choice an individual could make. The Internet and the TV provide a certain sense of separation between the citizen and the candidate, which was not present in 1912 when people in Belvidere came to see and hear the candidate from the caboose of a train.

Roosevelt lived a storied life that was full of danger, adventure, and swashbuckling politics. A Harvard graduate graduating Phi

Continued on Page 4

State Supreme Court Upholds Downstate Police, Firefighter Pension Consolidation

Justices unanimously rule members' voting power isn't 'benefit' protected by constitution

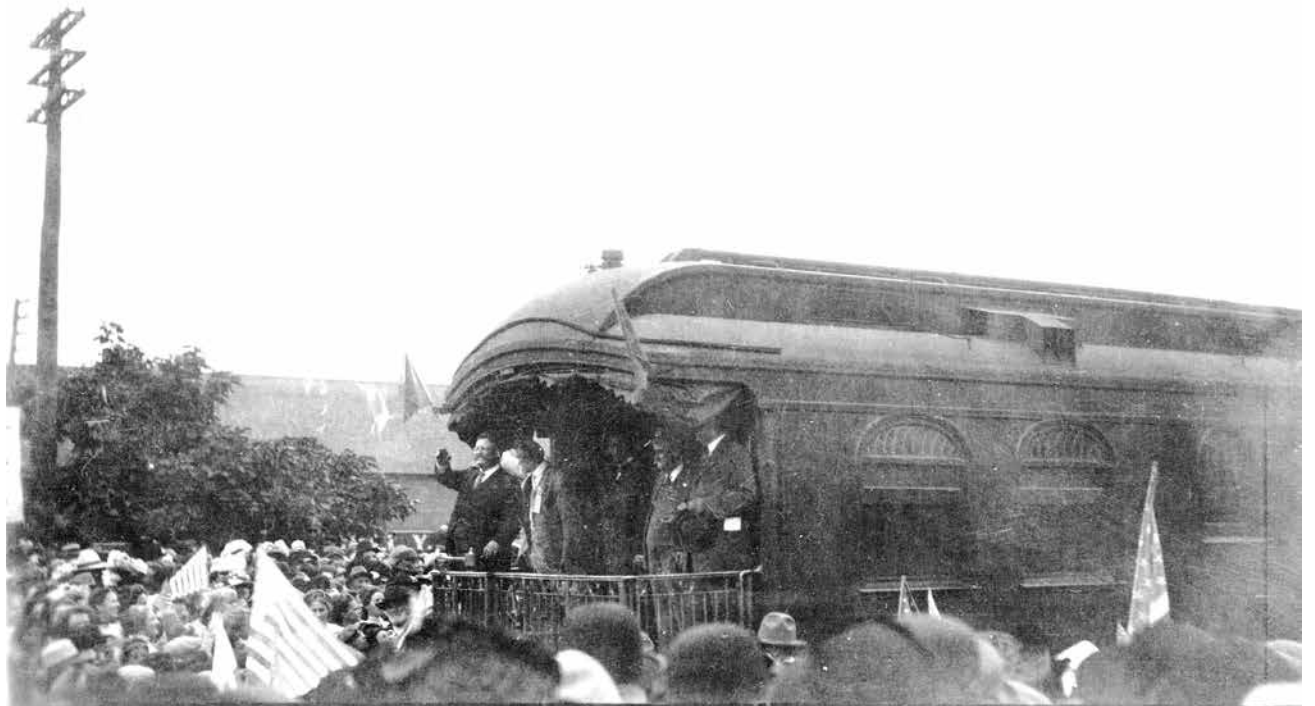
By Hannah Meisel Capitol News Illinois

The Illinois Supreme Court on Friday unanimously upheld a 2019 law that consolidated nearly 650 municipal police and firefighter pension funds, rejecting arguments from pension fund members that their voting power was diluted unconstitutionally.

The law, which Gov. JB Pritzker signed soon after it passed with overwhelming bipartisan majorities in the General Assembly, combined 649 individual pension funds into just two: one to manage investments and payouts for retired police officers and the other that does the same for retired firefighters.

The consolidation promised access to larger investments previously not available to the

Continued on Page 4



Former President Theodore Roosevelt giving a campaign speech from the rear platform.

Pritzker Touts Climate Investments Despite Renewables Lagging State Goals

State's top utility regulator up for Senate confirmation vote

By Andrew Adams Capitol News Illinois

Boston-based Nexamp, a major player in the solar energy industry, is joining the growing list of renewable technology companies that have expanded or relocated to Illinois in recent months.

On Monday, Nexamp announced its intention to spend \$2 billion in Illinois, including building a second headquarters in downtown Chicago.

While Gov. JB Pritzker said the company isn't receiving any direct state funding or new tax credits, its leadership was clear that state policy was a driving force in the decision.

Nexamp CEO Zaid Ashai on Monday said the company set up shop in the state in response to the 2016 Future Energy Jobs Act and expanded following the passage of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act in 2021.

"Illinois is our fastest growing market," Ashai said in a statement. "But the state is far more than just an attractive market for solar generation – for Nexamp, it's a state which shares our vision of a more equitable energy future powered by a diverse, equitable, and skilled workforce."

Read more: Pritzker announces milestones for preschool program, industry development

Pritzker in recent months has made several announcements regarding renewable energy investments in Illinois. These include Gotion's battery plant in Manteno, MicroLink Devices' solar cell factory in Niles, Prysmian Group's cable plant in Du Quoin, Manner Polymers' new facility in Mount Vernon, and Wieland's copper plants around the state.

"We are one of the nation's fastest growing

Continued on page 5

Smart Start Preschool Expansion Ahead Of Schedule in First Fiscal Year

Pritzker continues tour of state at Rochester Elementary School

By Cole Longcor Capitol News Illinois

An early childhood education program championed by Gov. JB Pritzker is ahead of schedule when it comes to increasing access to preschool in Illinois.

The Smart Start program passed last May as part of the state's operating budget, which allocated \$250 million to expand early childhood education programs, including wage support for child care workers, early intervention programs and home visiting programs. It also included a goal of adding 5,000 pre-k spots in areas where access was lacking – and the state has exceeded that number by over 800 seats.

"All of these programs were in preschool deserts where parents previously had long waiting lists or no publicly funded preschool choices at all for their kids," Gov. JB Pritzker said at a Rochester Elementary School news conference just outside of Springfield.

It was his second downstate stop in two days to celebrate the program's growth. This year marks the first of a four-year plan aimed at creating 20,000 total new preschool spots.

The Rochester school district received a grant through Smart Start. In 2017, Rochester had only one preschool classroom, with morning and afternoon programs.

"As of today, we have six preschool classrooms which are a combination of half-day programs and full-day programs and can serve 180 students from our community age three to five," said Jennifer Shaw, the district's director of special education. "The addition of the Smart Start grant has been enormously beneficial for

Continued on page 5

Bill Payment Assistance Grants Available For Nicor Gas Customers With Past-Due Account Balances

Press Release

Income-eligible Nicor Gas residential customers can apply for a grant of up to \$250 a year through the Shield of Caring program, administered by The Salvation Army. Shield of Caring is an emergency assistance and homelessness prevention program that provides individuals and families in Nicor Gas' service area with natural gas bill payment assistance and support for other basic needs, including housing and rental assistance, grocery packages and warm winter clothing items.

Nicor Gas founded the program in 2021 with the support of The Salvation Army through an initial \$5 million contribution to help those impacted by the global health and financial crises. The company announced an additional \$5 million commitment to expand the program in 2022. Since that time, more than 14,500 Nicor Gas customers have been the recipient of a Shield of Caring grant and 28,000 have received basic needs support, including warm winter coats, food boxes and emergency disaster services.

"Our partnership with The Salvation Army began in 1983, and from the beginning we shared a mutual interest of doing the most good in the communities we serve," said Meena Beyers, vice president of Business and Community Development at Nicor Gas. "We know that the

past few years have been a challenging time for our customers and the communities we serve. We remain committed to helping our neighbors receive the relief and assistance they need during these cold winter months, while keeping their homes warm all season long."

Residential customers with a household gross income in the last 30 days below 400% of the Federal Poverty Level can apply at www.shieldofcaring.com. If a customer is eligible to receive financial assistance grants from other programs, such as the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, they should apply for a grant from these programs first to maximize their benefits. LIHEAP is a federally funded bill payment assistance program that helps low- and fixed-income families meet their energy needs. For eligibility and to apply, visit www.LIHEAPillinois.com or call 877-411-9276 (WARM).

In addition to Shield of Caring and LIHEAP, Nicor Gas currently offers additional resources to help customers pay and manage their natural gas bill and save on energy costs:

- **Sharing Program** – One-time annual grants of up to \$500 are given, with no requirement to be paid back, to qualified residential customers who meet the required income guidelines. Seniors and veterans approved for the program are provided an additional \$150 grant. These funds are administered by The Salvation Army and are funded through direct contributions from Nicor Gas' customers and employees.

- **Energy Aide Program** – Provides qualifying households with a grant of up to \$350 toward their past due balance and does not need to be paid back. Residential customers must be at or below 350% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

- **Payment arrangements** – Provides eligible customers with more time to pay past-due balances and brings their account current to avoid possible service disconnections. Customers can check their eligibility for a payment arrangement by visiting nicorgas.com/myaccount.

- **Budget Plan** – Helps customers with current accounts avoid unpredictable bills from month to month by evening out the seasonal highs and lows of their bills through a monthly budgeted amount. Owed monthly amounts may be adjusted every four months to ensure that payments are in line with actual usage and the price of gas. Customers can check their eligibility for the Budget Plan by visiting nicorgas.com/budgetplan.

- **Energy Efficiency Program** – Provides free home assessments, energy-saving products and incentives to help you save money and energy. Eligible income-qualified households may receive additional free services and equipment upgrades. Customers can call 877.866.4239 or visit nicorgas.com/saveathome.

- **Community Connection Center (C3)** – Helps customers navigate all the above options,

as well as basic needs resources. Customers can contact the C3 team at nicorgas.com/CCC or self-serve online and answer anonymous questions to get recommendations by visiting the Community Assistance Navigator tool.

To learn more about bill payment assistance programs, visit nicorgas.com/energyassistance.

Foster Introduces Legislation to Bolster Cybersecurity in Financial Sector

Press Release

Today, Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL) introduced legislation to strengthen cybersecurity in the financial services industry.

The Strengthening Cybersecurity for the Financial Sector Act would correct regulatory gaps and improve the safety and soundness of the nation's banking system.

Specifically, this bill would grant the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) and the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) the authority to oversee third party vendors employed by the entities under their purview. This authority – currently utilized by all other industry regulators – was previously temporarily granted to the NCUA and FHFA but has since expired, leaving a dangerous regulatory gap and leaving consumers and families at risk. This bill would bring parity amongst our regulators to ensure that our financial services and housing industries are well protected against cyberattacks.

"Hard working Americans deserve peace of mind that their money and their data are safe with their credit union or mortgage servicer," Foster said. "Federal regulators should have the power to thoroughly scrutinize financial institutions' third-party vendors' technology systems to ensure they are secure against the growing threat of cyberattacks. We have learned the hard way about the damage that can result from supply-chain cyberattacks, and third-party vendors in our financial system represent alluring targets. This will make the entire banking system safer and will go a long way to protect sensitive consumer information."

In November 2023, a cybersecurity breach of third-party service providers disrupted the operation of approximately 60 credit unions across 40 states. This incident alone put approximately \$912 million in assets and 93,000 credit union members at risk. In September 2023, federally insured credit unions became required to report cyber incidents to the NCUA within 72 hours. Within 30 days following that rule's enactment, the NCUA received 146 incident reports – rough-

Continued on Page 3

CORRECTION:

Last week the *Journal* published a story on the Belvidere Sister City program in which we expressed that there was not a French language class in local high schools. That is incorrect. North Boone High School has a French language program.



REAL JOURNALISM FOR A REAL DEMOCRACY

Publisher/Editor: David C. Larson
Senior Writer/Editorial: Charles Herbst
Photography: Susan Moran

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

THE BOONE COUNTY JOURNAL

419 S. STATE ST • BELVIDERE, IL 61008
PHONE: (815) 544-4430 FAX: 544-4330
WWW.BOONECOUNTYJOURNAL.COM
NEWS@BOONECOUNTYJOURNAL.COM

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.

Boone County License & Title Stickers - Titles - Plates We Are OPEN

M-F 9-5
Sat 9-1

419 S. State St. Bel
815-544-2075

Bring:
Postcard Bill from the Secretary of State
Or
Old Registration Card
Or
Vin# + Plate # + Expiration Date



Foster from page 2

ly 60 percent of which involved third-party service providers.

The authority to oversee third-party vendors has been requested by NCUA and FHFA directors from both political parties. The Government Accountability Office and the Financial Stability Oversight Council have made similar recommendations regarding the need for oversight of third-party vendors.

A version of this legislation passed the House Financial Services Committee in the 117th Congress, but did not receive a Floor vote.

Amid Record Overdoses and Drug Counselor Shortage, Workforce Expansion Program Aims to Fill Gap

Joint program offers funds, tuition assistance and stipends for future alcohol and drug counselors

By Dilpreet Raju Capitol News Illinois

Amid five straight years of record overdose deaths in Illinois, a new state program aims to alleviate a shortage of professionals who work to prevent substance use disorders.

Illinois' behavioral health counselor workforce "is aging while new entrants are declining," according to a 2019 report to the General Assembly; 56 percent of certified substance use disorder workers in the state were over the age of 50 at the time. According to the Behavioral Health Workforce Center's latest data from 2023, 81 of Illinois' 102 counties have fewer than 13 licensed professional counselors per 60,000 residents, straining those counselors tasked with servicing a large portion of the state.

To alleviate the workforce shortage, the state's Department of Human Services has partnered with the Illinois Certification Board to offer stipends to lessen the financial burden for those working toward certification in substance use prevention and treatment.

The 2019 task force report also found the state's "already below-national-average" number of behavioral health professionals dropped 23 percent between 2016 to 2018, coinciding with a two-year period in which social services funding was slashed as lawmakers and the governor failed to approve a state budget.

While the state's human service funding has increased in recent years, an analysis from the Chicago-based Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, a nonprofit think tank, found that the current fiscal year marks the first since FY 2000 in which the increase outpaced inflation.

Workforce expansion

The Illinois Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor Workforce

Expansion program launched in May and is currently set to run through June 2024. It offers aid in the form of scholarships, tuition payments, internship stipends, application fees and \$1,000 upon hire with a state-licensed provider, following graduation from an ICB accredited training program.

Adriana Trino-Pujals, executive director of the Elgin-based Latino Treatment Center, said the challenge to find, hire and retain workers in behavioral health has remained difficult, mainly due to economic constraints that can push students to consider other career paths. According to Bureau of Labor Statistics data analyzing 2022 payrolls, the median salary for a behavioral health counselor in Illinois is about \$48,000.

Some students who start classes to obtain a certification can't afford to finish, Trino-Pujals said.

"And then you're going to take that same person and I'm going to tell them that we're going to pay them 30-grand a year. Well, at that point, I'd rather go work at Walmart," she said.

The new workforce expansion program is a partnership between the ICB – an independent organization that credentials several human services positions in the state – and the IDHS Office of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery.

Chris Boyster, executive director of the ICB, said the workforce expansion program aims "to ensure that there's absolutely no barriers for completion."

"Let's say you want to become a CADC, but that class is taught on Monday nights and Monday nights you don't have anybody to watch your child. It will cover day care," Boyster said.

The CADC Workforce Expansion program will also provide internship stipends up to \$7,500, providing some reimbursement for work that might otherwise have been unpaid. It can also be used to pay for application and initial certification fees, along with transportation and course costs. Fees associated with enrolling and studying to become a CADC run at least \$500, according to the ICB Schedule of Fees.

To qualify for the program's \$1,000 hiring stipend, a student must be in the process of getting credentialed as a CADC and agree to a two-year employment period with a state-licensed facility.

Information on how to apply to participate in the program can be found at ilcadcworkforce.org.

The workforce expansion program received a \$3 million

appropriation in the current-year budget. IDHS spokesperson Daisy Contreras said in an email the program's continuation in future fiscal years is "pending the availability of funds and program performance indicators."

Contreras said that while it's too early in the program's implementation to track significant trends, IDHS saw an "initial increase of approximately 30% in new applications" for the first half fiscal year 2024, which began in July. That followed a dip in the number of CADC applicants coinciding with the COVID-19 pandemic, she said.

Rising toll

During 2021 – the latest year for which comparable data is available – more than 3,000 people died of an opioid-involved overdose in Illinois, while 1,995 in the state were killed by firearms, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health Opioid Data Dashboard and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That same year, 1,611 people in Illinois died of alcohol-induced deaths – more than the number of people killed in traffic accidents, according to KFF, formerly known as The Kaiser Family Foundation.

CADCs offer support and try to assess the needs of individuals who seek treatment.

Jen Anel, who works as overdose prevention manager at Chicago Recovery Alliance, said that

Continued on Page 5



Sorgs Annual Pork Sale
 Febuary 1st to the 17th

Whole or Half ALL CUT, WRAPPED & FROZEN

Hog
 Call for Price
 Subject to Cutting Loss

ON-SITE PROCESSING TO ENSURE QUALITY & FRESHNESS

Full Retail Counter of Fresh Meats and Wisconsin Cheese
 Sorgs Packing, Inc. • N4290 Hwy 14 • Darien, WI 53114
 HOURS: M-F 8-5 • Sat. 8-3
 (262)724-5554 * (262)724-3364
 CUSTOM BUTCHERING BY APPOINTMENT



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

I have over 35 years of experience as a tax attorney with an advanced law degree in taxation. My clients know that their taxes are prepared professionally, getting all the deductions and credits that they deserve, and they don't have to fear a letter from the IRS. I can e-file any prior-year or current-year tax return. My overhead is low, my rates are reasonable, and handle things privately.

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

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

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

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



CHARLES HERBST, J.D., LL.M.
 LAW, PLANNING AND TAX

Belvidere and Rockford • 815 484 9482 • taxviking.com

Roosevelt

from page 1

Beta Kappa in 1880 followed by law school at Columbia University. Born into a family of wealth and privilege, he quickly became a New York assemblyman and developed a reputation for being a tough reformer. TR was not short on credentials. He was a cattle rancher, Civil Service Commissioner, New York Police Commissioner, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and Medal of Honor winner from his combat in Cuba as a Colonel leading a cavalry regiment called the "Rough Riders."

Reluctantly accepting the Vice Presidential candidacy with William McKinley in the famous 1900 election between William McKinley and William Jennings Bryan, Roosevelt was a man of his time. When McKinley was assassinated in September of 1901, Roosevelt became President and won reelection in 1904, serving nearly eight full years.

Roosevelt was a Republican progressive – more like a Democratic progressive than even a moderate Republican of today. He shepherded legislation that broke up Standard Oil, financial companies, and monopolies in general. He arbitrated labor disputes, prosecuted official misconduct, regulated rail rates, regulated food and drugs, enacted conservation measures, and lead the nation through the financial panic of 1907. He was a doer -- not a talker -- nor did he conservatively rest on his elbows for the benefit of a privileged few. Like the short-lived radical, post Civil War Republicans, Roosevelt changed the country and made an indelible mark on the nation's identity. He was the first President since the Civil War who had not served as a general in the Civil War.

The party that followed him was quite different. President William Howard Taft won election in 1908 and ran for reelection in 1912. Taft represented a faction of the Republican Party that was conservative. The progressive Roosevelt faction of the Republican Party responded. It was a split in the party -- similar to what we see today in the Republican Party -- traditional, moderate, and conservative Republicans reacting to the Trump faction.

Roosevelt, in his independent progressive fashion, became the candidate for President of a third party called the Bull Moose Party, representing progressive politics nationally. It was in that run for President that brought Roosevelt to Belvidere in October of 1912, 111 years ago.

Former President Roosevelt travelled through Belvidere near the end of his day, reaching Chicago that night. Early the next morning, Roosevelt boarded a northbound passenger train for Milwaukee, where he was scheduled to meet with donors for dinner, then he would follow with a major campaign speech.

The dinner was held at the Gilpatrick Hotel in Downtown Milwaukee. The Gilpatrick was opened in 1907 on North Third Street at the same site where the Hyatt Hotel stands today.

Roosevelt wore his patented, broad grin as he moved from the hotel lobby on October 13. He strolled at a comfortable pace down a sidewalk, where a car waited for him. He had just delivered a speech to a crowd of financial supporters when he reached the car and stepped inside the convertible for a short drive to the Milwaukee Auditorium. There he would deliver an important campaign speech. Just as Roosevelt entered the open-air car, a shot echoed across the street and a flash of light was seen in the 8 p.m. hour. The crowd was horrified; Former President Theodore Roosevelt had been shot.

The assassin was an unemployed bartender from Milwaukee by way of New York and the East Coast, John Schrank. He was born in Erding, Bavaria in March, 1876 and emigrated to America at the age of 9 years. His parents soon died and Schrank went to live with an uncle in New York City. The uncle ran a tavern and Schrank remained there for many years until his uncle and aunt died. Schrank then took over the tavern and ran the establishment for a few years after the family property was left to him. Schrank was heartbroken, sold the tavern, and began to wander as he lived an aimless life.

After selling the property, that he inherited Schrank roamed along the East Coast for a period of years. He sought religion for solace, and later became a poet, but during this period, Schrank spent most of his time roaming without any apparent purpose.

After the assassination attempt failed, searches were made of the dwellings where he lived. Writings were found in which Schrank claimed he wanted to kill Roosevelt to avenge the death of President William McKinley. McKinley was assassination and provided the opening that allowed Roosevelt to become President.

The bullet from Schrank's .38 caliber revolver penetrated Roosevelt's jacket and vest, damaging his eyeglass case and penetrated a copy of the 50-page address that Roosevelt would deliver at the Auditorium. The bullet lodged in Roosevelt's chest, and his opening lines in the speech were edited:

"Friends, I shall ask you to be as quiet as possible. I don't know whether you fully understand that I have been shot; but it takes more than that to kill a Bull Moose. But fortunately I had my manuscript, so you see I was going to make a long speech and there is a bullet -- that is where the bullet went through -- and it probably saved me from it going into my heart."

Roosevelt lived the remainder of his life with the bullet undisturbed resting in his chest. Because of the assassination attempt, he removed himself from the rigorous campaign.

What if the assassin had missed and Roosevelt had prevailed?



Pensions

from page 1

hundreds of small individual funds, all in the hopes of yielding greater returns. Combining the funds into two also eliminated administrative costs paid out of the individual pension funds.

Read more: Pritzker signs pension consolidation bill into law; Task force recommends merging 649 local pension funds

But nearly three-dozen pensioners and 17 of the individual pension funds sued over the law. They argued they were wronged because members now vote for the funds' oversight boards on a statewide basis, rather than selecting five of their peers for their local boards as they used to.

Attorney Daniel Konicek, who represented the plaintiffs in oral arguments to the high court in November, said his clients' votes were "completely, undeniably diluted," which he contended violated the state constitution's "pension protection clause." That provision, which the Supreme Court has consistently ruled is ironclad, states membership in any government retirement system constitutes "an enforceable contractual relationship, the benefits of which shall not be diminished or impaired."

Read more: State high court skeptical municipal police and fire pension consolidation hurt retirees' voting rights

But all seven justices on the Illinois Supreme Court rejected Konicek's argument. Writing for her colleagues, Chief Justice Mary Jane Theis cut down Konicek's assertion that this case was similar to a 2014 case in which the court ruled the pension protection clause prevented the state from reducing health care benefits to retirees.

"In contrast, the ability to vote in elections for local pension board members is not such a constitutionally protected benefit, nor is the ability to have local board members control and invest pension funds," Theis wrote.

Theis, the only justice still left on the court from when it heard a series of high-profile pension benefit cases including the 2014 challenge, had also been skeptical in her questioning of Konicek during oral arguments in November.

"Simply put, the (law) has no impact on plaintiffs receiving their promised monetary benefits," Theis wrote in Friday's opinion.

Pritzker on Friday praised the decision, taking credit for pushing for the pension consolidation after decades of talk in Springfield.

"Today's Supreme Court ruling is a victory for Illinois taxpayers, local governments and first responders," he said.

House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, D-Hillside, also applauded the ruling, calling the 2019 law "commonsense reform," while Illinois Municipal League CEO Brad Cole – who pushed for the consolidation for years – thanked

Continued on Page 5

Boone County License & Title Stickers - Titles - Plates We Are OPEN

M-F 9-5
Sat 9-1

419 S. State St. Bel
815-544-2075

Bring:
Postcard Bill from the Secretary of State
Or
Old Registration Card
Or
Vin# + Plate # + Expiration Date



Pensions

from page 4

legislative leaders and mayors in an email to IML members Friday.

“Personally, having worked on this issue for more than a decade and as a drafter of the legislation, I am gratified by the consistent rulings in favor of the Act and in the determination that will now allow everyone to focus on strengthening and growing the funds.”

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

Preschool

from page 1

Rochester’s educational program. We can now offer preschool to at-risk students and those receiving special education services in addition to tuition-based students.”

Smart Start is expanding prevention and evidence-based home services with 17 new programs. Another \$130 million will be used to keep and increase staff at child care facilities.

“But that’s not all,” Pritzker said. “We also invested an additional \$40 million into early intervention services allowing thousands of children to overcome developmental challenges and families to maintain access to these critical services all while giving providers a needed 10 percent rate increase.”

State Superintendent of Education Tony Sanders highlighted the importance of early childhood education.

“Preschool is where children and families form their first relationships with their schools,” Sanders said. “What children learn in these early years are essential for the foundation for them to excel in learning the rest of their academic life. Every child deserves to have this strong foundation in their life.”

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

Counselors

from page 3

in addition to working hundreds of hours in unpaid internships to qualify for her CADC, she had to work multiple jobs to make ends meet. She became certified in 2018 and said her coursework focused heavily on abstinence and relapse prevention.

“Abstinence is the goal,” Andel said. “There was not really any sort of harm reduction education, or what do we do with a client who is continuing to use. How do we help that person identify their own goal, which may not even be abstinence?”

Andel said she left her job in traditional substance use treatment because she saw an opportunity to help more people, and in a more direct way.

Trino-Pujals, who also serves as the ICB’s treasurer, said the program is a step toward keeping more students engaged in the field of substance use

treatment and harm reduction.

“We have a horrible shortage,” she said. The lack of CADCs “has hindered us to be able to continue to progress in our field.”

“Too little, too late”

Trino-Pujals said she was inspired to become an alcohol and drug counselor partly because both of her parents worked in substance use treatment, and she saw her father recover from alcoholism.

“Once I took the test, it not only propelled me professionally, but it also helped me to understand a lot more of the fields, theories and different processes regarding (substance use treatment),” she said.

The ICB expanded its reach in November by naming eight universities, public and private, as accredited training programs, including Loyola University, Southern Illinois University Carbondale and the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. The move will make CADC courses more readily available to college-age students interested in recovery and treatment work.

The program is one of three IDHS initiatives aimed at addressing the shortage of behavioral health workers in the state, with the others being a loan repayment program and another workforce incentive program focusing on certifying people who have lived experience as peer support specialists.

Still, many advocates say the recent state efforts are not nearly enough. Andel, for example, said she fears the hiring stipend is still too low to incentivize people to pursue a certification.

“Two years for \$1,000? I’m going to keep it real here, come on,” Andel said.

John Werning, the executive director of Chicago Recovery Alliance – a harm reduction organization founded over three decades ago – said he is skeptical of state investment in an overdose program that isn’t directly aimed at slowing the state’s death toll.

“People who use drugs far outnumber the amount of people who are seeking or treatment or who qualify for a substance use disorder diagnosis,” he said. “We’ve never seen a reduction in the demand for drug use in this country and we’ve only seen overdose rates climb.”

Werning said there remains a need for investment in more social service programs such as overdose prevention sites because a diversity of options expands what people can utilize, hopefully saving more lives.

“It might also be too little, too late,” he said, “we need broad, really tremendous investments in social services across the board, not just treatment modalities.”

Energy

from page 1

solar and green technology markets,” Pritzker said Monday.

All of these projects were announced in the past eight months and all came with incentive packages through the state’s Reimagining Energy and Vehicles Act, which passed in 2021 and has since been expanded. Altogether, those deals are worth just over \$360 million in tax credits paid out over decades, in addition to millions of dollars’ worth of other state and local tax breaks.

Lion Electric, which did not receive a REV credit, also opened a large facility that will manufacture electric buses and other commercial vehicles this year in Joliet.

Problems with generation

The state’s economic agenda is closely tied with a broader climate policy goal: decarbonization. This goal is formalized in state law, which sets a target for transitioning the state away from reliance

on fossil fuel-powered electricity generation.

State law currently says that by the 2025 delivery year, one-quarter of electricity purchased by the state must come from renewable sources. Goals laid out in CEJA are even more ambitious, requiring the state’s energy production to be carbon-free by 2045.

But the Illinois Power Agency – which handles energy procurement for the state’s utilities – reports that the state is lagging far behind its goals. In its current long-term plan for renewable purchasing, which was published in May, the agency projected that by the 2025 delivery year, only 8.1 percent of electricity will come from sources that qualify as renewable under state law.

“Achieving these goals would require a substantial increase in new renewable energy generation,” according to the agency’s report.

The federal Energy Information Administration, which uses a slightly different method to calculate its figures, reports that 15.4 percent of Illinois’ electricity generation came from renewables in October. That lags the state’s statutory goal for this year of 22 percent and behind the nation’s average renewable electricity generation of 22.3 percent.

The IPA is currently seeking approval for an updated long-term renewable energy plan from the Illinois Commerce Commission.

Utility crackdown

Pritzker made a key appointment last week to the ICC, which is the lead agency involved in carrying out many of the administration’s climate goals. The ICC regulates gas and electric utilities, among other things, and over the past 12 months has issued several decisions lessening the rate hikes requested by the utilities while exercising greater oversight.

One of the key figures in those decisions was ICC Chair Doug Scott, who advised the administration while it drafted CEJA and is now up for confirmation in the state Senate to oversee more of its implementation. Last summer, Pritzker appointed him to serve the last six months of outgoing chair Carrie Zalewski’s five-year term.

On Friday, Pritzker formally appointed Scott to a full term as ICC chair.

“We had, obviously, a lot of really big things happening, with all the rate cases at once and all the grid plans and rate plans coming at the same time,” Scott told Capitol News Illinois on Tuesday.

Scott said the busy schedule for the ICC will continue, as the agency still has work to do with Commonwealth Edison and Ameren Illinois after rejecting the utilities’ multi-year plans late last year.

This year, the commission will host a series of “future of gas” hearings aimed at spelling out the long-term plan for natural gas infrastructure as the state transitions away from the energy source.

Read more: Chicago utility pushes back against state oversight, asks for further rate increase

“If the decarbonization goals of CEJA are to be met, the gas distribution system as currently operated will need to change,” wrote the ICC’s commissioners in their controversial December decision in a rate case brought by the Chicago utility Peoples Gas.

Scott noted the commission is also working on implementing low-income rates for electric utility customers and continuing the renewable energy planning process with the Illinois Power Agency.

“A lot of it has to do with CEJA, but it’s not like it’s separated into different columns,” Scott said. “It’s all tied together.”

Consumer advocates have noted that Scott and the other four commissioners – all appointed by

Continued on Page 7

LEGAL NOTICES

2024

NOTICE OF RESCHEDULED ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

To All Owners And Occupiers Of Lands Lying Within The Boundaries Of The Boone County Soil And Water Conservation District:

Notice is hereby given that a rescheduled Election will be held on the fourteenth day of February, 2024 at 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 211 North Appleton Road, Belvidere IL 61008. Three Directors will be elected to serve the Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District of the State of Illinois.

All persons, firms or corporations who hold legal title or are in legal possession of any land lying within the boundaries of the said district are eligible to vote at said election, whether as lessee, renter, tenant or otherwise. Only such persons, firms or corporations are eligible to vote.

William Hall
Chairman
Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Jan. 11, and 25, 2024

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

**In the Matter of the Estate of Larry Lester, Deceased.
No. 2023-PR-38**

Claim Notice

Notice is given of the death of Larry Lester of Capron, Illinois.

Letters of office were issued on July 12, 2023, to: Representative Linda Lewis, of 2104 Oaklawn Av., Rockford, IL 61107, whose attorney is The Waggoner Law Firm, P.C., Four North Walkup Avenue, Crystal Lake, IL 60014.

Claims against the estate may be filed within six months from the date of the first publication. Any claim not filed within six months from the date of first publication or claims not filed within three months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to Creditor, whichever is later, shall be barred.

Claims may be filed in the office of the Clerk of Circuit Court at the Boone County Court House, 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, IL 61008, or with the representative or both.

Copies of claims filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to his attorney within ten days after it has been filed.

/s/ Patricia Coduto
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Jan. 11, 18, and 25, 2024

Notice to Creditors

Estate of Dale Meidinger Date of Birth July 02, 1940

To All Creditors:

Notice To Creditors: The decedent, Dale Meidinger, who lived at 1340 Caswell Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 died January 23, 2022.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Jeffrey Hammerlund, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, at 946 Hackett Street, Beloit, Wisconsin 53511, 18473414923 or to both the probate court and the named/proposed personal representative within 8/12/2024 after the date of publication of this notice.

January 08, 2024
Jeffrey Hammerlund, Attorney for the Estate
946 Hackett Street
Beloit, Wisconsin 53511
18473414923
Jeffrey Hammerlund, Personal Representative for the Estate
946 Hackett Street
Beloit, Wisconsin 53511
18473414923
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Jan. 11, 18, and 25, 2024

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

**In the Matter of: ALICE E. McCOY, Deceased 2024-PR-2
CLAIM NOTICE**

NOTICE is given of the death of ALICE E. McCOY, who died on October 9, 2023. Letters of Office were issued on January 4, 2024 to ROBERT CUMMINS, 5695 Country Ct, Roscoe, Illinois 61072, who is the legal representative of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Douglas R. Henry, of Barrick, Switzer, Long, Balsley & Van Evera, LLP, 6833 Stalter Drive, Rockford, Illinois 61108.

Claims against the Estate may be filed on or before July 11, 2024, 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, 1975 as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk, Probate Division at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois, or with the Estate legal representative, 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: January 11, 2024
DOUGLAS R. HENRY - #6229426
BARRICK, SWITZER, LONG, BALSLEY & VAN EVERA, LLP
6833 Stalter Drive; Rockford, IL 61108
(815) 962-6611
dhenry@bslbv.com
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Jan. 11, 18, and 25, 2024

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

SUMMIT FUNDING, INC. Plaintiff,
-v.- 2023 FC 45

LILA DEANNA LAFFERTY 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 November 14, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on February 16, 2024, at the NLT Title L.L.C, 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:

LOT THIRTY-SIX (36) IN CANDLEWICK LAKE, UNIT NO. 6, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PORTIONS OF SECTION 22, 26 AND 27, TOWNSHIP 45 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NO. 72-2060 AND REVISED IN DOCUMENT NO. 73-4912 IN THE RECORDERS OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS. Commonly known as 1131 CANDLEWICK DR NW, POPLAR GROVE, IL 61065

Property Index No. 03-22-301-021

The real estate is improved with a 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. 14-23-02756
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002
Case Number: 2023 FC 45

TJSC#: 43-4273

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 45
13236581

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Jan 18, 25; Feb 1, 2024 PNN

The Boone County Housing Authority has updated the Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan. A 30-day comment period has been established beginning 01/15/2024 and ends 02/15/2024 at 3:00pm. Throughout the public comment period, the plans may be seen at 2036 N. State Street, Belvidere, IL 61008, during normal business hours. A public hearing will be held 02/16/2024 at 9:00am at 2036 N. State Street, Belvidere, IL 61008. Any comments should be submitted in writing to the attention of Debbie Alfredson, Deputy Director and delivered to 2036 N. State Street, Belvidere, IL 61008

Published in *The Boone County Journal* - 01/25/2024

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

BELVIDERE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the City of Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chamber, Belvidere City Hall, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 upon the following:

Application of State Permits, 319 Elaines Court, Dodgeville, WI 53533 on behalf of the property owner, Midland States Bank, 11670 Gravius Road, St. Louis, MO 63126 for a special use to permit in-vehicle sales or service as an accessory use. Specifically, drive-through lanes at 600 S. State Street, Belvidere, IL 61008 (Belvidere Zoning Ordinance Sections 150.105(C)(6)(C)(2) In-vehicle sales or service and 150.904 Special use Review and Approval Procedures) in the CB, Central Business District on approximately 2 acres. The property is legally described as:

PART OF BLOCK TWO (2) AND SIX (6) AS DESIGNATED UPON COHOON AND ALLEN'S ADDITION TO BELVIDERE, THE PLAT OF WHICH BEING RECORDED IN BOOK O OF PLATS ON PAGE 524 AND 525 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT; BEGINNING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID BLOCK 2 AS AFORESAID; THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES 58 MINUTES 52 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID BLOCK 2, A DISTANCE OF 310.90 FEET TO A POINT WHICH BEARS SOUTH 88 DEGREES 58 MINUTES 52 SECONDS WEST, 20.00 FEET FROM THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID BLOCK 2; THENCE SOUTH 45 DEGREES 29 MINUTES 16 SECONDS EAST, 28.02 FEET TO A POINT IN THE EAST LINE OF SAID BLOCK 2 WHICH BEARS SOUTH 00 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 36 SECONDS WEST, 20.00 FEET FROM THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID BLOCK 2; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 36 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID BLOCKS 2 AND 6 AS AFORESAID, 245.00 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 3 OF SAID BLOCK 6; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 01 MINUTES 32 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF LOTS 3 AND 7 OF SAID BLOCK 6, A DISTANCE OF 198.35 FEET TO THE WEST LINE OF THE EAST 2 RODS OF LOT 6 OF SAID BLOCK 6; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 01 MINUTES 18 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE WEST LINE OF THE EAST 2 RODS OF LOT 6 OF SAID BLOCK 6, A DISTANCE OF 66.21 FEET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF LOT 10 OF SAID BLOCK 6; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 55 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT 10 OF BLOCK 6, A DISTANCE OF 132.37 FEET TO THE WEST LINE OF SAID BLOCK 6; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID BLOCKS 6 AND 2 AS AFORESAID, 198.55 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SITUATED IN PART OF SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, CITY OF BELVIDERE, BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS. SAID PARCEL CONTAINS 78,230 SQUARE FEET OR 1.796 ACRES MORE OR LESS. PIN: 05-36-104-023.

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

Carl Gnewuch, Chairman,
Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Jan. 25, 2024

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

BELVIDERE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the City of Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chamber, Belvidere City Hall, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 upon the following:

Application of property owner, Alliance Development Corp., 1510 N. Country Club Parkway, PO Box 1015, Elkhorn, WI 53121 for a special use to permit a planned development on approximately 85 acres in the HI, Heavy Industrial District at 1245 Irene Road, Belvidere, IL 61008. The planned development will allow for the following departures: Section 150.105(C)(9)(G)(2)(E) allowing for the maximum primary building height to be increased from 45 feet to 90 feet; Section 150.105(C)(9)(B)(2) allowing for non-building mounted solar installations for export of energy for use by a Public Utility; Section 150.105(C)(9)(G)(2)(C) allowing for the minimum pavement setback to be reduced from five feet to zero feet in order to allow for cross-access drives; Table 150.604 allowing for the required building foundation landscaping to be installed elsewhere on the subject property; Section 150.702(J) allowing for the maximum width of the combined three driveways with flares to be increased from 45 feet to 275 feet; Section 150.707(E)(1) allowing the maximum luminaire height to be increased from 30 feet to 50 feet; Section 150.716(C)(1) allowing for the waiver of screening mechanical equipment; Section 150.1003 allowing for the maximum size of direction signs to be increased from 3 square feet to 100 square feet; Section 150.1003 allowing for the maximum size of a logo on a directional sign to be increased from 1 square-foot to 35 square feet; Section 150.1006 allowing for the maximum height of a directional sign to be increased from five feet to 8.5 feet; Sections 98.22/151.41(E)(2)/151.65(1) allowing for the waiver of installing sidewalks in the public right-of-way; Section 118.132 allowing for grasses and native plantings to exceed 8 inches in height in the undeveloped portions of the property; and 150.904 Special Use Review and Approval Procedures. The planned development is being requested in order to construct a distribution center. The subject property is legally described as:

Part of the Southeast quarter of Section 32, Township 44 North, Range 3 East of the third principal Meridian, Boone County, Illinois, bounded and described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest corner of the Southeast quarter of said section 32; thence North 00 degrees 15 minutes 56 seconds East along the West line of said Southeast quarter, a distance of 130.00 feet to the point of beginning of the hereinafter described tract of land; thence continuing North 00 degrees 15 minutes 56 seconds East along said West line, a distance of 1563.47 feet (1507.42 feet deeded) to a point on the Southerly right-of-way line of a railroad designated Union Pacific Railroad (formerly the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad); thence North 75 degrees 03 minutes 18 seconds East along said Southerly right-of-way line. A distance of 2066.96 feet (2074.86 feet deeded) to the East Line of the West-half of the East-half of said Southeast quarter; thence South 00 degrees 32 minutes 02 seconds West along said East line a distance of 1994.31 feet (1929.53 feet deeded); thence South 89 degrees 38 minutes 44 seconds West. Parallel with the Northerly right-of-way line of a public road designated U.S. Route 20, a distance of 84.06 feet; thence South 00 degrees 21 minutes 16 seconds East, perpendicular with the last described course, a distance of 90.00 feet to a point on the Northerly right-of-way line of U.S. Route 20; thence South 89 degrees 38 minutes 44 seconds West along said Northerly right-a-way line, a distance of 1902.25 feet (1901.7 feet deeded) to the point of beginning. All situated in the County of Boone and the State of Illinois. PIN: 05-32-400-007.

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

Carl Gnewuch, Chairman,
Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Jan. 25, 2024

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

BELVIDERE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the City of Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chamber, Belvidere City Hall, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 upon the following:

Application of Lit Thounsavath, 1217 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008 on behalf of the property owner, George Sabino, 15 Sunset Boulevard #1203, Beaufort, SC 29907 for a special use to permit indoor commercial entertainment. The special use includes a bar and video gaming at 1217 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008 (Belvidere Zoning Ordinance Sections 150.105(C)(5)(B)(2) Indoor Commercial Entertainment and 150.904 Special Use Review and Approval Procedures) in the GB, General Business District on less than 1 acre. The subject property is legally described as:

The Easterly 125 feet of Lot One (1) of Concordia Heights Subdivision, being a Subdivision of part of the Northeast Quarter (1/4) of Section 36, Township 44 North, Range 3 East of the Third Principal Meridian, as platted and recorded in the Recorder's Office of Boone County, Illinois in Book 4 of Plats on pages 24 and 25; situated in the County of Boone and State of Illinois. Tax I.D. No.: 05-36-230-009

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

Carl Gnewuch, Chairman,
Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Jan. 25, 2024

ASSUMED NAMES

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

No. DBA4182 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL PAINTING business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of WALKER PAINTING that its location is or will be 590 Beloit 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: 815-543-4731
Jamie Isaac, 590 Beloit Road, Belvidere, Illinois 61008

I, Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do the hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: December 11, 2023

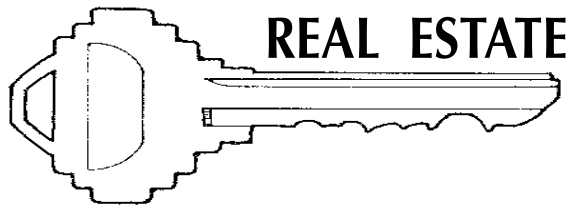
Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder
Published in Boone County Journal 1/25, 2/01, 2/08 - P

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

No. DBA4180 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a FARMING business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of ANGELIC ORGANICS that its location is or will be 1547 Rockton Road,

in Caledonia, 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: 815-519-7774
 John William Peterson, 1547 Rockton Road, Caledonia, Illinois 61011
 I, Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk And Recorder of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do the hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: January 10, 2024
 Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder
 Published in Boone County Journal 01/11, 01/18, 01/25 - P



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
 SUMMIT FUNDING, INC. Plaintiff,
 -v.- 2023 FC 45
 LILA DEANNA LAFFERTY 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 November 14, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on February 16, 2024, at the NLT Title L.L.C., 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 1131 CANDLEWICK DR NW, POPLAR GROVE, IL 61065
 Property Index No. 03-22-301-021
 The real estate is improved with a 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@ilcslegal.com
 Attorney File No. 14-23-02756
 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002
 Case Number: 2023 FC 45
 TJS# : 43-4273

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 45
 13236581
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* Jan 18, 25; Feb 1, 2024 PNN

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

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Plaintiff,
 -v.- 19 CH 113
 LAURA J. ANDERSON A/K/A LAURA J. BARRY A/K/A LAURA JEAN ANDERSON A/K/A LAURA JEAN BARRY A/K/A LAURA WIEDL, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND/OR LEGATEES OF ROBERT G. ANDERSON, DECEASED, TARA DOYLE, KYLE R. ANDERSON, KOLIN R. MAYBORNE A/K/A KOLIN R. ANDERSON, TIM MILLER, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR ROBERT G. ANDERSON, DECEASED, ONEMAIN FINANCIAL OF ILLINOIS, INC. F/K/A AMERICAN GENERAL FINANCIAL SERVICES OF ILLINOIS, INC., UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on February 22, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on January 26, 2024, at the NLT Title L.L.C., 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 412 WEST MADISON STREET, BELVIDERE, IL 61008
 Property Index No. 05-26-406-006
 The real estate is improved with a single family residence.
 The judgment amount was \$134,010.13.

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.

Where a sale of real estate is made to satisfy a lien prior to that of the United States, the United States shall have one year from the date of sale within which to redeem, except that with respect to a lien arising under the internal revenue laws the period shall be 120 days or the period allowable

for redemption under State law, whichever is longer, and in any case in which, under the provisions of section 505 of the Housing Act of 1950, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701k), and subsection (d) of section 3720 of title 38 of the United States Code, the right to redeem does not arise, there shall be no right of redemption.

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, contact The sales clerk, LOGS Legal Group LLP Plaintiff's Attorneys, 2121 WAUKEGAN RD., SUITE 301, Bannockburn, IL, 60015 (847) 291-1717 For information call between the hours of 1pm - 3pm.. Please refer to file number 19-091405.

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.

LOGS Legal Group LLP
 2121 WAUKEGAN RD., SUITE 301
 Bannockburn IL, 60015
 847-291-1717
 E-Mail: ILNotices@logs.com
 Attorney File No. 19-091405
 Case Number: 19 CH 113
 TJS# : 43-4591

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 # 19 CH 113
 6088-938434
 Published In *The Boone County Journal* 12/28, 1/4, 1/11

by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, along with major contributions from the Illinois Broadcasters Foundation and Southern Illinois Editorial Association.

Energy from page 5

Pritzker – are noticeably more consumer friendly and focused on protecting the climate than previous boards.

Unions, meanwhile, took issue with the commission's decision in the Peoples Gas case. Representatives of the statewide labor organization AFL-CIO and several local unions wrote letters to the board criticizing its decision to "pause" \$265 million in utility infrastructure spending.

Pritzker, on Monday, defended his appointments, saying their recent decisions have been "great for clean energy" and "good for consumers."

"I'm very pleased with the work they've been doing, and I look forward to them being confirmed by the state senate," Pritzker said.

Commissioners Stacey Paradis and Conrad Reddick await Senate confirmation sometime this spring. Scott's confirmation must come within 60 session days of his appointment, meaning his approval could be delayed past May.

Read more: State regulators once again flex muscle in rejecting utilities' grid plans, lessening rate hikes

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

State Police Report Fewer Deaths on Illinois Highways in 2023

Leaders credit stepped up enforcement for lower fatalities and shootings across the state

By Jennifer Fuller Capitol News Illinois

Fatal crashes on interstates and expressways in Illinois fell by 7 percent in 2023 compared to the previous year, and shootings were down more than 30 percent.

Illinois State Police report the declines came at the same time troopers were beefing up their enforcement on the state's transportation arteries. Arrests were up 3 percent, gun recoveries up 12 percent, and vehicle recoveries were up 7 percent.

"Over the past several years, we have really demanded more of ourselves, making the tough decisions, executing, and empowering the most effective law enforcement tool there is – the well-trained, professional, crime-fighting trooper," ISP Director Brendan Kelly said in a news release. "Challenges remain, but we are headed in a good direction."

ISP also confiscated more than 10,000 pounds of illegal drugs, and \$4.5 million in what they call "illicit criminal currency."

Technology also plays a large role in enforcement efforts, and ISP plans to install additional license plate readers – cameras which can identify license plates on vehicles that are wanted or suspected in crimes. Those automated readers can send alerts to law enforcement when a plate is recognized.

In 2023, ISP added 139 automated license plate readers to state roads, including 78 cameras in St. Clair County, four in Champaign County, four in Morgan County, and 53 cameras in Cook County. Those were added to an existing 289 cameras in the Chicago area. ISP plans to add cameras in Macon, Madison, Peoria, Bureau, Lake, and Winnebago counties in 2024.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government. It is distributed to hundreds of newspapers, radio and TV stations statewide. It is funded primarily

Lawmakers Introduce Bill to Create State Prescription Drug Price Oversight Board

Governor-appointed board would have authority to cap drug costs

By Alex Abbeduto Capitol News Illinois

A new bill in the Illinois General Assembly would create a board of health care experts that would have the authority to set price limits on prescription medications.

House Bill 4472 was introduced Wednesday by Rep. Nabeela Syed, D-Palatine, and Sen. David Koehler, D-Peoria.

Using a variety of information related to the medication's market, including the number of people taking the medication and its out-of-pocket cost, the board would assess its price. If the board finds it to be unreasonable, it could limit the amount wholesalers, pharmacies and hospitals can bill insurers and consumers for the drug.

The bill's sponsors said it was an effort to limit health care costs across the board.

Dr. Anthony Douglas, general surgery resident at University of Chicago, said he sees patients every day who struggle to afford their medication – some of whom cut their pills or skip doses to make their prescriptions last longer.

Staffing Agencies Not Exempted from Antitrust Law, State Supreme Court Rules

Attorney General sued agencies for allegedly colluding to hold down wages

By Hannah Meisel Capitol News Illinois

Staffing agencies – a fast-growing industry that employs nearly a million Illinoisans – are not exempt from the state’s antitrust law, the Illinois Supreme Court ruled late last week.

The decision comes 3 ½ years after Attorney General Kwame Raoul sued a trio of staffing agencies, alleging they used their mutual client to coordinate no-poach agreements, which created a secondary agreement to pay temp staffers less than the market rate.

Read more: State high court to hear case against staffing agencies accused of suppressing wages

In a unanimous 20-page opinion published Friday, the justices quoted a 1979 U.S. Supreme Court opinion that said some agreements “are so plainly anticompetitive that they are conclusively presumed illegal without further examination under the rule of reason generally applied in (antitrust law) cases.”

And the case before the Illinois Supreme Court, the justices said, was no different.

“The alleged agreement falls squarely within the realm of conduct so clearly anticompetitive that it violates antitrust laws without further examination under the rule of reason,” Justice P. Scott Neville wrote for his colleagues.

The three companies at issue – Elite Staffing Inc., based in Chicago, Midway Staffing Inc. and Metro Staffing Inc., both headquartered in Chicago suburbs – all had contracted with a construction company also located in the suburbs.

Elgin-based Colony Display LLC designs and builds display models and custom furniture for commercial properties like motels, grocery stores and restaurants. While the company operates in seven states, Colony manufactures, assembles and houses most of its furniture in three Illinois facilities.

The vast majority of Colony’s workforce is temporary. According to court records, at any given time the company “employs approximately 75 to 100 full-time employees,” compared with “between 200 to 1,000 temporary workers,” the original complaint alleged.

The staffing agencies’ contracts with Colony gave the company sole discretion over hiring, firing and assigning workers. And, the lawsuit alleged, the staffing agencies began to take advantage of that setup as early as 2018, communicating with each other via Colony.

“For example, many Midway employees wanted to switch to Elite because they were ‘not happy working for Midway’; they cited ‘pay issues’ and a lack of communication and support from their employer,” according to court records.

In response, Midway Staffing allegedly asked Colony for assistance in “squashing” the transfer of employees, resulting in Colony informing Elite Staffing that hiring other agencies’ employees was “bad practice” and wasn’t allowed. Elite Staffing then produced its own policy to Colony, which the company then forwarded on to Midway Staffing, thus enforcing the no-poaching policy, according to Raoul’s office.

In a settlement reached just before oral arguments on the related cases in November, Colony agreed to pay out \$1.2 million to compensate the temporary workers impacted by

the no-poach agreements.

But the staffing agencies went ahead with their appeal to the court, claiming their business models exclude them from the state’s Antitrust Act, basing their legal arguments on a 1980s update to a key definition in the law.

The law prohibits “restraint of trade” that decreases competition between “persons engaged in commerce and trade,” and then further defines commerce and trade as “all economic activity involving or relating to any commodity or service.”

The staffing agencies point to that 1980s-era update that defines service as anything that isn’t a commodity. The definition also stipulates that “service” doesn’t include “labor which is performed by natural persons as employees of others.”

While the justices acknowledged the language of the law was “ambiguous,” Neville wrote that they must look back in history to determine the purpose of the exclusion for “services.”

The court looked back at 1960s-era commentary from the Chicago Bar Association’s Committee on Antitrust Law, which had a hand in drafting the Illinois Antitrust Act, as well as an article by one of the law’s big proponents, Northwestern University law professor and leading antitrust expert James Rahl. Combing through the historical record, Neville wrote, the justices found the exemption was written solely for the benefit of labor unions.

“Like the bar committee, Rahl emphasizes the need to exempt legitimate union activity from the reach of the Illinois Antitrust Act and the correlative exemption for agreements between employers in the course of negotiations with unions,” Neville wrote. “No source concerning the purpose of antitrust laws suggests that the legislature meant to leave competing employers free to collude with each other to reduce the wages they pay to their employees or to collude to prevent workers from switching to better jobs.”

In a statement Friday, Raoul praised the justices’ decision.

“The Illinois Supreme Court has confirmed that Illinois’ Antitrust Act prohibits agreements among employers to restrict worker mobility and fix wages,” Raoul said. “I am pleased with this important result. My office will continue to enforce Illinois’ statutes to protect the rights of workers to seek better employment opportunities, wages and benefits, which allow them to support themselves and their families.”

Read more: Temporary staffing agencies seek to block new state labor law

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

Drugs

from page 7

“I cannot effectively care for patients if they cannot afford the therapies necessary to keep them well,” Douglas said at a Statehouse news conference to introduce the bill.

The five-person board would be appointed by the governor and work with a bipartisan 15-member council of legislators and relevant experts to address the price of medications.

The board would be tasked with assessing high-cost drugs, like ones used to treat cancer,

auto-immune disease, and diabetes, as well as other drugs that might impact the state health care system. The board members may receive compensation from a special fund created through an annual tax on prescription drug manufacturers.

The bill had not yet been assigned to committee Wednesday, although House Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch signed on as a cosponsor.

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

BOONE COUNTY LICENSE & TITLE

What WE Can Do For YOU!

Illinois License Plates & Stickers for

- Cars • Trucks • Motorcycles • Trailers • Boat Trailers • Notary Public • Map Books •



Ask us for details about our over the counter Plates and Sticker service.

- License & Title Services
- Plates, Stickers & Renewals (Get sticker same day)
- Flat Fee for Services
- No Long Lines
- Friendly Helpful Staff
- Fast Convenient Service



Open 6 Days a Week Monday thru Friday - 9 am to 5 pm Saturday - 9 am to 1 pm

(815) 544-2075

Located on State Street at the Journal 419 S. State Street Belvidere, IL 61008