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The Marquette Block

by David Larson

The Marquette Block, as shown in the photograph, was a prominent part of Belvidere's streetscape. It was lost despite opposition by local preservationists. The Marquette Block was a complex of commercial spaces on State Street's 300 block that wrapped around onto East Pleasant Street. Its anchor businesses were a hotel and the Hub Cigar Store.

Evidence of the Marquette Block's existence dates back to the later 19th Century, being owned by a Mr. Kennedy. Kennedy had an office in one of the spaces to sell real estate and insurance.

Sig Mayer took over the hotel in the Marquette Block under his name, and ran it successfully for a few years before he sold it. The first evidence of Mayer's business appears in the local newspaper in 1911. The largest portion of the building was the hotel on the second and third floors. Progressive at the time, each room was equipped with an escape rope in case of fire. Anchored near a window, the rope could be easily tossed out the window and a victim could easily lower themselves to the ground. At least in theory.

Once up and running as a successful business, Mayer sold his hotel to Jesse Geithman in 1914, and moved to Rockford. In Rockford, Mayer opened the Lafayette Hotel, which is still in operation today and recently remodeled. The Lafayette is on the corner of Mulberry and Church Streets in Downtown Rockford.

The Mayer Hotel was often used for a business of some kind, which would setup operation, particularly in the medical business, and operate from the hotel room. In 1912, the headquarters of the Illinois Grange setup headquarters in the hotel

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State Officials Say Goodbye to Former Thompson Center

Postmodern building sold in 2022 after causing state headaches over maintenance costs

By Andrew Adams Capitol News Illinois

State officials kicked off the private renovation of the building which once served as the state government's Chicago headquarters.

The James R. Thompson Center, as it was known under state ownership, was sold in 2022 to a development firm that is renovating the building for its to-be occupant, Google. In exchange for the building, the state received \$30 million and a \$75 million office building on LaSalle Street in Chicago.

The Silicon Valley-based tech giant intends to use the building for its Chicago offices after the \$280 million renovation project is complete, which is expected to take several years.

As of Monday, construction fencing had been erected, debris littered parts of the building's 17-story atrium and parts of the building's first-floor curtain wall were already gone.

"It already looks better than when we owned it," Gov. JB Pritzker quipped on Monday.

The Thompson Center, built in 1985, gained a reputation for being difficult to maintain. At the time of its sale, the governor's office said the state spent \$17 million annually on the building due to "operational inefficiencies" and that bringing it up to standard would have cost more than \$325 million.

The building, which housed offices for the secretary of state, governor, attorney general and other state agencies, was known for being an unusual

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Public Officials Seek Greater Oversight of Prescription Drug Middlemen

Two state departments say they are open to further regulating industry

By Dilpreet Raju Capitol News Illinois

As state lawmakers hold hearings targeting the role of pharmacy benefit managers – an influential arm in how the health insurance industry prices prescription drugs – multiple state agencies are considering how to better regulate the industry.

Often referred to as pharmaceutical "middlemen," PBMs act as third-party intermediaries who negotiate the availability and price insurance companies or pharmacies pay for prescription drugs from pharmaceutical manufacturers. In determining the drugs covered by a given employer insurance plan, the companies can ultimately dictate what drugs are available to patients and pharmacies alike.

PBMs have received growing scrutiny on both a state and national level for the effect many claim they have on driving up drug prices. Local pharmacy owners testified at recent committee hearings that they are being squeezed by PBMs through the price of acquiring drugs wholesale and dispensing them, often at no profit or even at a loss. Over 40 percent of local pharmacies in Illinois – about 300 locations – have closed since 2013, according to the National Community Pharmacists Association.

"On almost every brand name medication that you fill, you lose money," Michelle Dyer, pharmacist and owner of Michelle's Pharmacy

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Newspapers Have Been Published in Illinois Over 210 Years

By Tom Emery

Newspapers have been published in Illinois for over 210 years, dating to a small paper in the territorial capital of Kaskaskia in 1814. In the two centuries since, the newspapers of the state have carved a rich and storied history.

“Newspapers offer a window into the past,” said Dr. Samuel Wheeler, a research historian from Springfield. “If you want to really understand what life might have been like in a specific place during a specific period of time, you might start by simply reading their local newspaper.”

Journalism in Illinois pre-dated statehood by four years. The first newspaper in Illinois was the Illinois Herald at the territorial capital of Kaskaskia, which published its first edition, a three-column foldover, on Sept. 6, 1814. The owner was Matthew Duncan, a friend of the territorial governor and the older brother of the fifth governor of the state, Joseph Duncan.

The Herald, a weekly publication, was supported by federal and territorial patronage, as it was paid handsomely for printing national laws and proclamations. Still, it found space for local advertisements, items such as notices on stray animals, foreign affairs, and even poetry and prose.

The Herald quickly became a key outlet for political views and was owned by a succession of prominent Illinois leaders. In the spring of 1816,

the paper was purchased by Daniel Pope Cook, the namesake of Cook County, and the name was changed to the Western Intelligencer.

Then, the paper was used to promote Illinois statehood, which was achieved in 1818, the same year that the publication was renamed the Illinois Intelligencer. Two years later, the paper moved with the state capital to Vandalia.

In 1823, the Intelligencer was bought by sitting Governor Edward Coles, who used the publication to champion his efforts to prevent a pro-slavery state constitutional convention. Coles became a frequent contributor to his paper, which proved successful. In voting that August, Illinois voters rejected slavery, a hallmark moment in the history of the state.

By then, the state had four newspapers. The second was the Emigrant, which began operations in Shawneetown on Sept. 5, 1818. The printer of that publication had arrived with his printing press on the Ohio River, sailing downstream from Pennsylvania, when he became stuck on a sandbar. Local residents talked him into staying in Shawneetown.

Like the Intelligencer, much space in the Emigrant was consumed with the printing of national laws and politics, ads for local goods and services also filled its pages. The name was changed to the Illinois Gazette the following year.

Like other early papers, the Gazette often lacked for supplies. No editions were printed for two months in the summer of 1819 when a vessel carrying a shipment of paper was halted by low water. Two years later, production stopped for three months when another load of paper was mistakenly delivered to St. Louis.

Also on the scene was the Edwardsville Spectator, the third paper of the state, which issued its first edition on May 23, 1819. The Spectator was founded by Hooper Warren, who later left to establish newspapers in various other towns.

Warren’s enemies in Edwardsville induced another paper to land in town. In September 1822, another printer from Pennsylvania was coming through town with a press, looking for a location to open business. Some of Warren’s critics encouraged the printer to stay in Edwardsville, and a new competitor, the Star of the West, was born.

The Star was sold in April 1823 and became the Illinois Republican, which folded the next year.

In Kaskaskia, a paper with a similar name, the Republican Advocate, was started in January 1823 and became a fervent supporter of the proposed slavery convention.

Slavery remained a hot-button issue in Illinois newspapers for decades. On Nov. 7, 1837, abolitionist publisher Elijah Lovejoy suffered five mortal gunshot wounds while defending his printing press from a pro-slavery mob in Alton.

Until the mid-1820s, there were no newspapers north of Vandalia. That

changed in early 1827 when Warren established the Springfield Spectator with remnants of his Edwardsville publication. The following year, the Miner’s Journal opened for business in the lead mining town of Galena.

Chicago finally joined the fold in 1833 with the creation of the Democrat. Two years later, the rival Whigs began the American, which became the first daily paper in Illinois on Nov. 26, 1839. The Democrat followed suit the next year, when forty-three newspapers were operating in the state.

That number had exploded to 300 by the outbreak of the Civil War. At least thirty-three of them were on the scene in Chicago, including the Tribune, which opened for business in 1848. Over the decades, the Tribune would become the dominant newspaper of the state, known for its Republican leanings that spawned a political machine.

Subsequent publishers of the Tribune, Joseph Medill and Robert McCormick, and their families were some of the most influential political forces in the state.

Not surprisingly, Abraham Lincoln was a devoted reader of newspapers. A perk of his appointment as postmaster of New Salem in 1833 was a free newspaper subscription. He later subscribed to countless newspapers, which he frequently read aloud in his Springfield law office.


Lincoln was also in the newspaper business for a time. In that era, many newspapers were subsidized by political parties, who in turn encouraged subscriptions by their supporters. In 1857, Lincoln provided a \$500 subsidy to the Missouri Democrat, a leading St. Louis paper that was actually a Republican outlet, for circulation in southern and central Illinois. Two years later, Lincoln bought the press and type to establish a German-language Republican paper. German-language papers were prevalent across the state, owing to the large contingent of Germans, the most numerous immigrant group of Illinois. Papers in as many as eight languages were found across Illinois during the era.

A half-century later, African-American presses reflected the views and needs of Illinois blacks. By the 1920s and 1930s, the Chicago Defender became the leading voice of blacks in the state and beyond.

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OBITUARIES

- Amanti, Dominick, 89, Belvidere, May 2
- Gary Schultz, 90, Belvidere, May 11
- Lawrence “Larry” Spaete, 84, Belvidere, May 11
- Joyce Wolf, 67, Belvidere, May 7



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Richelle Kingsbury Aug. 1955 - June 2013

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


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Newspapers

from page 2

Like the state as a whole, the newspapers of Illinois were divided through the Civil War. Those in opposition sometimes paid the price. Federal soldiers damaged the office of the Bloomington Times, a critic of the Lincoln administration, and hurled the type of the Chester Picket-Guard into the street in July 1864.

In June 1863, the Chicago Times was ordered by military authorities to be “suppressed” for “loyal and incendiary statements” until President Lincoln revoked the order three days later.

Papers of the era had overt political agendas and rarely refrained from personal attacks on their opponents. The vitriol that spewed from their pages would induce lawsuits in today’s world.

In Chester, the Picket-Guard “hoped to deliver the state, already disgraced by such a dishonest, radical, lecherous, blasphemous, and drunken, dirty, beastly thing as (Illinois Gov.) Dick Oglesby, from that low, vulgar, dirty and hypocritical (John A.) Logan. Maggots would sicken on him.”

Though shrill and largely inaccurate, the Picket-Guard was hardly the exception to the rule. Most papers engaged in similar mocking of their opponents’ virtue, intelligence, and even manhood.

“If you want entertaining reading, go back and look through the pages of newspapers from those times,” said Taylor Pensoneau, a former statehouse reporter for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch who has extensively studied Illinois history. “All sorts of vicious and derogatory remarks are said about political opponents, things that would never pass muster today.”

Still, many papers were owned by some of the leading names of the state, who often used them to promote their political causes. The family of the mother of Adlai Stevenson, who served as Illinois governor from 1949-53, owned the Bloomington Pantagraph. The inventor of barbed wire, Joseph Glidden, ran the DeKalb Chronicle.

In 1856, John M. Palmer, a future Illinois governor and U.S. Senator, furnished the money to found the Free Democrat in his hometown of Carlinville to espouse his political views. In 1879, he bought the Illinois State Register in Springfield for the same purpose.

The Chicago Fire of Oct. 8, 1871 wiped out most of that city’s papers, but only temporarily. Each of the major dailies were back in business

within forty-eight hours.

That dedication to the press was reflected statewide, and the number of newspapers in Illinois doubled between 1870 and 1880, to a total of 1,017. Every one of the state’s 102 counties boasted at least one newspaper. Many of the small-town papers were family-owned.

In 1890, there were 1,241 newspapers in Illinois, a number that jumped to 1,700 in 1906. While the competition was fierce in Chicago, even rural readers had plenty to choose from.

In Carlinville, a town of 3,500 residents, readers in 1902 could select from the Macoupin County Enquirer, which published both daily and weekly editions, as well as Palmer’s old Democrat and the upstart Macoupin County Argus.

“The market was extremely competitive, even in the smaller towns,” remarked Pensoneau. “There were some fistfights between editors, and all sorts of violent outbursts, name-calling, and the like. In some cases, paper boys even beat up rivals from other papers. It was kind of a free-for-all atmosphere.”

Newsprint in most publications was often tiny and the columns cramped. Still, readers of most papers were treated not only to local news and gossip, but also national political news and literary submissions.

In the days before radio, television, and the Internet, newspapers were usually the only news source in town. It was not unusual for readers of even the smallest publications to see news from China in their pages.

The Tribune was at the forefront of worldwide news in the state, though it frequently butted heads with crosstown competition. Angered at its stances against labor, Prohibition, and the draft, a grandson of retail magnate Marshall Field founded a liberal publication, the Sun, on Dec. 4, 1941 – three days before Pearl Harbor. In 1948, it merged with the Chicago Times to become the Sun-Times.

Other competitors statewide also merged in time. In Springfield, the Journal and Register, which had butted heads since the days before Lincoln was elected President, began publishing a joint Sunday paper in 1961, and completely merged operations in 1974.

In the Quad Cities, the Moline Dispatch and Rock Island Argus began to share operations in 1986. In many cases today, multiple papers are owned by conglomerates.

Most major cities in Illinois eventually found themselves with only one newspaper. By 1989, the number of newspapers in Illinois had dipped to 745. With the onset of the Internet and economic downturns, that number dropped to around 450 in 2018, a dip of over one-third since 2005.

A study released in early 2024 found that four of Illinois’ 102 counties have no newspaper at all, while 33 others had only a single paper.

Still, newspapers remain part of the daily routine for millions of Illinoisans, who depend on them for accurate, timely news reporting, a means of education, and a fulfilling leisure activity.

“The rewarding feeling each day of turning the pages of real newspapers is something

the digital age can never replace,” said Pensoneau, “at least not for me.”

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Thompson

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and, at times, uncomfortable place to work due to its open design and difficult temperature regulation.

“I can guarantee you there is no one more excited about today than me,” Raven DeVaughn, head of the state’s Department of Central Management Services, said Monday. “Because I know now that when I have a property management issue at CMS, it is not the HVAC system at the Thompson Center.”

The renovation design is being handled by Jahn, the architecture firm founded by the building’s original architect, Helmut Jahn, and now led by his son Evan Jahn. Renderings released by Google in December show that it will retain its atrium, although its ground-floor colonnade will be redesigned.

The building will also be LEED Platinum certified, according to Karen Sauder, Google’s Chicago site lead.

Over its 39-year history, the building has gained fans despite its operational problems and polarizing design. The postmodern building featured uncommon colors meant to evoke the red, white and blue of the U.S. flag, new-age materials, and a design that radically reinterpreted traditional elements of other civic buildings.

Paul Gapp, Pulitzer Prize-winning architecture critic for the Chicago Tribune, called it “the most cerebral, the most abstract, yet easily the most spectacular building ever constructed in the Loop” when it opened in 1985.

Architectural historian Elizabeth Blasius co-founded Preservation Futures, a Chicago-based preservation firm, after her experience as part of the James R. Thompson Center Historical Society. Blasius was part of the team behind a 2020 push to place the building on the National Register of Historic Places.

“You have this really nice encapsulation of an era of architecture, when governments were sort of building really grand public buildings,” Blasius said. “James R. Thompson, who championed the design of the Thompson Center, was a Republican administration that wasn’t really afraid to spend money on a building that was really supposed to say something very clear about state government’s presence in Chicago.”

Blasius noted that while her efforts to grant the building legal protections through either a national or local historic designation were unsuccessful, she views the current project as a “win for preservation,” citing the early looks at the renovation plans and the fact that building demolition is often harmful for the environment.

Still, she will be watching what the building’s developers and Google do with what was once public space, such as the building’s plaza, food court and other public amenities.

While Sauder reaffirmed Monday that passengers will continue to have access to the train station that runs through the building once Google moves in, much of the public’s use of the building remains uncertain under private ownership.

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History

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when an annual meeting was held in Belvidere.

The prominent, ground floor, corner space on South State Street in the photograph was a retail store for tobacco, candy, soda, magazines, and newspapers. At a time when a newspaper was the only resource for news, big-city newspapers were brought in by train every morning and sold by a Mr. Daniels, the proprietor. Today his grandson Jim has continued the family business as a distributor of newspapers, including the *Journal*. The Hub Cigar Store was operated by William "Chow" Lambert until it closed near the end of the 20th Century.

In 1904, the A.T. Ames millinery shop located in one of the retail spaces on East Pleasant Street. In 1905, James Kane sold paint and wallpaper supplies in the Marquette Block at 118 East Pleasant Street. Over the years, several other locally-owned business, including a sign painting shop, a taxi office, a shoe shine parlor, saloons, and a cafe operated businesses in the Pleasant Street side of the Marquette Block. The Hub Cigar Store was centrally located between the Elgin & Belvidere Interurban Terminal on West Pleasant Street and the Chicago and North Western Railway depot, seen far in the background of this photo. In 1911, the train and interurban were state-of-the-art transportation, and no doubt The Hub Cigar Store did a brisk business in coffee and tobacco from the patrons of the rail services.

The building just north of The Hub Cigar Store on South State Street was the Majestic Cafe, operated by G.S.Black, which can be seen in the photograph. The Kitchen was in the rear of the building with a private dining room behind the kitchen. Years later it became Walters Shoes.

Connected at the rear of The Hub Cigar Store was a barbershop, which in 1907 was known as the McManus Barbershop. One could read newspapers or magazines from the Hub, engage in conversation, tell a joke, or just listen while waiting for a chair to open. For a young man waiting for his turn, the opportunity to eavesdrop on the conversations of the older men was a small part of growing up in the community. The spittoon in the corner and cigar smoke in the air made the experience an official part of manhood as the razor strap was worked to sharpen the blade for a shave in progress.

The Great Depression took the wind out of the small town of Belvidere, Illinois. By the 1930s, hotels in Belvidere had all but gone out of business. The town had been booming with creative growth since it began in 1835. In its first 100 years, Belvidere created itself and, very little, except on the margins, has been added to the city center since then. Much has been lost.

At some point, the Marquette Block was condemned for use as a hotel. Near the end of the 20th Century, the Marquette Block was demolished. Life in Belvidere moved on without the ornament of this building. Today it is a small park with a clock and a statue.

The barbershop business moved to the other side of the railroad tracks when the Marquette Block was demolished. The barbershop was

operated by Jim Emanuel until his retirement under the name of The Hub Barbershop.

The hotel market has not yet returned to this day, despite every effort having been made to find an investor for a hotel at the former Leath/National Sewing Machine building on Meadow Street. Belvidere's vision, selling the massive multistory building to be converted into a 5-star hotel, has blown to the wind. It was an ambitious project, and it captured the imagination of Belvidere for two decades, until the building imploded from lack of maintenance.

Pharmacy

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in Macoupin County, told the House Health Care Availability and Access Committee this week.

It was one of multiple recent hearings on the companies, and it followed last week's review of a scathing audit of the state's oversight of the industry. In part, the audit from 2023 found state regulators had scant documentation required for effective oversight of PBMs.

Joe Butcher, of the auditor general's office, told lawmakers on the Legislative Audit Commission that the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services failed to collect documents relevant to state Medicaid spending, which it is responsible for overseeing. Without necessary documents, Butcher said, the state cannot adequately exercise oversight authority.

"HFS was not engaging in monitoring practices of PBMs as mandated by the Illinois Public Aid Code, which establishes several provisions for monitoring PBMs," he said.

HFS Director Elizabeth Whitehorn, who was appointed in January, said she was not sure how HFS failed to obtain documentation from entities under its watch.

"I don't want to speak for what the department did or did not do before I was here," she said. "I don't know if the department ever asked for the contracts and they were not provided, or if the department simply didn't ask for them."

Whitehorn told lawmakers the department will soon file a new rule to help the department supervise PBMs, in part by requiring PBMs to divulge more information about their potential conflicts of interest. That will kick off a rulemaking process through which the department plans to submit the rule by June to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.

Corporate consolidation

Many PBMs, part of an industry that launched in the 1960s as prescription drugs became a consistent part of health plans, started as independent companies but were purchased by drug manufacturers in the 1990s.

Three publicly traded PBMs – CVS Caremark, Express Scripts and Optum RX – control about 80 percent of the U.S. PBM market, and the top six companies have over 95 percent, according to the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The state's newly appointed insurance director, meanwhile, indicated her willingness to help regulate the industry, citing the consolidation

consolidation has exacerbated the situation, turning the existence of independent pharmacies from just a competitive market issue into a health care access issue," Gillespie said at the House committee hearing Tuesday.

Gillespie also said the Department of Insurance is willing to "design and implement additional regulatory tools" with the General Assembly.

"PBMs have continually sought to evade scrutiny and accountability," she said. "As legislators and regulators across the country have sought greater transparency, PBMs have also challenged state regulatory authority in the courts, creating additional barriers to stall regulatory efforts."

Attendees at recent committee hearings referenced House Bill 4548, which aims to change Illinois' insurance law so state government can better regulate PBMs. Proposed changes include having PBMs disclose the net cost of drugs covered by a health benefit plan, and restricting PBMs from ushering patients toward using pharmacies owned by associated companies.

Last year's audit recommended consistent monitoring of PBMs, including requiring an annual report, which is outlined in HB 4548. The bill also outlines measures requiring PBMs to pay pharmacies a dispensing fee and reimburse them at a rate equal to the national average drug acquisition cost dictated by Medicaid.

The bill remains in a procedural committee in the House, making it unlikely to pass by the General Assembly's end-of-May adjournment.

The Federal Trade Commission is also in the midst of an ongoing antitrust probe of six of the largest PBMs, five of which are owned by insurance companies themselves. Last year, the FTC withdrew prior statements of support for PBMs. And at a White House event in March, FTC chair Lina Khan said companies are not cooperating with the probe.

CVS Health, which has the largest share of the market, disputed the claim, according to news reports; but Rep. Natalie Manley, a Joliet Democrat who chairs the Illinois House committee that's probing PBMs, criticized the lack of attendance by PBM executives at her committee's first hearing on the industry last month.

"If there were 10 people here from the PBMs, I would put them right here and give you some backup," Manley told a lobbyist from the Pharmaceutical Care Management Association, a national trade association representing a vast majority of PBMs.

"We need these questions answered, I'm not sure why they're not here," she added. "This was their opportunity to answer some of the accusations that are being lobbed at them."

Only one PBM lobbyist and the president of Vivid Clear RX, a PBM subsidiary of Hy-

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of ownership as detrimental to patients. Ann Gillespie, a former CVS Caremark employee, was elevated to insurance director from the Illinois Senate by Gov. JB Pritzker last month.

"Corporate



1996

real journalism for a real democracy

Pharmacy

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Vee supermarkets, joined last month's House committee hearing. One employee from the Blue Cross Blue Shield-owned PBM Prime Therapeutics also eventually testified.

The number of PBMs represented increased at this week's hearing as another Prime Therapeutics representative and general counsel from Express Scripts joined a trade association lobbyist.

Jennifer Halsey, professor and director of ambulatory pharmacy services at the University of Illinois Chicago, said at last month's hearing insurance companies are making billions while people in need are unsure if they can afford their prescriptions.

"We continue to see that insurance companies and PBMs make billions of dollars in profit alone every single year, and those profits increase year after year," Halsey said. "I understand they have shareholders, but how do we make sure that patients have access to care? If we don't get to the point where the pharmacies are being reimbursed at a reasonable rate, there will no longer be pharmacies for patients to go to."

Manley said she expects "many more months" of hearings regarding PBMs.

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Thousands of Youths At Risk of Losing Access to After-School Programs

Advocates seek \$50M to keep programs operating

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

Advocates for community-based after-school programs say as many as 40,000 youths statewide could lose access to tutoring services, recreation and other extracurricular activities this summer unless Illinois lawmakers approve an infusion of funds to keep them going.

"The time is now for legislators to act to save after-school (programs)," Susan Stanton, executive director of Afterschool for Children and Teens, or ACT Now, said at a Statehouse rally Tuesday. "We literally only have weeks left before programs have to shut their doors. Staff will be laid off and families will be in crisis."

ACT Now is a coalition of groups such as local YMCA chapters, Boys & Girls Club, and other community-based organizations that provide academic enrichment activities and other services during non-school hours for children and teens, particularly those attending high-minority, low-performing schools.

The programs that are at risk receive federal funding through the U.S. Department of Education's Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers program.

That money flows through the Illinois State Board of Education, which awards competitive grants to local programs. Those grants are made in three-year or five-year cycles. At the end

of that cycle, the grants can either be renewed or the organization can reapply through a new competitive grant process.

The problem facing many programs whose grant cycles are expiring is that in 2023, ISBE miscalculated how much money was available and made commitments to award more grants than the state could fund. As a result, many programs whose grant cycles are expiring cannot get them renewed because there is not enough funding available. Advocates are seeking \$50 million in state funding to make up for the anticipated shortfall.

Stanton said programs serving about 6,000 students were forced to close at the end of the previous fiscal year, and without an injection of state funds, another 40,000 students will lose access to services after June 30 this year.

State Sen. Ram Villivalam, D-Chicago, has proposed legislation that would commit \$50 million a year in state funds for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

"It's not enough for us to say we support quality, safe and vibrant learning environments for our youth. We have to provide funding for that to happen," Villivalam said. "I believe ... that investing in childhood education is an investment in our future communities, and not something we should take lightly."

Gov. JB Pritzker's budget proposal calls for about \$234 million for after-school programs, most of which would come from federal money. But Stanton said that is a different program that sends funds for after-school programs directly to school districts, not to the community-based organizations that receive 21st Century Community Learning Center funding.

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.

Lawsuit Alleges Sexual Abuse Was Rampant In State-Run Juvenile Detention Centers

95 former detainees sue over abuse they allegedly experienced from 1996 to 2017

By Hannah Meisel Capitol News Illinois

Rampant sexual abuse occurred unchecked for decades at Illinois' juvenile detention centers, a new lawsuit filed on behalf of 95 former detainees alleges, citing hundreds of incidents over more than two decades.

The plaintiffs were boys between 12 and 17 years old when the alleged abuse occurred and are now adults. The alleged perpetrators were both men and women working in the facilities.

Though the allegations outlined in the suit, filed in the Illinois Court of Claims on Monday, only run through 2017, the filing claims that "sexual abuse of children at Illinois' juvenile detention facilities continues to this day."

A spokesperson for IDJJ said the agency is "unable to comment on active litigation" but "takes seriously the safety of youth in the care of the Department."

"All allegations of staff misconduct are immediately and thoroughly investigated in partnership with the Department of Corrections, the Illinois State Police and the Department of Children and Family Services," IDJJ spokesperson Dominique Newman said in a statement.

She added that all staff within the facilities undergo background checks and training, and that the agency has enacted policies and protocols to "identify any possible instances of abuse or misconduct."

The New York City-based personal injury firm behind the case has also filed similar suits recently in New York, New Jersey and Maryland, alleging sexual abuse of children in detention facilities.

Monday's lawsuit cites a 2013 report by the U.S. Department of Justice surveying detainees about sexual assault in juvenile detention centers nationwide. That report found that Illinois had the fourth-highest percentage of detainees within IDJJ – 13.7 percent – reporting one or more incidents of staff sexual misconduct the previous year.

The complaint pointed out that figure was roughly 35 percent higher than the national average.

Continued on page 8

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LEGAL NOTICES

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

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
In The Interest of: WILLOW DELGADO, minor
No. 24-JA-1
Stephon Harris (Father), All whom it may concern
ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Take notice that on APRIL 16th, 2024, a petition was filed under the JUVENILE COURT ACT by Atty. Tricia Smith, State's Attorney, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, in the Circuit Court of Boone County entitled "In the Interest of Willow Delgado, minor; and that in the County Courthouse in Belvidere, Illinois, at 1:30/2:30 P.M. central daylight time on 06/06/2024 & 07/18/2024; or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared to be a ward of the Court under that Act. THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS PROCEEDING TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS, AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH THE POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD. Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.

Dated: April 30, 2024
Pamela Coduto, CIRCUIT CLERK
Published in The Boone County Journal: 5/9, 5/16, 5/23/2024 - C

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

JOSEFA CALDERON, Plaintiff
-VS- CASE # 2024-DN-5
ERIKA ROSA ORGANDO, Defendant
NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Notice is given to you, ERIKA R. ORGANDO, Defendant that this cause has been commenced against you in this Court asking for DIVORCE and other relief.
Unless you file your response or otherwise file your appearance in this cause in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Boone County, Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, Illinois, 61008 on or before the 17th day of JULY, 2024 a Judgment or other relief as prayed for by the Plaintiff may be granted.

Dated: 5/1/2024
Pamela Coduto
Clerk of the Circuit Court
17th Judicial Court
Boone County, Illinois
Published in The Boone County Journal 5/9, 5/16, 5/23 (P)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the operating purposes of Boone County Fire Protection District No. 2 in the County of Boone, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2024 and ending April 30, 2025 will be on file and available for public viewing during business hours (8:00 AM - 5 PM) at the station at 1777 Henry Luckow Lane, Belvidere, IL.

Notice is further hereby given that a public hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be held at 6:00 p.m. Monday June 19th, 2024 at Boone County Fire Protection District at 1777 Henry Luckow Lane, Belvidere, IL. and that final hearing and action will be taken at that time.

Dated this 8th day of May, 2024
Brian Kunce, Fire Chief
Published in the Boone County Journal May 16, May 23, May 30 of 2024

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

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,
-v.- 2023 FC 74
PAMELA J. BOHLMAN 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 January 16, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on June 11, 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 FIVE (5) IN FREDERICK W. CROSBY'S THIRD ADDITION TO BELVIDERE, AS PLATTED AND RECORDED IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS. SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 318 KISHWAUKEE ST, BELVIDERE, IL 61008
Property Index No. 05-26-406-018

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. 14-23-05937
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002
Case Number: 2023 FC 74

TJSC#: 44-111
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 74
I3243959
Published in The Boone County Journal 5/16, 5/23, 5/30

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-2

TENTATIVE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF THE BOONE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #2 BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING MAY 1, 2024, AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2025

On May 6th, 2024, at a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Boone County Fire Protection District # 2, Boone County, Illinois, the said Trustees adopted as a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance of the Boone County Fire Protection District #2 for the General Fund for the period May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025, the following:

GENERAL FUND

ANTICIPATED REVENUES AND RECEIPTS

Estimated Cash Balance on hand as of April 30, 2024	
Checking Account & Capitol Reserve	\$1,017,413.29
Anticipated Revenues and Receipts:	
Property Taxes to be received in FY 2024-2025	\$ 1,147,900.00
Illinois Replacement Tax	\$ 45,000.00
Interest Income	\$ 5,000.00
Non Resident Billing	\$ 65,000.00
Illinois Municipal League	\$ 25,000.00
Grants	\$ 2,530.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 0.00
Total Anticipated Revenues and Receipts	\$1,290,430.00
Total Cash Balance May 1, 2024 and Anticipated Revenues & Receipts	\$2,307,843.29
Less Anticipated Expenditures May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025	\$1,260,250.00
Anticipated Cash Balance April 30, 2025	\$1,047,593.29

GENERAL FUND BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION

The following amounts shall be tentatively budgeted and appropriated for the General Fund purposes of the Boone County Fire District #2 for the Fiscal Year May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025.

	BUDGETED	APPROPRIATED
--	----------	--------------

A. Administration:		
1. Insurance	\$ 96,000.00	\$ 144,000.00
2. Office Operations	\$ 48,850.00	\$ 73,275.00
3. Professional Fees	\$ 11,200.00	\$ 16,800.00
4. Training	\$ 32,500.00	\$ 48,750.00
5. Trustee Compensation	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
6. Utilities	\$ 15,650.00	\$ 23,475.00
7. Labor	\$537,500.00	\$ 806,250.00
8. Miscellaneous/Contingency	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 12,750.00
9. Unemployment Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION:	\$752,200.00	\$ 1,128,300.00

B. Equipment

1. Repairs, Maintenance	\$ 29,000.00	\$ 43,500.00
2. Firefighters' Equipment	\$ 62,600.00	\$ 93,900.00
3. Other New Equipment Purchases	\$ 84,200.00	\$ 126,300.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	\$ 175,800.00	\$ 263,700.00

C. Station Expenses

1. Building and Grounds	\$ 151,250.00	\$ 226,875.00
TOTAL STATION EXPENSES	\$ 151,250.00	\$ 226,875.00

D. Apparatus Expense

1. Operation (Gas and Oil)	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
2. Vehicle Maintenance	\$ 91,000.00	\$ 296,500.00
TOTAL APPARATUS EXPENSES	\$121,000.00	\$ 341,500.00

E. Capital Reserve

1. Apparatus Replacement	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 90,000.00
2. Apparatus Upgrades	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
3. Fire Station	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
TOTAL CAPITAL RESERVE EXPENSE	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 90,000.00

RECAPITULATION

Total Administrative and Operating Expense	\$ 752,200.00	\$ 1,128,300.00
Total Equipment Expense	\$ 175,800.00	\$ 263,700.00
Total Station (Building) Expense	\$ 151,250.00	\$ 226,875.00
Total Fire Apparatus Expense	\$ 121,000.00	\$ 341,500.00
Capital Reserve Apparatus, Building		
	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 90,000.00
TOTAL TENTATIVE BUDGET	\$ 1,260,250.00	\$ 1,840,375.00
TOTAL TENTATIVE APPROPRIATION-GENERAL FUND	\$ 2,050,375.00	

Published in *The Boone County Journal* May 16, 23, 30, 2024

Notice of Public Hearing Belvidere Community Unit School District No. 100

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the School board of School District Number 100, in the County of Boone, DeKalb, and McHenry, State of Illinois, that tentative amended budget for said School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at 1201 5th Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois in this School District from and after 8 o'clock am., on the 16th day of May, 2024.

Notice is further hereby given that a public hearing on said budget will be held at 6 o'clock pm., on the 17th day of June 2024, at 1201 5th Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois in this School District Number 100. Dated this 16th day of May, 2024. School board of School District Number 100, in the County of Boone, DeKalb, and McHenry, State of Illinois.

By: Jorge Herrero, Board Clerk
Published in *The Boone County Journal* May 16, 2024

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Boone County Board will receive proposals marked BCG-2024-05 for the purpose of retaining an Owner's Representative for multiple County construction projects.

RFQ (Request for Qualifications) documents will be available on or after May 10, 2024. Those interested may visit the Boone County Website at www.boonecountyil.gov for more information. Copies of the RFQ Documents will be available for viewing in the Boone County Clerk's Office located at 1212 Logan Avenue, Suite 103, Belvidere, IL 61008. Proposals will be accepted at the Boone County Clerk's Office until Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 11:00 A.M. Proposals will be opened immediately after the deadline 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 proposals.
Published in *The Boone County Journal* May 16, 2024

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-2

TENTATIVE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF THE BOONE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #2 BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING MAY 1, 2024, AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2025

On May 6th, 2024, at a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Boone County Fire Protection District # 2, Boone County, Illinois, the said Trustees adopted as a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance of the Boone County Fire Protection District #2 for the Ambulance Fund for the period May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025, the following:

AMBULANCE FUND

ANTICIPATED REVENUES AND RECEIPTS

Estimated Cash Balance on hand as of April 30, 2024	
Checking Account & Capitol Reserve	\$ 0.00
Anticipated Revenues and Receipts:	
Property Taxes to be received in FY 2024-2025	\$ 1,900,000.00
Illinois Replacement Tax	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 10,000.00
Non Resident Billing	\$ 300,000.00
Illinois Municipal League	\$ 0.00
Grants	\$ 0.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 0.00
Total Anticipated Revenues and Receipts	\$2,210,000.00
Total Cash Balance May 1, 2024 and Anticipated Revenues & Receipts	\$2,210,000.00

Less Anticipated Expenditures May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025
\$2,203,150.00
Anticipated Cash Balance April 30, 2025 \$ 6,850.00

AMBULANCE FUND BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION

The following amounts shall be tentatively budgeted and appropriated for the General Fund purposes of the Boone County Fire District #2 for the Fiscal Year May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025.

	BUDGETED	APPROPRIATED
--	----------	--------------

A. Administration:		
1. Insurance	\$ 96,000.00	\$ 144,000.00
2. Office Operations	\$ 44,800.00	\$ 67,200.00
3. Professional Fees	\$ 11,200.00	\$ 16,800.00
4. Training	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 22,500.00
5. Trustee Compensation	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
6. Utilities	\$ 15,650.00	\$ 23,475.00
7. Labor	\$ 1,827,500.00	\$ 2,741,250.00
8. Miscellaneous/Contingency	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 12,750.00
9. Unemployment Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION:	\$ 2,020,650.00	\$ 3,030,975.00

B. Equipment

1. Repairs, Maintenance	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
2. Firefighters' Equipment	\$ 33,600.00	\$ 50,400.00
3. Other New Equipment Purchases	\$100,000.00	\$ 150,000.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	\$ 141,600.00	\$ 212,400.00

C. Station Expenses

1. Building and Grounds	\$ 25,400.00	\$ 38,100.00
TOTAL STATION EXPENSES	\$ 25,400.00	\$ 38,100.00

D. Apparatus Expense

1. Operation (Gas and Oil)	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 22,500.00
2. Vehicle Maintenance	\$ 500.00	\$ 750.00
TOTAL APPARATUS EXPENSE	\$15,500.00	\$ 23,250.00

E. Capital Reserve

1. Apparatus Replacement	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
2. Apparatus Upgrades	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
3. Fire Station	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
TOTAL CAPITAL RESERVE EXPENSE	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

RECAPITULATION

Total Administrative and Operating Expense	\$ 2,020,650.00	\$ 3,030,975.00
Total Equipment Expense	\$ 141,600.00	\$ 212,400.00
Total Station (Building) Expense	\$ 25,400.00	\$ 38,100.00
Total Fire Apparatus Expense	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 23,250.00
Capital Reserve Apparatus, Building	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
TOTAL TENTATIVE BUDGET	\$ 2,203,375.00	
TOTAL TENTATIVE APPROPRIATION-GENERAL FUND	\$ 3,304,725.00	

Mark Huntington, Treasurer
Board of Trustees BCFD # 2
Published in *The Boone County Journal* May 16, 23, 30, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE BOONE COUNTY FARMLAND REVIEW COMMITTEE ANNUAL MEETING FOR 2024

The Boone County Farmland Review Committee will meet for the annual meeting and public hearing according to the ILLINOIS PROPERTY TAX CODE on Wednesday May 29, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. in the Boone County Supervisor of Assessments Room at 1208 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008. A public hearing will be held at 9:15 A.M.

The committee annually meets to receive public input on the implementation of the farmland assessments and to certify the values per productivity index from the Illinois Department of Revenue for the assessment year. The Values are developed by the Farmland Assessment Technical Advisory Committee appointed by the Director of the Illinois Department of Revenue. The values are the same throughout the State of Illinois per soil type.

The assessed value of farmland is based on the net income to the land according to land use and soil type. The values are based on a five-year average.

The committee is responsible for certifying the values from the Illinois Department of Revenue for the 2025 assessment year.

This is a public hearing. Questions and comments are welcomed. For more information, please contact the Boone County Assessment Office at 815-544-2958.

Published in *The Boone County Journal* May 16, 2024

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

NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING
Plaintiff,
-v.- 23 FC 85

KEVIN M RIVERA, SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, CANDLEWICK LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC.
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 21, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on June 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:

LOT FORTY-EIGHT (48) AS DESIGNATED UPON THE PLAT OF CANDLEWICK LAKE, UNIT NO. 2, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PORTIONS OF SECTIONS 26 AND 27, TOWNSHIP 45 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, THE PLAT OF WHICH SUBDIVISION IS RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NO. 71-2919 IN THE RECORDER OF DEEDS OFFICE IN BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 105 LIVERPOOL DRIVE SOUTHEAST, POPLAR GROVE, IL 61065
Property Index No. 03-26-351-003

The real estate is improved with a single family residence with a two car

garage.
 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.

MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200, Chicago, IL, 60602. Tel No. (312) 346-9088.

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.

MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC

One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200

Chicago IL, 60602

312-346-9088

E-Mail: pleadings@mccalla.com

Attorney File No. 23-16765IL_997769

Case Number: 23 FC 85

TJSC#: 44-398

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 # 23 FC 85

I3244205

Published in *The Boone County Journal* May 16, 23, 30, 2024

Public Hearing

Spring Township will be holding a public hearing to consider and approve the 2024-2025 fiscal year budgets for both the Township and the Road District. The public hearing will be at 7:00 p.m. on June 10th, 2024. The meeting will be held at the Spring Township Town Hall located at 3150 Shattuck Rd. Budgets can be viewed anytime before the meeting by emailing rkufalk@springtownship.com. A regular board meeting will follow the public hearing.

Published in *The Boone County Journal* May 16, 2024

PRESS RELEASE

BOONE COUNTY 2024 BOARD OF REVIEW

The Boone County Board of Review will hold its opening session on Monday,

May 29, 2024 at 9:30 A.M. in the Boone County Supervisor of Assessment Conference Room at 1208 Logan Ave, Belvidere, IL 61008. The members will elect a chairman and vice chairman. The Rules of the Board will be approved and non-homestead exemptions will be reviewed. The board will also sign the Certificates of Error for 2023 tax bill corrections. They will discuss any business that comes before them.

If there are any questions, please contact the Boone County Assessment Office at 815-544-2958

Published in *The Boone County Journal* May 16, 2024

NOTICE

Belvidere Community Unit School District #100 is seeking bids for the 2024 Track and Tennis Court Improvements Project. This project includes repairing track and tennis courts at the two middle schools and two high schools.

All bids are due by 10:00 A.M., Monday, June 3, 2024. All bids must be submitted through SECURE BIDS. Link to CUSD 100 website with SECURE BIDS <https://colbissecurebids.com/agency/bcud100>.

Specifications may be obtained at the Administration Building, 1201 Fifth Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008, or by phoning 815/544-8616 or on the SECURE BIDS website.

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
 Jorge Herrera, Clerk
 Board of Education

Published in *The Boone County Journal* May 16, 2024

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF TOWNSHIP BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Township of Caledonia in the County of Boone, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2025 will be on file and available for public inspection, by appointment (815-222-9907), at 610 Constitution Dr., SW, Poplar Grove from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Notice is further given that a public hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be held at 7:30 PM, Thursday, June 13, 2024 at the Caledonia Township Building and the final hearing and action will be taken at that time.

Dates this 9th day of May, 2024

Valerie Alt, Supervisor

Theresa Balk, Town Clerk.

Published in *The Boone County Journal* 05/16/2024

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF ROAD DISTRICT BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a Tentative Budget and Appropriation ordinance for the Road purpose of the Township of Caledonia, in the County of Boone, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2025 will be on file and available for public inspection, by appointment (815-222-9907), at 610 Constitution Dr. SW, Poplar Grove from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Notice is further given that a public hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be held at 7:30 PM, Thursday, June 13, 2025 at the Caledonia Township Building and that final hearing and action will be taken at that time.

Dated this 9th day of May 2024

Valerie Alt, Supervisor

Theresa Balk, Town Clerk

Published in *The Boone County Journal* 05/16/24

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
 BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
 HOME STATE BANK, Plaintiff,
 vs. Case No.: 2023 FC 59

UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF) ERIC L. JOHNSON, DEBORAH JOHNSON, CYNTHIA SUTHERIN, NOT INDIVIDUALLY BUT IN HER CAPACITY AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE ESTATE OF ERIC L. JOHNSON, JAMES JOHNSON, LANCE JOHNSON, TIMOTHY TISCHENDORF, DANIEL TISCHENDORF, WENDY BORSZOWSKI, MATTHEW SORENSON, JENNIFER SHERFIELD, JACLYN CHEEVER AKA JACLYN SHERFIELD, HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, if any, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD LIEN CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure heretofore entered by said Court in the above entitled cause, Duane Wirth, Sheriff of Boone County, Illinois will on Wednesday, the 26th day of June, 2024, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., at the Main Entrance of the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Boone County, Illinois sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder for cash and all singular, the following described premises and real estate in said judgment mentioned, situated in the County and State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said judgment to wit:

LOT SIX (6) IN BLOCK TWENTY ONE (21) OF THE ORIGINAL TOWN OF CAPRON, BEING A PART OF THE NORTH HALF OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 45 NORTH, RANGE 4 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED ON JUNE 11, 1862 IN BOOK X OF DEEDS, PAGE 119, IN BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS. SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 335 WEST GROVE STREET, CAPRON, IL 61012 PIN: 04-11-107-005

Together with all buildings and improvements thereon, and the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging.

This property is commonly known as 335 WEST GROVE STREET, CAPRON, IL 61012, Boone County, Illinois, and is residential property. This property will not be open for inspection. 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.

Terms of Sale: This real estate is being sold in an "As Is Condition" for cash and the successful bidder is required to deposit 10% of the bid amount at the time of the sale with the Boone County Sheriff and the balance to be paid within twenty-four hours of the sale.

FRANKS, GERKIN, PONITZ & GREELEY, P.C.

Attorneys for Plaintiff

P. O. Box 5

Marengo, Illinois 60152

815-923-2107

Published in *The Boone County Journal* May 16, 23, 30, 2024

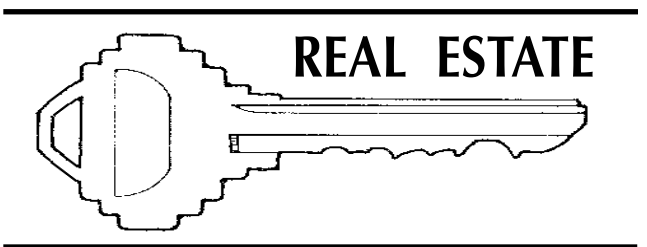
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON VACATION OF A REMNANT ALLEY SOUTH OF EAST LINCOLN AVENUE AND CONNECTING NORTH STATE STREET TO MUNICIPAL LOT 7

The City of Belvidere will conduct a Public Hearing on June 3, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Belvidere City Council Chambers, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Belvidere, Illinois, to discuss consideration of a vacation of a remnant alley lying south of East Lincoln Avenue and connecting North State Street to Municipal Lot 7.

The purpose of the public hearing will be to allow all interested persons to be heard concerning the proposal for vacation. Copies of the proposed ordinances vacating the remnant alley are available at the office of the City Clerk, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Belvidere, Illinois 61008

Dated: May 15, 2024 Sarah Turnipseed, City Clerk

Publication: The Boone County Journal – May 16, 2024



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

NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING Plaintiff,
 -v- 23 FC 85

KEVIN M RIVERA, SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, CANDLEWICK LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC. 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 21, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on June 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 105 LIVERPOOL DRIVE SOUTHEAST, POPLAR GROVE, IL 61065

Property Index No. 03-26-351-003
 The real estate is improved with a single family residence with a two car garage.

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.

MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200, Chicago, IL, 60602. Tel No. (312) 346-9088.

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.

MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC

One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200

Chicago IL, 60602

312-346-9088

E-Mail: pleadings@mccalla.com

Attorney File No. 23-16765IL_997769

Case Number: 23 FC 85

TJSC#: 44-398

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 # 23 FC 85

I3244205

Published in *The Boone County Journal* May 16, 23, 30, 2024

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
 BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
 U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,
 -v.- 2023 FC 74
 PAMELA J. BOHLMAN 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 January 16, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on June 11, 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 318 KISHWAUKEE ST, BELVIDERE, IL 61008
 Property Index No. 05-26-406-018

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. 14-23-05937

Attorney ARDC No. 00468002

Case Number: 2023 FC 74

TJSC#: 44-111

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 74

I3243959

Published in *The Boone County Journal* 5/16, 5/23, 5/30

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
 BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

HOME STATE BANK, Plaintiff,
 vs. Case No.: 2023 FC 59

UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF) ERIC L. JOHNSON, DEBORAH JOHNSON, CYNTHIA SUTHERIN, NOT INDIVIDUALLY BUT IN HER CAPACITY AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE ESTATE OF ERIC L. JOHNSON, JAMES JOHNSON, LANCE JOHNSON, TIMOTHY TISCHENDORF, DANIEL TISCHENDORF, WENDY BORSZOWSKI, MATTHEW SORENSON, JENNIFER SHERFIELD, JACLYN CHEEVER AKA JACLYN SHERFIELD, HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, if any, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD LIEN CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure herein entered, the Sheriff of Boone County, Belvidere, Illinois, or his deputy, will on Wednesday, the 26th day of June, 2024, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., at the Main Entrance of the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Boone County, Illinois sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder the property commonly known as 335 WEST GROVE STREET, CAPRON, IL 61012, Boone County, Illinois.

The property is residential property. This property will not be open for inspection.

Terms of Sale: This real estate is being sold in an "As Is Condition" for cash and the successful bidder is required to deposit 10% of the bid amount at the time of the sale with the Boone County Sheriff and the balance to be paid within twenty-four hours of the sale.

Dave Ernest
 Sheriff of Boone County
 FRANKS, GERKIN, PONITZ & GREELEY, P.C.

Attorneys for Plaintiff

P. O. Box 5

Marengo, Illinois 60152

815-923-2107

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House GOP Advances 2 Human Trafficking Victim Protection Bills Others Remain in Limbo

Advocacy organization gives Illinois a failing grade in 2023 report

By Cole Longcor Capitol News Illinois

After Illinois received another failing grade from a national advocacy group, state House Republicans have introduced legislation aimed at further protecting victims and prosecuting perpetrators of human trafficking.

Shared Hope International, an advocacy organization that works to prevent sex trafficking, said in its 2023 Illinois report card that the state's grade improved from 48 to 54.5 out of 100 between 2021 and 2023, but that still marked an 'F' grade.

"Of the six metrics that they use to grade a state's efforts to protect victims of exploitation and support their recovery, Illinois only receives one passing grade of 'B' for prosecuting abusers," Rep. Jeff Keicher, R-Sycamore, said at a news conference. "That means we have a lot of work to do, particularly when it comes to helping victims get their lives back together after traumatic events occur."

Human trafficking, as defined in the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, is "the act of recruiting, harboring, moving, or obtaining a person by force, fraud or coercion, for the purpose of involuntary servitude, debt bondage or sexual exploitation."

Since Shared Hope revamped its state report card framework after 2019, Illinois has continuously received an "F" ranking. The 2023 report cites gaps in multiple policy categories, including juvenile justice system services, training and jurisdiction. The report also recommends improving other policies such as orders of protection.

Illinois' lowest scoring category was continuum of care, which includes funding and services for victims. Illinois received 4 out of 15 points, or 27 percent, for its care policies. Illinois does have laws in place to protect children and received 5 points of extra credit in 2023 for its inclusion of minors in its laws and definitions. One point of the 6.5-point increase from 2021 to 2023 was for extra credit regarding child labor trafficking.

"While we've made strides in certain areas, we're failing in crucial aspects, particularly in victim protections," Rep. Nicole La Ha, R-Homer Glen, said at a news conference. "The failing grade Illinois received highlights the urgency of this situation. We cannot continue to overlook the needs of trafficking victims."

Human trafficking remains a problem in Illinois, with some data suggesting it has increased in recent years. Data from the Human Trafficking Institute ranks Illinois the 5th highest state for sex trafficking, and 9th highest for labor trafficking.

The National Human Trafficking Hotline received an average of around 162 signals per year between its start in 2007 and changing its reporting method after 2014. Since that change, the hotline has received an average of approximately 842 signals from Illinois.

In total, signals from Illinois have resulted in the identification of 2,237 trafficking cases involving 4,817 victims. To report an incident to the hotline, call 1-888-373-7888.

Proposed legislation

House Republicans have proposed seven bills to improve human trafficking protections and penalties. The bills focus on protections for minors and prosecuting perpetrators.

"If we can start creating awareness that this happens at that young age, we could start to bring attention that trafficking of all ages happens right

here," La Ha said in a recent interview.

House Bill 5465 would allow a human trafficking victim to have their juvenile record from crimes committed while being trafficked as a minor sealed or expunged. The proposal is an extension of House Bill 2418, which granted similar provisions to people who were trafficked as adults. The law was signed by Gov. JB Pritzker last year following unanimous approval by lawmakers and took effect on Jan. 1, 2024. It also allows the victim to petition remotely, and to have the petition sealed.

"One of the first steps in helping someone heal after an immense trauma like sexual abuse is ensuring that their past doesn't follow them around and keep them from being someone new," Keicher, the House sponsor of both bills, said at a news conference in March.

HB 5465 unanimously passed the House on April 17 and unanimously passed out of the Senate Special Committee on Criminal Law and Public Safety on May 1. The bill now awaits Senate consideration.

Keicher was recently appointed to the state's Human Trafficking Task Force by House Minority Leader Tony McCombie, R-Savanna. This task force was created in 2021 and is made up of 26 members including legislators and agency officials. The task force was charged with conducting studies, developing procedures and training, and writing annual reports. But it has not made any recommendations or given any public updates despite an upcoming June 30 deadline to file its final report.

La Ha's House Bill 5467 unanimously passed the House on April 17. It would remove the statute of limitations for a victim to press charges of trafficking, involuntary servitude, and involuntary sexual servitude that occurred when the victim was a minor. Under current law the prosecution must start within 25 years of the victim turning 18.

La Ha said the bill allows victims to "come to terms with their trauma in their own time" by giving them a greater window to "bring their trafficker to justice."

La Ha and House Republicans have sponsored other related bills that remain in committee, some of them focusing on penalties for traffickers. Since two key deadlines for a bill's passage have already passed, the proposals seem unlikely to move forward this year.

House Bill 5134 would require those convicted of trafficking, involuntary servitude, and involuntary sexual servitude of a minor to register as a sex offender. House Bill 5466 would remove the ability for a defendant to use the claim that they believed a minor engaging in prostitution was of legal age as an affirmative defense.

When asked if the punitive nature of the bills was holding them back, La Ha agreed, saying, "100 percent."

Democrats in the General Assembly have historically opposed most bills that could be viewed as "sentence enhancements" for laws already on the books.

Three other bills that have stalled are sponsored by Rep. Jennifer Sanalidro, R-Hanover Park, and Rep. Brad Stephens, R-Rosemont.

House Bill 5468 would create an affirmative defense for victims of human trafficking who committed crimes as part of being trafficked. Sanalidro said the bill will "ensure the legal system offers them protection and an avenue to justice."

House Bill 5469 would create the Human Trafficking Order of Protection Act allowing victims of human trafficking, or a person on behalf of a juvenile victim, to file an order of protection against the perpetrator.

House Bill 5470 builds on recommendations from the Shared Hope International report card, clarifying that anyone who "patronizes" a minor sex trafficking victim would be liable for involuntary sexual servitude.

Lawsuit

from page 5

Sexual abuse was particularly egregious in the Joliet detention center, according to the DOJ report. That facility, which closed in 2013, consistently ranked among the facilities with the most sexual abuse, including by use of force. Many of the incidents alleged in the lawsuit took place in the Joliet facility, though abuse allegedly occurred in all nine of the centers that were open during the timeline outlined in the suit.

The most recent DOJ report on the same subject, published in 2023, did not break down sexual victimization incidents within juvenile detention centers by state or facility.

"The State of Illinois has allowed a culture of abuse at (Illinois Youth Centers) to flourish unabated," the complaint alleged, comparing earlier DOJ data to the 2013 report and concluding sexual victimization at three facilities had increased from 2009 to 2012.

The rate of sexual victimization by staff in the Kewanee facility more than doubled during that time period from 5.7 percent to 12 percent, according to the DOJ data. Monday's lawsuit noted that the Kewanee facility closed in 2016, and that its "chronic understaffing...was particularly dangerous for the large portion of Kewanee's population suffering from acute mental illness."

Five IDJJ facilities remain open in Chicago, St. Charles, Warrenville, Harrisburg and Grafton. In 2020, Gov. JB Pritzker announced a plan to overhaul the agency, eventually planning to close the state's large juvenile detention centers. But so far, all five facilities remain open.

Read more: Pritzker administration unveils overhaul of juvenile justice system

According to paragraph 109 of the lawsuit, some of the 95 plaintiffs who've signed onto the complaint – mostly with pseudonyms – alleged "severe abuse by the same abuser," including a former supervisor at the facility in Harrisburg who also serves as mayor in a nearby town. Other frequent abusers, the lawsuit alleges, include a chaplain at the facility in St. Charles.

One plaintiff, identified only by the initials "K.J.," claims he was abused by "dozens" of correctional officers and sergeants at five different facilities he lived in between 2000 and 2004.

K.J. was 13 when he first experienced sexual abuse at the facilities, which the lawsuit alleges continued until he was 17. The abuse ranged from strip searches where he was allegedly fondled, penetrated with a finger and forced to give and receive oral sex at the St. Charles facility, to an instance of gang rape at the Joliet facility.

At the Kewanee facility, the suit alleges, K.J. "was strip searched daily without suspicion, which provided a false guise under which K.J. abusers then sexually abused him and his cellmate."

"This sex abuse happened under the threat of physical beatings," according to the filing.

Another former IDJJ detainee, referred to in the suit as "A.B.," was 14 when he was allegedly abused at the St. Charles facility between 1998 and 1999. According to the lawsuit, A.B. had two abusers who forced him to administer oral sex and receive anal penetration.

Both were correctional officers who allegedly punished A.B. for protesting his sexual abuse by revoking yard time and phone privileges – or otherwise forced him to stay in his cell if he refused to comply.

When he did comply, the suit alleges A.B. was rewarded with extra recreation time.

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.