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War Clouds On the Horizon

Union Hall Was Where Science and the Humanities Enriched Boone County and Morality Prevailed

By David Larson

The Union Hall was located on the site currently occupied by the Apollo Theatre. It stood majestically in Belvidere on the river at North State Street from the 1850s until 1897, when it burnt to the ground. It was subsequently rebuilt as the Derthick Opera House, which met a similar fate in 1917.

The building was a grand structure for a pioneering settlement, as we see in the photograph, built less than 20 years after the first settlers arrived. The Union Hall was a place of dance, music, theater, and intellectual life. Its management produced an annual lecture series, which brought in speakers who would discuss science and the humanities. The series was by subscription.

The newspaper in Belvidere in the 1850s was the weekly, published by Ralph Roberts. Much of what we know about the 1850s comes from The Belvidere Standard, a weekly newspaper of the day that published until the turn of the century. To ascertain the thinking of people in 1850s Belvidere, as war clouds were developing, we can read advertisements, announcements, and articles in The Belvidere Standard.

When the Confederacy bombarded Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, in Charleston, South Carolina, Belvidere was far removed.

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Union Hall photograph dated 1867

Trump's Illinois Ballot Challenge to Move Forward

Cook County judge declines to stay case pending U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Colorado case

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

A Cook County judge ruled Wednesday that a case seeking to bar former President Donald Trump from the March 19 Republican primary ballot in Illinois will move forward independently of a similar case pending before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Following a brief hearing conducted by videoconference, Judge Tracie Porter denied a motion by the Trump campaign to delay the proceedings until after the Supreme Court rules in a similar case from Colorado. She said she would hear oral arguments in the Illinois case on Friday, Feb. 16.

At the same time, she also denied a motion by the Illinois voters objecting to Trump's candidacy to put the case on an even speedier track.

The U.S. Supreme Court is scheduled to hear

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State Supreme Court Denies State Lawmaker's Bid To Vacate Gun Ban Ruling

GOP state Rep. Dan Caulkins has been denied multiple times by state, federal high courts

By Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

The Illinois Supreme Court has again denied a request from a Republican lawmaker seeking to repeal the state's assault weapons ban.

Gov. JB Pritzker signed the ban on the sale, possession and manufacture of a long list of firearms, high-capacity magazines and certain accessories in January 2023. State Rep. Dan Caulkins, R-Decatur, quickly challenged it on state constitutional grounds along with local gun owners and a gun shop owner.

Read more: What to know about Illinois' assault weapons ban

In August, the state Supreme Court ruled

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Day in Court Postponed For Former Lawmaker Who Checked into Hospital on Eve of Corruption Trial

Sam McCann, charged with misusing campaign funds, set for trial next week

By Hannah Meisel Capitol News Illinois

On what was supposed to be the third morning of a weeklong corruption trial of former State Sen. Sam McCann, the onetime third-party candidate for governor instead videoconferenced into U.S. District Judge Colleen Lawless' courtroom from his hospital bed.

McCann, who checked himself into Missouri Baptist Hospital in St. Louis after feeling unwell over the weekend, told the judge he didn't know what medications he was on and didn't want to say anything while drugged that might mislead her.

"I do not know that I can put a coherent thought together," McCann said, eyes half-closed on the

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Guenter William Wohlfarth

Guenter William Wohlfarth died peacefully at Symphony Maple Crest on Saturday, February 3, 2024 in Belvidere, Illinois at the age of 88.

Guenter was born on November 10, 1935, in Butzbach, Germany to Karl and Herta (Welzin) Wohlfarth. Guenter came to the United States

when he was 14 years old and was a graduate of Lane Tech High School and Northern Illinois University. He also served in the U.S. Army, Old Guard (D - Dog Company) and walked in President Eisenhower's second inaugural parade in 1957.

Guenter was a teacher for 31 years at North Boone High School where he taught German, History, Government and Chess. He was a member of the Harvard Trinity Lutheran Church, Capron Lions Club, Belvidere Sister Cities and the Harvard Moose Lodge. He also taught confirmation at Capron Lutheran Church for many years.

He was a proud resident of Capron, Illinois. He married Linda (Saue) on March 4, 2006 at the Capron Lutheran Church.

Guenter was very outgoing and loved exploring and going on adventures. He played soccer, chess and loved to sit in our prairie with a beer and cigar. His family and students were his two biggest passions following his love of God.

Guenter is survived by his wife Linda (Saue) Wohlfarth, son Eric Saue, daughters Susi (Mike) Nelson, Laura (Todd) Graham, Maria (Nick) Malm, grandchildren; Jack Hurley, Joey Hurley, Molly Hurley and Issac Malm and three great-grandchildren.

Preceded in death are his parents Karl and Herta (Welzin) Wohlfarth, sister Traudie Wohlfarth and his first wife Joyce (Noriko) Wohlfarth.

He is loved and will be missed by many. "As for me and my house we serve the Lord".

There will be a private family graveside service.

Friends and family may sign the online guestbook at www.saundersmcfarlin.net

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skills prioritizing teacher support, collaboration skills promoting teamwork and professional growth, and organizational skills for efficient management. Diverse leadership has benefits, including increased teacher diversity and better outcomes for students of color.

We urge the Illinois State Board of Education to prioritize:

1. Funding the Aspire Fellowship program to support leadership candidates and recruit educators of color.

2. Supporting another cohort of the New Principal Recruitment grant for Arab, Indian, and Asian educators of color and under-resourced districts lacking staff with Principal Endorsements.

3. Restoring state funding for New Principal Mentoring.

4. Maintaining state funding for New Superintendent Mentoring.

5. Allocating district capacity-building grants to assist districts in implementing programs centered on the school leadership pipeline.

Illinois must make a significant commitment to establishing a statewide system for preparing and developing effective leaders, crucial for retaining high-quality teachers who can meet students' learning needs and drive organizational and instructional improvements.

Erika Hunt is director, lead hub; and Lisa Hood is research and evaluation director, lead hub, at Regional Office of Education #17 in Bloomington.

OBITUARIES

- Virginia Blomberg, 87, Belvidere, January 31
- Marjory Day, 88, Poplar Grove, January 31
- Barbara Forbish, 70, Harvard, January 29
- Jill Hubbard, 71, Belvidere, January 31
- Brandon Jensen, 37, Belvidere, February 4
- Doris Kessman, 92, Belvidere, January 27
- Amy Schuppner, 54, Belvidere, January 31
- Eugene West, 90, Belvidere, January 30
- Guenter Wohlfarth, 88, Belvidere, February 3

OP-ED

Worried About The Teacher Shortage? Invest In Your Leaders

By **ERIKA HUNT** and **LISA HOOD**
Regional Office of Education #17

The "State of Our Educator Pipeline 2023" report by Advance Illinois underscores the challenges in Illinois' education system and the urgent need to address the teacher shortage comprehensively. While recruiting more teachers is important, addressing teacher attrition, responsible for 90% of the demand, requires a deeper examination of root causes and strategies to retain high-quality educators.

Teachers often leave due to poor working conditions and inadequate support from school leaders. Competent school leaders can create a positive work environment, vital for addressing the teacher shortage. Investing in capable school leaders is vital to addressing the teacher shortage and establishing the necessary conditions for retaining high-quality educators, while effective district leaders play a key role in empowering principals.

Extensive research pinpoints four critical skills of effective school leaders: interpersonal skills fostering a positive school climate, instructional

Trump

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oral arguments in the Colorado case Thursday, Feb. 8.

Both cases are based on claims that Trump's actions surrounding the Jan. 6, 2021, attack at the U.S. Capitol amounted to an insurrection, and thus he should be disqualified from holding public office under Section 3 of the 14th Amendment.

The case in Cook County Circuit Court is an appeal of a Jan. 30 decision of the Illinois State Board of Elections, which denied an objection to Trump's candidacy on the grounds that the board is not authorized to decide cases involving complex constitutional issues.

The board also ruled the objectors failed to show that Trump knowingly lied on his statement of candidacy when he said he was qualified to hold the office of president.

The case is being organized by the national voting rights group Free Speech for People. The named objectors are Steven Anderson, of Lindenhurst; Darryl Baker, of Colfax; Ralph Cintron, of Chicago; Jack Hickman, of Fairview Heights; and Charles Holley, of Chicago.

Caryn Lederer, an attorney for the objectors, argued in Wednesday's hearing that their case needs to move forward regardless of how the Supreme Court rules in the Colorado case because there are issues of Illinois law at stake that need to be resolved by Illinois courts.

Specifically, she argued that the State Board of Elections erred when it said it doesn't have the authority to decide cases based on constitutional arguments. She also said it would be "incredibly problematic" if candidates who do not meet the qualifications for office are allowed to remain on the ballot as long as they don't knowingly lie about their lack of qualifications.

But Adam Merrill, an attorney for the Trump campaign, argued that the U.S. Supreme Court

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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

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Each week, the Journal seeks to present a variety of voices.

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

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

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

Trump

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had put the Colorado case on a fast track and that its decision will likely be issued in late February or early March, well before Illinois' March 19 primary.

He also noted that the Illinois State Board of Elections is a bipartisan panel, made up of four Democrats and four Republicans, and that it voted unanimously to deny the objection to Trump's candidacy.

Lederer responded by saying it was important to resolve the case as quickly as possible to avoid confusing voters. She noted that Thursday, Feb. 8, is the day when local election authorities can begin sending out vote-by-mail ballots.

Matt Dietrich, a spokesman for the Board of Elections, said after the Jan. 30 hearing that Republican primary ballots that are sent to voters starting Feb. 8 will list Trump's name. But if he is ultimately removed from the ballot, any votes he receives will not be counted.

He also said that whenever a candidate is removed from the ballot after ballots have already been printed, local election authorities can either reprint the ballots or, if there is not enough time, simply inform voters at the polling place that the candidate has been removed.

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Congressman Foster

Press Releases

Foster Introduces Two Bills to Expand Access to Substance Use Disorder Treatment

Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL) introduced two pieces of legislation to help expand access to treatment for substance use disorders: the Examining Opioid Treatment Infrastructure Act and the bipartisan Medicaid Coverage for Addiction Recovery Expansion (CARE) Act.

The Examining Opioid Treatment Infrastructure Act would direct the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to evaluate and report on the capacity of outpatient and inpatient programs across the country, allowing additional recovery resources to be directed where they are needed most.

The Medicaid Coverage for Addiction Recovery Expansion (CARE) Act would reverse an outdated policy that prevents Medicaid from paying for residential substance abuse care, thereby expanding access to intensive inpatient treatment for Medicaid recipients.

"The opioid epidemic has devastated families and communities in Illinois and across the nation for far too long," said Foster. "Countless community groups,

municipalities, and law enforcement officials are working to combat the opioid epidemic at the local level, but we must do more to support them. That's why I'm reintroducing two bills to help expand access to vital substance use disorder treatment."

Foster Announces Vote Against Standalone Israel Supplemental

Today, Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL) released the following statement before voting against Speaker Johnson's standalone Israel supplemental, which includes no humanitarian assistance for Gaza and no military assistance for Ukraine:

"I'm prepared to vote in favor of a serious, bipartisan package – like the agreement reached between President Biden and the Senate – that would offer support to Israel as it defends itself from Hamas, provide resources to address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and support our allies in Ukraine. Unfortunately, passing a standalone bill that omits key assistance will undercut our moral standing throughout the world, embolden our adversaries from Russia to Iran, and ultimately endanger Israel's security.

"America's national security and commitment to allies like Israel and Ukraine should not be subject to partisan political games. I call on rational Republicans to reject this cynicism and reach across the aisle to find a bipartisan and comprehensive path forward that meets these historic challenges."

Foster Applauds \$160 Million Investment to Improve Water Quality, Boost American Innovation and Manufacturing

Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL) applauded the National Science Foundation (NSF) for awarding the Great Lakes Water Innovation Engine – an initiative made possible by the Chips and Science Act – with \$160 million to implement their Great Lakes ReNEW proposal.

ReNEW, which is supported by Argonne National Laboratory and over 50 partner organizations, uses emerging water technologies to remove chemicals, minerals, and critical materials from wastewater, allowing them to be repurposed by American manufacturers for the production of batteries and fertilizers – almost all of which are currently imported.

Foster said, "Last Congress, my colleagues on the House Science Committee and I helped make NSF Engines – including the Great Lakes Water Innovation Engine – a reality under the Chips and Science Act, and I'm proud to see that work delivering results for Illinois. This investment will improve our water quality, spur research and production of clean energy technologies, and create

good-paying manufacturing jobs.

"As a PhD physicist who spent over two decades working at one of our National Labs, I'm proud that Argonne has been, and will continue to be, such an involved partner in this coalition. The expertise of their scientists is helping to position Illinois as a national leader for technical and scientific innovation, and this project is a prime example."

The National Science Foundation's full announcement can be found here. More information on the Great Lakes Water Innovation Engine can be found here.

Foster represents Argonne National Laboratory as part of Illinois' 11th Congressional District.

Foster Introduces Legislation to Make Scientific Resources Available to Employees at Federal Agencies

Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL) introduced the Well-Informed, Scientific, & Efficient (WISE) Government Act to better equip federal agencies with the scientific literature necessary to make well-informed policy decisions. This legislation would require the Government Services Administration to work with the Library of Congress, agency libraries, and government information services to identify ways to make accessing scientific literature more efficient and to identify short and long-term solutions. The WISE Government Act is cosponsored by Congressman Mark Takano (D-CA), Congressman Mike Quigley (D-IL), and Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC).

"To be able to make well-informed policy decisions, it's essential that federal agencies are equipped with the most up-to-date information, especially scientific literature," said Congressman Foster. "It's unacceptable that employees at federal agencies have a harder time accessing scientific literature than employees at most large universities. This must change if we are serious about growing our economy, promoting innovation, and creating a better world for hardworking Americans. The WISE Government Act will help employees at agencies such as the Department of Defense, EPA, State Department, NASA and others access the latest scientific data in an efficient manner."

"Smart policymaking requires access to the best possible information available. That's why I'm proud to join Rep. Bill Foster to reintroduce the WISE Government Act. This bill will ensure federal agencies on the frontlines of some of our most challenging issues—from national security threats to climate change—have access to the scientific literature they need. This type of practical legislation should be a no-brainer to pass," said Congressman Takano.



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Union Hall

from page 1

What motivated pioneers in the settlement on the Kishwaukee River in Northern Illinois to send their cherished sons to possibly perish in a cause to preserve the Union when Belvidere was not yet, even incorporated. Boone County was on the frontier with a population of 11,678 by 1860 and the Village of Belvidere with 2,446. What was in it for them?

By July of 1862, Belvidere had sent hundreds of their sons to join others in Northern Illinois at Camp Fuller in Rockford. Boone and McHenry companies were formed as the Illinois 95th Regiment for the Union Army's Western Theater under General Ulysses S. Grant. They fought for the Union soldiers at Vicksburg, although many died along the way. The victory at Vicksburg allowed the Union Army to focus entirely on the Eastern Theater, and win the war.

In the mid-1850s speeches informed the audience on Free Soil politics. One prominent local individual who supported the movement was Judge Allen Fuller, a significant person in Boone County's history.

The Free Soil Party was short lived, 1848 to 1854. It merged with the newly forming Republican Party, as the Whig Party was crumbling in the late 1850s. The Free Soil Party was largely focused on the single issue of opposing the expansion of slavery in the western territories. The Free Soil Presidential candidate in 1848 was former President Martin Van Buren, who won 10.1 percent of the popular vote, the strongest popular vote performance by a third party up to that point in U.S. history.

The 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act repealed the long-standing Missouri Compromise and outraged many Northerners, contributing to the collapse of the Whigs and spurring the creation of a new, broad-based anti-slavery party known as the Republican Party. Most Free Soilers joined the Republican Party, which emerged as the dominant political party in the United States until the 1930s.

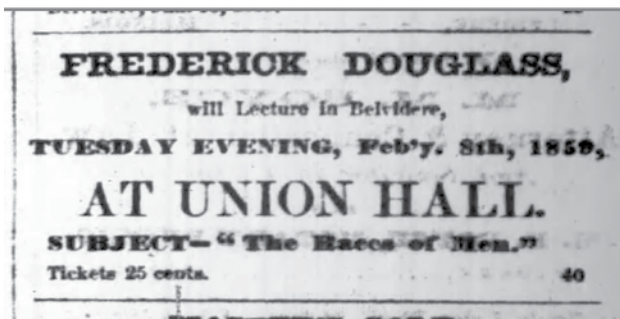
Free Soil politics were expanded upon in a lecture by Congressman Washburn from Rockford. According to *The Belvidere Standard*, "Mr. Washburn's discourse was enthusiastic, and the assemblage of souls alive to the cause of freedom.... Proud, as we well might be, of his firm stand in Congress on the slavery question, Mr. Washburn will be sent back again by an overwhelming majority over his pro-slavery competitor."

Washburn was a Whig who was regularly challenged by Belvidere Whig candidate Stephen Hurlbut, who failed several times to unseat him. Hurlbut did deliver a lecture in the series on the Constitution of the United States. Hurlbut was himself a southerner and interestingly from Charleston, South Carolina, where the war began, and he having fled Charleston where he was wanted on check forgery charges. The Union Hall was where news from the State and Federal Legislatures were presented in large, town hall meetings by the local representative.

While there is no way to travel back in time to the evening of February 8, 1859, it must have been a watershed moment in local sentiment. The lecture series speaker of that evening at the Union Hall was Frederick Douglass, former slave, abolitionist who networked internationally, author, publisher, and a politically-connected individual at the highest level of government.

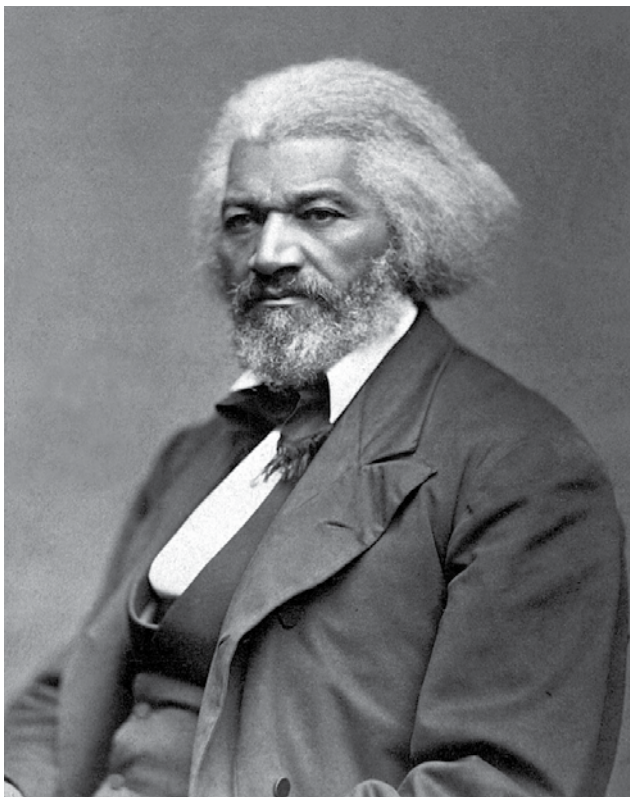
Born into slavery in a log cabin in 1817, weaned as an infant from his mother by her sale, a common practice in the Antebellum South's slave management system. A society which bought and sold humans like a farmer's market auctions

feeder pigs but with far more crudity, keeping order by violence. His birth was a product of his mother's owner raping her.



At age six he was sold and ended up in Baltimore as a servant where he taught himself to read by learning from street signs and advertisements. He escaped to freedom in the north barely a teenager and questionably literate.

Self-taught Douglass quickly became a popular speaker on the abolitionist stage and a best-selling author. During a tour through England, Ireland, and Scotland, the city of Edinburgh gave Douglass the equivalent of \$50,000 in today's dollars from which he started a newspaper called *North Star*. The *North Star's* motto was "Right is of no Sex – Truth is of no Color – God is the Father of us all, and we are all brethren."



Frederrick Douglas

North Star joined the freedmen community's vigorous opposition to the mostly White American Colonization Society and its proposal to send free Black people back to Africa. Douglass also participated in the Underground Railroad. He and his wife provided lodging and resources in their home to more than four hundred fugitive slaves.

On July 24, 1851, Douglass delivered a speech titled, "Is the United States Constitution For or Against Slavery?" He further expressed his developing views in an 1860 speech in Glasgow, Scotland, titled, "The Constitution of the United States: is it pro-slavery or anti-slavery?" In that

speech, he said, "When I escaped from slavery, and was introduced to the Garrisonians. (William Lloyd Garrison was a predominate publisher and abolitionist who viewed the Constitution as pro-slavery and therefore a document in need of serious revision), I adopted very many of their opinions.... I was young, had read but little, and naturally took some things on trust. Subsequent reading and experience," however, "brought me to other conclusions." He now believed that "dissolution of the American Union", which Garrison advocated, "would place the slave system more exclusively under the control of the slaveholding States...." In addition, "Mr. Garrison and his friends tell us that while in the Union we are responsible for slavery.... I deny that going out of the Union would free us from that responsibility.... The American people in the Northern States have helped to enslave the black people. Their duty will not be done till they give them back their plundered rights."

In 1848, Douglass was the only Black person to attend the Seneca Falls Convention, the first women's rights convention, in upstate New York. He said that he could not accept the right to vote as a black man if women could also not claim that right. He suggested that the world would be a better place if women were involved in the political sphere: "In this denial of the right to participate in government, not merely the degradation of woman and the perpetuation of a great injustice happens, but the maiming and repudiation of one-half of the moral and intellectual power of the government of the world."

Like many abolitionists, Douglass believed that education would be crucial for African Americans to improve their lives; he was an early advocate for school desegregation. In the 1850s, Douglass observed that New York's facilities and instruction for African American children were vastly inferior to those for European Americans. Douglass called for court action to open all schools to all children. He said that full inclusion within the educational system was a more pressing need for African Americans than political issues such as suffrage.

By the time of the Civil War, Douglass was one of the most famous black men in the country, known for his orations on the condition of the black race and on other issues such as women's

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Union Hall

from page 4

rights. His eloquence gathered crowds at every location. His reception by leaders in England and Ireland added to his stature.

Douglass and the abolitionists argued that because the aim of the Civil War was to end slavery, African Americans should be allowed to engage in the fight for their freedom. Douglass publicized this view in his newspaper and several speeches. After Lincoln had finally allowed Black soldiers to serve in the Union army, Douglass helped the recruitment efforts, publishing his famous broadside *Men of Color to Arms!* on March 21, 1863

When Republican Rutherford B. Hayes was elected president, he named Douglass United States Marshal for the District of Columbia, making him the first person of color to be so named.

President Harrison appointed Douglass as the United States's minister resident and consul-general to the Republic of Haiti and Chargé d'affaires for Santo Domingo in 1889, but Douglass resigned the commission in July 1891 when it became apparent that the American President was intent upon gaining permanent access to Haitian territory, regardless of that country's desires. In 1892, Haiti made Douglass a co-commissioner of its pavilion at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

In 1892, Douglass constructed rental housing for Blacks, now known as Douglass Place, in the Fells Point area of Baltimore. The complex still exists, and in 2003 was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Boone County developed a profound moral sense that slavery was wrong, and that it should end. Abolitionists here supported Lincoln when he made the call to duty to build an army to put down the insurrection that began at Fort Sumter.

In the early Twentieth Century, Boone County saw a growth of the Klu Klux Klan in Belvidere and Boone County. The few that engaged in that activity held parades and in doing so disrespected the legacy of the moral conscience of their grandparents' families who gave the ultimate sacrifice to free the African Americans from the bondage of slavery and preserve the Union. Today, we see the repugnant use of the Confederacy's Battle Flag by the January 6 rioters. The suppression of voting rights since the Civil War has persisted, and we have to ask ourselves why. With all of the advantages of modern life, it is disappointing to witness the arrogance of the few who choose to satisfy their egos with a false sense of pride at the expense of all free men and women.

Gun Ban

from page 1

against Caulkins in a 4-3 decision. Caulkins had argued that because certain individuals can still own banned weapons legally if they get a special endorsement on their firearm owners identification card while others cannot, the law constitutes "special legislation."

Democratic Justice Mary K. O'Brien joined the court's two Republicans in dissenting. She wrote that she believed the majority should have viewed it as special legislation because a law written more generally would have accomplished the same goal without treating different classes differently.

Last month, Caulkins appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. He argued that because O'Brien and Democratic Justice Elizabeth Rochford, who wrote the majority opinion, had received donations from campaign funds tied to the Democratic

leaders named as defendants in the case, he was not given a fair hearing. The court declined to hear his appeal.

On Jan. 22, Caulkins petitioned the Illinois Supreme Court to vacate its August judgment based on the same argument. The state Supreme Court denied that request Monday.

It does not mark the end of the legal challenges for the assault weapons ban.

While the federal 7th Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court both declined to block enforcement of the law temporarily, a gun rights group has said it will appeal to the full U.S. high court to challenge the law's legality on federal constitutional grounds.

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Trial

from page 1

Zoom screen.

"Well, Mr. McCann, you are coherently speaking to me right now," Lawless responded.

Read more: Indicted former lawmaker's corruption trial up in the air after hospitalization forces delay

But the judge ultimately postponed the trial until next week, opting to forgo more incremental status hearings like the five that had already taken place since McCann failed to show up for his trial on Monday morning.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy Bass voiced his concern that by delaying the trial further, it would "reward" McCann. The former lawmaker was already granted a 10-week postponement when he suddenly fired his court-appointed lawyers the morning his trial was scheduled to begin in late November, and announced he'd be representing himself.

"It's our belief...this entire situation is self-created by the defendant," Bass told Lawless. "He's continuing to lie to you. He knows exactly what medications he's on."

McCann tried to interject on the Zoom meeting broadcast into the courtroom.

"That's not true," he said.

Lawless said she understood Bass' position that a delay in the trial was the outcome McCann wanted but said she didn't believe it was "in the interest of justice" to force McCann to show up to trial beginning Thursday after having been in the hospital for several days.

Bass had subpoenaed the hospital for McCann's medical records and reiterated that most tests McCann underwent came back normal.

Bass was careful to not reveal any personal medical information in open court, though McCann told the judge on Tuesday that he was "hooked up to nitroglycerin and saline." All signs indicated McCann would be discharged on Wednesday, Bass said.

Although Bass had suggested McCann be confined to his home after leaving the hospital – citing his unemployed status – and asked Lawless to check that McCann had no more firearms in his possession, the judge declined.

"I'm not asking the defendant any further questions while he's in the hospital," she said, instead saying Bass could file a motion to request both of those things.

McCann spent eight years in the General Assembly, most of that time as a Republican. But in 2018 he left the GOP he believed wasn't conservative enough under then-Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner. He then established the "Conservative Party" in Illinois and ran for governor on a third-party platform backed by organized labor – one of Rauner's major foes.

Read more: Former GOP state Senator, Conservative Party candidate for governor indicted

Two years prior, McCann had gone toe-to-toe with Rauner in a battle over his Senate seat but won against the well-funded candidate the governor had backed against him.

During those election battles, McCann allegedly "engaged in a scheme to convert more than \$200,000 in contributions and donations made to his campaign committees to pay himself and make personal purchases," according to a news release from the U.S. Attorney's office at the time of his indictment.

McCann allegedly used some of that money to pay his mortgage and personal debts, buy personal vehicles, and even paid himself.

In addition to spending roughly \$60,000 on a truck and SUV, McCann also allegedly purchased two recreational vehicles with campaign funds.

McCann sought to use those RVs as part of a scheme to channel campaign funds to himself through an Ohio RV rental business, according to the feds.

McCann also allegedly spent \$50,000 in campaign funds on credit card payments related to a family vacation in Colorado and charges from Apple iTunes, Amazon, a skeet and trap club, Cabela's, Scheels, Best Buy, a gun store and cash withdrawals.

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State Education Board to Seek \$653M Increase in Upcoming Budget Year

Request includes \$35M for 'newcomers,' comes amid projected state budget deficit

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

The Illinois State Board of Education endorsed a budget request Wednesday that includes a \$653 million increase in funding for PreK-12 public schools.

It's a request that lawmakers may find hard to accommodate in a year when the state faces a projected \$891 million budget deficit.

PreK-12 education spending currently makes up about one-fifth of the state's entire General Revenue Fund budget. The proposed increase, if approved, would bring the state's total GRF spending on public education to just over \$11 billion.

"We were pleased to hear that the board, even in a tight budget year, continues to prioritize necessary investments for districts and students

continued on page 7

Public Hearing Notice

Meeting Date: February 27, 2024 at 11:00am
 Agenda Item: Grant application to the Illinois Department of Transportation
 Staff Contact: Erin Marshall, PCOM Grant Manager
 Boone County Government will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 27, 2023 at 11:00am at the Boone County Administration Campus located at 1212 Logan Ave., Belvidere, IL 61008.
 The purpose of the hearing is to consider the grant application to the Illinois Department of Transportation for Section 5311 and Downstate Operating Assistance Program (DOAP) public transportation funding. The public is invited to attend and comment.
 Rodney Riley
 Boone County Board Chair
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 8

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
 NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC Plaintiff,
 -v- 23 FC 54
 UNKNOWN HEIRS AND/OR LEGATEES OF FLOYD SINGLETON A/K/A FLOYD D. SINGLETON, DECEASED, ALYSSA SINGLETON, CANDLEWICK LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC., JOHN VINCENT LA BONTE, JR., TIM MILLER, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF FLOYD SINGLETON A/K/A FLOYD D. SINGLETON, DECEASED, 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 January 23, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on March 7, 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 219 THORNHILL DRIVE SW, POPLAR GROVE, IL 61065
 Property Index No. 03-27-155-018
 The real estate is improved with a condominium.
 The judgment amount was \$265,528.19.
 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.

Potential Bidders: For sale information, please visit www.realtyBid.com or call 877-518-5700.

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 23-099096.

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. 23-099096
 Case Number: 23 FC 54
 TJSC#: 44-217

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 54 6088-939540
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 8, 15, 22, 2024 CW

across the state," Gerson Ramirez, a lobbyist for the advocacy group Advance Illinois, said during the meeting.

The proposed budget includes a \$350 million increase in Evidence-Based Funding, the minimum increase required under a 2018 law that calls for gradually increasing the state's share of the cost of public education while focusing new money on the state's most poorly funded districts. That includes \$300 million for direct funding for the qualifying districts and \$50 million that is distributed in the form of property tax relief grants.

That law calls for continuing to increase funding each year until all districts are funded at 90 percent or more of their target "adequacy" level.

When the law first went into effect, nearly one in five school districts were being funded at or below 60 percent of their adequacy level. Today, no districts are being funded below the 60 percent level, but the state still has a long way to go before reaching the goal of having all districts at or above 90 percent of adequacy.

According to a report that accompanied the budget proposal, it would take another \$2.5 billion in EBF to reach that goal.

In addition to the increase in Evidence Based Funding, which districts use to enhance their general operating budgets, ISBE's request includes about \$300 million in new or increased funding for several specific categories of school expenses.

The largest of those is a proposed \$112 million increase, or nearly 26 percent, for a program that reimburses school districts for the cost of providing transportation to students with disabilities. That would be enough to cover about 84 percent of the total cost for that category of transportation funding, which is roughly the same percentage the state was paying before the COVID-19 pandemic.

The package also calls for a \$75 million increase in early childhood education funding to continue Gov. JB Pritzker's Smart Start Illinois initiative, a multi-year program that seeks to eliminate early childhood and preschool "deserts" for 3- and 4-year-old children by 2027.

That money would enable state-funded preschools to reach an additional 5,000 children next year. State officials estimate that total enrollment in those preschools will grow to nearly 114,000 in 2025, an increase of more than 17,000 since 2023.

ISBE's budget plan also calls for addressing the pressures some districts are facing due to the large number of international migrants arriving in Illinois.

Over the last two years, state officials estimate the number of "newcomers" in Illinois has grown nearly 85 percent, to about 36,200. Since August 2022, more than 34,000 migrants have been bused or flown to Illinois by order of Texas Gov. Greg Abbott after crossing that state's southern border.

Newcomers are defined as students age 3 through 21 who were born outside the United States and who have been attending one or more schools in the U.S. for less than three full academic years.

The proposal calls for \$35 million in new funding for a line item called "supporting newcomers." That money would be available for such expenses as hiring bilingual teachers, paraprofessionals and other staff; buying materials written in the students' native languages; providing additional before- and after-school programming; and providing other supports for children and families.

Continued on Page 8

ASSUMED NAMES

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

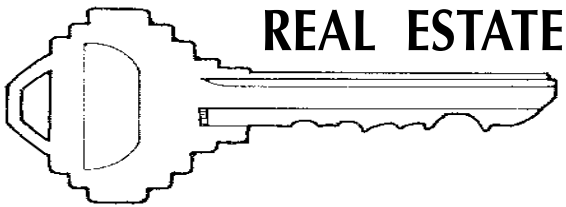
No. DBA4182 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL PAINTING business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of WALKER PAINTING that its location is or will be 590 Beloit Road, in Belvidere, in the County of Boone County, State of Illinois, and that 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. DBA4184 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a HOME DECOR business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of 5 STAR PRIMITIVES that its location is or will be 11188 Orth Road, in Garden Prairie, 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: 815-509-7479
 Crystal Ann Mueller, 11188 Orth Road, Garden Prairie, Illinois 61038
 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: February 5, 2024.
 Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder
 Published in Boone County Journal 02/08, 02/15, 02/22 - P



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF BOONE - BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS
U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS) TRUSTEE FOR BKPL-EG HOLDING TRUST; Plaintiff,
 vs.) 23 FC 52
MICHAEL SHERE; OAKBROOK WOODS CONDOMINIUM) HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND) NON RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants.)
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at the hour of 12:15 p.m., inside the front entrance of the, Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:
 Commonly known as 1680 Chrysler Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008.

The improvement on the property consists of a condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 of the Condominium Property Act

Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds.

The property will NOT be open for inspection.
 For information call Ms. Mary E. Spitz at Plaintiff's Attorney, Sottile & Barile, LLC, 7530 LUCERNE DRIVE, MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS, OHIO 44130, (440) 572-1511. ILF2304008
 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
intercountyjudicialsales.com
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Published in *The Boone County Journal* Feb 8, 15, 22, 2024 PNN

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Education

from page 7

Funding for ISBE is just one part of the state's overall annual budget, but it is one of the largest categories of state General Revenue Fund spending. It was unclear Wednesday whether Gov. JB Pritzker was endorsing the request.

The Governor's Office of Management and Budget issued a report in November projecting the state could face a budget deficit next year of \$891 million, assuming revenue trends remain stable and the state continues making all of its required payments into its rainy day fund and pension funds.

Pritzker is scheduled to deliver his budget proposal to the General Assembly on Wednesday, Feb. 21.

Meanwhile, Advance Illinois issued a statement Wednesday that noted school districts will face their own budget pressures next year when federal pandemic-related relief programs come to an end.

"ISBE's proposal serves as a solid road map for investments Illinois must undertake to meet the comprehensive needs of every child and student in the state generally, and in the ongoing aftermath of COVID disruptions," the organization said.

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.

Lawmakers Introduce Police Reform Measures, Advocates Look to End Tipped Wage

Proposals draw support from gun safety groups, worry from law enforcement advocates

By Andrew Adams & Alex Abbeduto
Capitol News Illinois

Families of gun violence victims are asking the state legislature to reform how police handle unsolved murder investigations through legislation introduced this week.

House Bill 4753, sponsored by Rep. Kam Buckner, D-Chicago, would establish a procedure for families to request a review of "open unresolved murders" or cold cases.

Buckner, whose uncle died in a yet-unsolved shooting, said the bill began as a "passion project" in 2019 that has gained new momentum since several advocacy groups have begun supporting it.

"Last year, we began to talk about what it would look like to beef up the legislation and to put a full press on the legislature to get it done," Buckner said Tuesday.

Another bill from Buckner, House Bill 4754, would require law enforcement agencies to publish monthly data on how many homicides occurred and how many homicides were "cleared" through an arrest or were otherwise closed.

"Hopefully, it allows us to create some accountability in that space so there can be some real consistency between the way law enforcement and communities deal with each other," Buckner said.

In Chicago, police announced last month that in 2023, the department reached a 51.7 percent

clearance rate, the highest since 2019. Clearance rates are an oft-maligned metric, as they reflect crimes which occurred in past years but were solved recently.

The bills, which were introduced Monday, are far from passing. They would need to go through legislative committees in the House and Senate before receiving a vote.

Gun control advocates, who have celebrated several legislative wins the past few years, are throwing their support behind these proposals.

"We won't stop until this bill becomes law," Valerie Burgest, a deputy state lead with Moms Demand Action and fellow with Everytown Survivor Network, said on Tuesday. "This bill has become our organization's number one legislative priority for this legislative session."

But some law enforcement advocates are wary of the proposals. Jim Kaitschuk, head of the Illinois Sheriff's Association, said his organization has opposed previous versions of Buckner's cold case bill.

"The intentions are good, but there are a lot of other cases," Kaitschuk said Tuesday.

The bills, Kaitschuk said, would strain sometimes under-resourced law enforcement agencies because they do not provide funding to implement them. He further warned that the bills might adversely impact smaller agencies.

Traffic stops

An unrelated bill, House Bill 4603, concerning police departments drew criticism over the past week. The legislation would have barred police from making minor traffic stops. This would have barred stops for failing to display registration, improper lane usage, tinted windows, defective mirrors or failing to wear a seat belt. It would have also barred officers from pulling over someone for speeding, unless the speeding violation was a felony or misdemeanor offense.

Police groups registered swift and public opposition to the proposal. Fraternal Order of Police State Lodge President Chris Southwood called the bill "anti-police" and said that it "takes the pro-criminal cake."

"We urge the members of the Illinois General Assembly to never let such a potential legal lunacy rear its unhinged head," Southwood said in a Monday news release.

State Rep. Justin Slaughter, D-Chicago, who introduced the bill, has since indicated it would not pass without a substantial amendment. He told the Arlington Heights Daily Herald the bill was "just a first iteration or draft" meant to start discussions.

Coalition once again pushes to eliminate state's tipped wage

An advocacy coalition is once again pushing for legislation requiring employers to pay their tipped employees a base wage at least equal to the minimum wage.

Under current Illinois law, employers can pay their employees as low as 60 percent of the minimum wage as long as the worker's tips make up the difference. In 2024, the statewide minimum wage is \$14 per hour and the tipped minimum wage is \$8.40.

In October 2023, Chicago City Council leaders passed the "One Fair Wage Ordinance" to increase tipped workers' salaries by 8 percent each year until it reaches Chicago's minimum wage of \$15.80. One Fair Wage wants to pass similar legislation statewide.

At a news conference outside the Illinois State Capitol Tuesday, One Fair Wage leader and restaurant worker Corrine Terrell said the Chicago ordinance is helping support her family.

"Well to be honest, I think since it passed in Chicago the workers are happier. We don't have to

work as hard to make as much money," she said. "We have more time with our families. It's easier to save now. At first, I was only able to afford bills and food, now I can afford other things for my family."

One Fair Wage leader Saru Jayaraman said legislative leaders could introduce the legislation by Friday.

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