

## Horse Racing Thrives In Belvidere Despite Challenges

By Charles Herbst

Last Tuesday, August 8, as the Boone County Fair got under way, horse racing returned to Belvidere.

Horse racing is one of the Boone County Fair's oldest traditions, dating back to the original fair. Racing in Belvidere predates the Kentucky Derby. Back in those days, owning horses was common, and fast, strong horses were a valuable asset. It was the principal mode of transportation, and the horse was a valuable beast of burden, essential in completing farm chores.

For several years, the *Journal* has been privileged to view the races from the judging stand and get an inside look. In addition to a great view, we've had a chance to meet, speak, and get to know the officials. Their knowledge of the sport has certainly broadened ours. We've enjoyed our chats with veteran announcer George Woodbridge, who took over several years ago after the passing of the legendary Buck Weaver.

It's given us a look at the personality of horseracing in Boone County. Horseracing here is a sport, with not only a tradition of fairness, but a concern for the welfare and safety of horses, their trainers, and their drivers. While the horseracing ranks as the largest of the fair premiums, in Belvidere the sport is not driven by money. It remains a pleasant spectacle for fairgoers of all ages. It's a thrill to see many Boone Countians come

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*Racing Announcer George Woodbridge*



*Ken Walker plays "Call to Post"*



*The Jeff Smith family with Mayor Morris at Saturday morning's dedication of Logan Ave. as Jeff Smith Memorial Ave. Jeff was the only Belvidere resident killed in Vietnam, March 7, 1968, during the Tet Offensive.*



*Belvidere legislators enjoying the Boone County Fair: State Representative Dave Vella, State Senator Steve Stadelman, and U.S. Congressman Bill Foster.*



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## OBITUARIES

Robert Cunningham, 93, Belvidere, August 7  
 Matthew Jackson, 24, Belvidere, August 5  
 Theresa Hancock, 84, Belvidere, August 13  
 Jeffrey "Bodean" Firlick, 53, Harvard, August 10  
 Glenn Johnson, 80, Caledonia, August 10  
 Mary Rankin, 77, Poplar Grove, August 9  
 "Ginger" Virginia Reiningier, 68, Bel., Aug. 5



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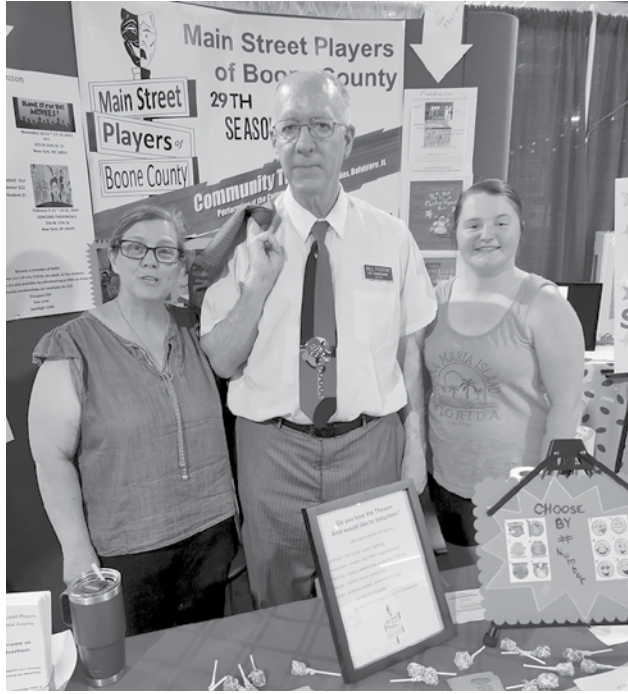
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Each week, the Journal seeks to present a variety of voices.

**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.



*Congressman Foster stopping to visit with the Main Street Players booth at the fair. The Congressman is the founder of a company that built the lighting system for the Boone County Community Building. Before his scientific career at Harvard University and Fermilab, Congressman Foster was a successful businessman. When he was 19, Bill Foster and his younger brother Fred started a business from scratch in their family's basement. Starting with a \$500 loan from their parents, they built a company that now manufactures over half of the theater lighting equipment in the United States and employs 1,300 people. The company's equipment is used on Broadway shows, Rolling Stones tours, nationally-renowned opera houses, Super Bowl halftime shows, and at churches, schools, and community theaters throughout the country. The company, ETC (Electronic Theater Controls), sells millions of dollars of equipment all over the world.*

*In 2007, Congressman Foster sold his interest in the business to enter Congress without a potential conflict of interest.*

*Having been elected in 2008 only recently with redistricting has the congressman become Boone County's representative in Washington, D.C.*

## Gov. Pritzker Vetoes Bill That Would Have Allowed New Nuclear Construction

*The bill earned more votes than the three-fifths majority needed to override*

*By Andrew Adams Capitol News Illinois*

Gov. JB Pritzker on Friday vetoed a bill that would have lifted a 1980s moratorium on the construction of new nuclear reactors.

The passed in May with three-fifths majorities in both legislative chambers, meaning that if all of the members that voted for it also support an override of the governor's veto, it still could become law. Its Senate sponsor, state Sen. Sue Rezin, R-Morris, said she has already filed paperwork to bring the bill up in the legislature's fall veto session scheduled for late October and early November.

The governor said in a message to lawmakers explaining his veto that he did it "at the request of the leadership team of the Speaker of the House and advocates."

While Pritzker said he saw "real potential" in small modular reactors, or SMRs – a type of "advanced" nuclear reactor that proponents tout as a path forward for the industry – he also said he doesn't think the legislation goes far enough in regulating the nascent technology.

"This bill provides no regulatory protections for the health and safety of Illinois residents who would live and work around these new reactors,"

*Continued on Page 3*



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**Veto**

from page 2

Pritzker wrote. “My hope is that future legislation in Illinois regarding SMRs would address this regulation gap.”

The governor also cited an “overly broad definition of advanced reactor” in the bill that he said could “open the door to proliferation” of large-scale nuclear power plants, like the reactors at the state’s six existing generating stations.

Pritzker said these traditional reactors are “so costly to build that they will cause exorbitant ratepayer-funded bailouts.”

The bill would have allowed for the construction of reactors that meet the federal government’s definition of “advanced reactor,” which require that fission reactors have “significant improvements” to things such as safety features and waste yields.

Rezin, in a phone interview with Capitol News Illinois, said Pritzker’s characterization of the bill allowing construction of traditional reactors is “just not true.”

“This is a pattern of a governor that is bending to special interests,” Rezin said.

Rezin also noted the limitation in the bill to only apply to advanced reactors came out of bipartisan negotiations.

“Advanced nuclear reactors would help supplement the flaws that wind and solar unfortunately have by providing reliable power 24/7, because wind and solar alone don’t have the infrastructure or technology to provide our state with the reliable, affordable and efficient energy it needs,” Rezin said in a news release.

Rezin’s claims about advanced nuclear reactors are contentious, particularly among some

environmental advocates that have been leading voices in the push for carbon-free energy in Illinois.

On Tuesday, a pair of influential advocacy groups sent a letter to Pritzker asking him to veto the bill. The Sierra Club Illinois Chapter and the Illinois Environmental Council’s joint letter outlined several concerns, including waste disposal, costs and a lack of up-to-date regulation.

“Nuclear power comes with significant safety risks and results in highly hazardous wastes that threaten our drinking water, with no safe, permanent waste solution in sight,” IEC Executive Director Jen Walling said in a Friday news release. “Rather than abandon all safeguards, Gov. Pritzker recognized that such substantial risks merit the highest protective guardrails our state can offer.”

Waste was the central concern of the original moratorium, which will end when the head of the state’s Environmental Protection Agency finds the federal government has “identified and approved” a method for the disposal of high-level nuclear waste, a responsibility the federal government has failed to successfully act on.

Currently, nuclear waste is stored on-site at the plant that produced it. But in the 1970s and 80s, a facility outside of Morris, Illinois, became home to waste from California, Minnesota, Nebraska and Connecticut, making Grundy County the nation’s only de facto high-level storage site.

Rezin defended her proposal on the subject of waste as well, pointing out in an interview that companies building nuclear reactors must submit plans for waste management when they apply for permits.

“This is a very heavily regulated industry by the federal government,” Rezin said.

Beyond waste, environmental advocates also say that focusing on nuclear power diverts attention and resources away from the development of wind, solar and battery storage technology.

“SB76 would have opened the door to increased risk, negative environmental impacts,

and higher costs for consumers while jeopardizing our progress toward Illinois’ clean energy future,” Sierra Club Illinois Director Jack Darin said in a Friday news release.

The nuclear moratorium does not affect research reactors, like the one under development at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

In addition to this bill, the governor on Friday also vetoed a measure that would have required the state to implement a contract to provide religious dietary options in schools, which Pritzker rejected because food service contracts are a district-level responsibility. Pritzker also used his amendatory veto powers to modify two bills that have to do with property taxes and government procurement.

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# 37 Workers at State-Run Developmental Center Targeted in PPP Fraud Probe

*The employees at Ludeman Developmental Center have been fired, resigned or face discipline*

*By Molly Parker Capitol News Illinois*

At Ludeman Developmental Center in Park Forest, 37 employees have been fired, resigned or face pending disciplinary action after a state watchdog found that they defrauded a federal pandemic-era small business loan program.

The employees who work at the state-run developmental center in south suburban Cook County include 32 mental health technicians – about 6 percent of frontline workers with that job – three residential services supervisors, one habilitation program coordinator and a licensed practical nurse.

A spokesperson for the Illinois Department of Human Services, the agency that runs the 383-bed residential center for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, confirmed these additional details late last week.

Neil Olson, the general counsel for the Illinois Office of the Executive Inspector General, previously confirmed to Capitol News Illinois that dozens of employees of state agencies and other entities under the OEIG’s jurisdiction are the subjects of an ongoing investigation into whether they fraudulently obtained Paycheck Protection Program loans. Beyond confirming the investigation, Olson declined to provide any additional details about the probe.

The U.S. Small Business Administration loans were intended to help small businesses remain open and their employees paid as COVID-19 forced mass shutdowns to protect public health. But in a rush to disburse the funds, fraudsters across the country stole billions of dollars meant to prop up mom-and-pop shops, a federal watchdog report found last month. The inspector general for the SBA estimated that the agency paid out more than \$200 billion in “potentially fraudulent” aid during the pandemic – about 17 percent of the \$1.2 trillion that was dispersed through the PPP and other similar programs.

The employees facing discipline sought loans for small businesses outside of their state work. But those businesses may not have existed, or if they did, may not have earned the income they claimed. The state workers who have faced disciplinary action to date received loans of at least \$20,000. To receive that amount meant they claimed income in their second jobs of at least \$100,000 on their PPP loan applications.

While state employees are not prohibited from secondary employment, state policies require

employees to disclose outside work to the agencies that employ them. Certain state workers, such as managers and people who are responsible for procurement and other financial dealings, must also file statements of economic interest with the secretary of state’s office that would detail any outside business ownership or income.

The investigations center around whether the workers filed fraudulent paperwork to obtain the loans, thereby acting in a way “unbecoming of a state employee,” or failed to follow disclosure rules for secondary income – or both. State employees who took PPP loans for legitimate businesses that were properly disclosed would not face discipline.

IDHS is not the only Illinois government agency whose workers may face disciplinary action up to termination. But the loss of employees at the state’s developmental centers is particularly troubling given longstanding challenges to maintain an adequate workforce and provide care to some of the state’s most vulnerable citizens.

In total, IDHS confirmed that, as of early August, 47 of its workers had been fired, resigned or face pending discipline related to PPP loan fraud. The other 10 employees – five each – were employed at Kiley Developmental Center in Waukegan on the Wisconsin border and Shapiro Developmental Center in Kankakee, in north-central Illinois.

A July investigation by Capitol News Illinois, Lee Enterprises and ProPublica detailed numerous instances of patient abuse and neglect inside IDHS’ seven statewide centers, including some circumstances that contributed to serious resident harm or death.

In prior statements, IDHS has attributed some of the problems at its centers to staffing shortages, while noting that workforce challenges in health care are a nationwide problem.

AFSCME Council 31, the union that represents most workers at Ludeman, has also publicly shared concerns about staffing issues at the state’s 24/7 facilities, including developmental centers. In April, the union shared a report to its website specifically calling attention to concerns among workers at Ludeman. In the piece, a Ludeman employee says workers are sometimes asked to work multiple double or triple shifts in a week, leading to burnout and safety issues.


Anders Lindall, the spokesperson for AFSCME, did not respond to specific questions about the OEIG’s widespread investigation *continued on page 8*



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**Racing**

*from page 1*

out to watch the races on a summer afternoon.

This year, several challenges arose. The biggest challenge was the weather. Tuesday's racing program listed twelve races. Because of rain, only half the program could be presented.

With rain spotted on the radar west of Belvidere, every effort was made to keep the program going as quickly as possible. Warmup runs were consolidated, and horsemen were directed to be ready.

Throughout the afternoon, the starting car was suffering from mechanical problems, and it was not known whether the vehicle would hold up. A spare starting vehicle had been loaned out to a track in Rice Lake, Wisconsin.



*Telstar after winning the fourth race*

Officials considered and decided against using a "gentlemen's start," in which the number 1 horse sets the pace for the race. The horse may not be passed until the starting line is crossed. This was the traditional way to start a race, but it has fallen into disfavor. In the end, the car did hold up and was able to start each of the day's races.

We started off with a good track for the first race, a race for two-year-old fillies, sponsored by the Boone County Fair Association. U-C-Dee-U-C-Annie, trained and driven by Jamaica Patton, won by a length, completing the mile in 2 minutes and 11 seconds, just ahead of SG Clover Success.

Next came the boys' turn, the second race, for 2-year-old colts, sponsored by Lee's Auction Service. It was Vertical Speed to win, driven by Wyatt Avenatti and trained by Kevin Miller. The boys were just a hair slower. Vertical Speed crossed the

finish line in 2 minutes, 11.3 seconds. April's Big Guy, driven by Jamaica Patton, was two lengths behind.

In the third race, the magic favored trainer and driver Jamaica Patton with Hocuspocusinfocus, a brown filly with 8 first place finishes and one second place in her nine starts. Hocuspocusinfocus had no trouble beating TVs Kosmac and Punxutina. The race, for two-year old trotters, was sponsored by The DeLong Company of Clinton.

After three races, the rains came, and Chief Judge Brad Dye suspended racing at 12:34PM. The crowd, staying dry under the grandstand, mostly remained to see if the rest of the card could be run. Finally, at 1:30, the rain stopped, the track was readied, and we were racing again.

The fourth race, for 3-year-olds, was run in recognition of Glory Bound Resue Ranch in Marenngo. In a fast race at 2 minutes, 10.2 seconds, it was another win for driver Wayne Avenatti driving Telstar. Jamaica Patton driving Deputy Dawg was right behind.

The fifth race, was a 3-year-old trot, sponsored by Starter Del and Wayne M. With five horses, Kinky Paco, driven by R. Kevin Bender, took an early lead. Kinky Paco went into Belvidere with 10 lifetime starts, undefeated, winning all 10 races. By the half mile, Kinky Paco had slipped into third, with Judge Me Not, driven and trained by Jamaica Patton, in the lead. In the end, it was Judge Me Not, followed by Luling City, driven and trained by Jerome Daniels. Kinky Paco came in fifth.

After yet another rain delay and questions whether to continue racing, the decision was made to continue with the sixth race, a maiden race, meaning that it was open to any horse that had not previously won a race. Jamaica Patton got his fourth win of the day driving Millindasfear to victory ahead of Westwind Ideal, driven by Jay Garrels. Both of these horses were trained by Jay Garrels. The time of the race on a deteriorating track was 2 minutes and 18.2 seconds.

After the sixth race at 2:17, in consultation with the riders and the starting gate driver, Judge Brad Dye cancelled the remainder of the races for safety concerns. The track, particularly on the backstretch and at the 3/4 turn had deteriorated, and was judged no longer safe for racing.

Belvidere has a narrow window to conduct a horse race. Starting Tuesday evening, the grandstand is booked for other events. Because the State Fair

begins on Thursday, horsemen are eager to get their horses to Springfield. This makes racing on Wednesday problematic, so the event has been consolidated to Tuesday afternoon. Although there was some question on Tuesday if Wednesday would be the rain date, the Conditions Book, which is the official guide to racing in Illinois, as published by the Illinois Department of Agriculture, does not list a rain date for Belvidere, so the remaining races were cancelled.

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**PPP Fraud**

*from page 12*

into PPP loan fraud by state employees. “In any investigation that may lead to discipline, the union’s role is to ensure that members are treated fairly, the contract is followed and due process is upheld,” he said.

Previously, IDHS spokesperson Patrick Laughlin said in a statement that the agency takes OEIG’s findings seriously.

“Falsifying a federal loan document, for significant and improper personal gain, calls into question one’s character, honesty, and ability to act ethically,” the prior statement read. “While the vast majority of IDHS’ roughly 14,000 state employees are hard-working people of strong character who work tirelessly to help the most vulnerable, it is deeply concerning anytime an employee takes advantage of public programs.”

In response to questions about how the loss of employees at Ludeman is affecting overall workforce shortages, Laughlin said in a new statement that the agency has been working to hire more staff at Ludeman since receiving notice of the PPP loan fraud among the center’s workers. Because it is located in Cook County, the facility traditionally has a lower vacancy rate and larger applicant pool than the other centers located in rural areas and small towns, the agency added.

The OEIG is not a criminal law enforcement agency. It investigates state employees and others under its jurisdiction for misconduct and makes recommendations that could range from retraining to termination. But the OEIG has the authority to share its findings with law enforcement.

On June 30, Gov. JB Pritzker signed a bill into law that extends from five to 10 years the statute of limitations in Illinois to bring charges against people who fraudulently obtained pandemic-era aid, such as PPP loans and unemployment benefits.

Pritzker’s office did not respond to detailed questions about the scope of the investigation into fraudulent PPP loans obtained by state workers. “We do not provide comment on investigative and disciplinary matters as they proceed through the appropriate processes,” the governor’s office said in a statement.

With respect to the new law, a spokesperson said that “the governor supports holding bad actors who took advantage of an unprecedented crisis accountable. It’s important that authorities have more time to investigate these crimes and prosecute those who violated the law.”

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**Help Sought In A Gang Related Drive-By Shooting**

*Press Release*

Belvidere Police Detectives are investigating a gang related drive-by shooting which left one person in the hospital.

On August 3, 2023 at approximately 10:45 pm the Belvidere Police Department responded to the 1000 block of South Main Street for a report of gunshots.

On arrival Belvidere Police discovered a 26-year-old male who had suffered from multiple gunshot wounds.

The male was transported to St. Anthony Hospital where he is being treated for his injuries.

Several witnesses reported a white sedan, possibly newer, fleeing the scene.

Police are asking for the community’s help by providing any additional security footage from the area.

Preliminary information indicates that this was a targeted and isolated incident.

The Belvidere Police Department encourages anyone with information pertaining to this shooting to contact the Belvidere Police Department at 815-544-2135 or to provide information anonymously contact Boone County Crimestoppers at 815-547-7867 or online at boonecountycrimestoppers.com. Information leading to an arrest can be subject to a cash reward of up to \$1000.00.

**In Perjury Trial, Madigan’s Chief of Staff Loyalty to be Tested**

*Tim Mapes accused of lying to grand jury despite immunity order*

*By Hannah Meisel Capitol News Illinois*

In the summer of 2018, Tim Mapes’ name had only recently faded from unflattering headlines after he was forced to resign from three top jobs he held under powerful Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan.

Mapes, who’d served as Madigan’s chief of staff for more than two decades, had been accused of sexual harassment by a woman who reported to him in his capacity as clerk of the Illinois House. It was the third accusation of sexual harassment within Madigan’s power structure that year, and the speaker was facing pressure to clean house. “At my direction,” a statement from Madigan read at the time, “Tim Mapes has resigned.”

But despite Madigan having publicly cut ties with Mapes, the disgraced political operative was still privy to what was going on inside the longtime speaker’s inner circle, according to wiretapped phone conversations captured by federal agents in 2018 and 2019. Those recordings were captured on the cell phone of Mike McClain, Madigan’s close friend and confidant who’d for decades also been a fixture in the Democratic power structure that controlled the General Assembly.

In an early July 2018 call, McClain told Mapes about a dinner he and the speaker had recently in a loud restaurant. Mapes joked that McClain should’ve told the establishment’s management, “I’m Mike McClain, I’m the right-hand guy to Mike

Madigan.”

McClain quipped back, “I’m the right-hand guy of Tim Mapes.”

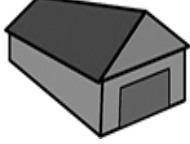
Less than three years later, Mapes would be indicted on one count each of perjury and obstruction of justice after he told a grand jury that he didn’t know McClain was doing Madigan’s bidding in the years after he officially retired as a lobbyist in 2016.

Mapes allegedly lied to the grand jury despite being under an immunity order; he’d been warned that any untruthful testimony while under the order would result in criminal charges. But the Madigan loyalist has maintained his innocence, and on Monday jury selection begins in his federal trial in Chicago.

In recent weeks, Mapes and government lawyers have filed last-minute motions trying to block each other’s witnesses and evidence, though Judge John Kness has mostly denied Mapes’ requests.

The motions contain previews of some wiretapped phone recordings that will be played at trial, mostly made from McClain’s cell phone. McClain has already been convicted for his role in helping his biggest client, electric utility Commonwealth Edison, bribe Madigan with jobs and contracts for the speaker’s allies in exchange for legislative wins for ComEd in Springfield.

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## Mapes Trial

from page 12

In that seven-week trial this spring, federal prosecutors played dozens of calls featuring McClain and showed the jury hundreds of emails that showed the extent to which McClain went to bat for Madigan. In more than one instance, McClain told colleagues that the speaker was his “real client,” and a few witnesses even referred to him as a “double agent” for both ComEd and Madigan.

McClain is also Madigan’s co-defendant in a related bribery and racketeering case against the speaker, in which the two men are alleged to have leveraged every position of power Madigan held – including as a partner in his property tax-focused law firm – in a “criminal enterprise.” That trial is scheduled for April 1, 2024.

And in this trial, federal prosecutors will attempt to show that Mapes was well aware of McClain’s role as Madigan’s other right-hand man, a label often used for Mapes himself in the decades he served the speaker.

In the weeks following Mapes’ ouster in early June 2018, he and McClain spoke about a dozen times, according to federal court records.

“You’re the only person’s made me cry today,” McClain told Mapes on the day he was forced to resign, according to court records. “Anything I can do, ya know, I’m willing to do, you know that, don’t ya?”

That afternoon, McClain also told Mapes, “I never thought you would be the one to leave the fox hole.”

Though Mapes contended that letting the jury hear certain calls between him and McClain would be unfairly prejudicial, prosecutors argued the calls show why Mapes was so resistant to telling the

grand jury anything that might incriminate either McClain or Madigan.

In their other calls that summer, Mapes and McClain also supported each other through McClain’s mother’s death, which the government contends is further evidence of their closeness. But they also discussed legislative and political business.

In a pair of calls within a week of each other in June 2018, McClain and Mapes strategized about fundraising within the Democratic Party of Illinois, where Mapes had most recently been executive director under Madigan, the longtime party chair.

In the second of those calls, McClain allegedly relayed a recent conversation he’d had with Madigan about how to reallocate Mapes’ work with DPI after his departure.

“This is of course relevant to Mapes’ false testimony that he was not aware of the interactions between McClain and Madigan,” government lawyers wrote in a filing last month. “It is also relevant to show that McClain was stepping into Mapes’ shoes after he left, and Mapes knew about it.”

Kness sided with prosecutors in an opinion filed last month denying Mapes’ request to block evidence at trial – including the government’s intention to tell the jury that Mapes violated his immunity order, which Mapes argued was irrelevant.

“As the government argues, Defendant found himself in a difficult position: he did not want to testify truthfully about McClain and Madigan, but he could not invoke the Fifth Amendment privilege because he had signed an immunity agreement,” Kness wrote. “When faced with potentially incriminating questions, therefore, Defendant claimed not to remember – a difficult assertion for the prosecutor to disprove. Because the immunity agreement explains why Defendant answered questions in an allegedly perjurious way, the immunity agreement clears the low bar for relevance.”

Mapes and McClain kept each other abreast of other developments in their world for months after Mapes’ resignation, including when Mapes was approached by FBI agents in January 2019. Mapes prepared a memo after his meeting with the feds, and the next month told McClain about a conversation he’d had with Madigan’s attorney, Sheldon Zenner, according to court filings.

Mapes said he’d given Zenner the memo per “a request,” and that he was calling McClain to “report back in” afterward.

“A jury could readily infer that Mapes made these statements to McClain with the intent that

McClain relay them to Madigan,” prosecutors wrote last month. “At the end of the call, Mapes again says, ‘I’m just reporting in,’ again clearly showing that he was intending to keep McClain in the loop, so that Madigan too could be kept in the loop.”

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

### Day 3

## ‘Protect the Boss’ Or Faulty Memory: Ex-Madigan Aide’s Grand Jury Testimony Scrutinized

*Tim Mapes’ perjury and obstruction of justice trial begins with opening statements*

By Hannah Meisel Capitol News Illinois

Taking occasional notes – a habit hard-wired after more than 25 years as Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan’s chief of staff – Tim Mapes sat and listened to opening statements in his perjury and obstruction of justice trial in a federal courtroom on Wednesday.

Mapes allegedly lied to a grand jury in 2021 as it was investigating a bribery scheme in which Madigan allies were given jobs and contracts at electric utility Commonwealth Edison in exchange for legislative wins for ComEd. The utility’s former CEO and three ex-lobbyists – including Mike McClain, a close confidant of Madigan whose name came up hundreds of times during trial Wednesday – were convicted in May after a lengthy trial on those bribery charges. McClain and Madigan are both charged in a related bribery and racketeering case and face an April 2024 trial.

Mapes’ perjury charges center on whether he lied to a grand jury when asked about McClain’s role in Madigan’s organization. In his grand jury testimony, Mapes said he wasn’t aware of or didn’t recall any instances in which McClain was acting on Madigan’s behalf in the years after he officially retired from lobbying in late 2016.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Diane MacArthur began her opening statements by quoting Mapes himself.

“I always try to protect him,” Mapes allegedly said. “I mean, that’s my goal, it’s like in marriage. You’ve gotta have a spec— solid group around him... We’ll protect the boss.”

Mapes was under an immunity order when he appeared in front of the grand jury in early spring 2021. MacArthur pointed out that the chief federal judge in Chicago had warned Mapes twice – including directly before his hours of testimony – that not being truthful with the grand jury while under immunity would result in charges.

Even so, MacArthur said, Mapes “was not going to reveal anything about his close friends,” and in doing so, “jeopardized the integrity of the grand jury process.”

But Mapes’ attorney told a different story. In her opening statements, Katie Hill emphasized that Mapes’ relationship with Madigan was fundamentally different than the former speaker’s close and decadeslong friendship with McClain.

continued on page 11



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Published in *The Boone County Journal*: 8/17

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN By the Board of Education of North Boone CUSD 200 in the County of Boone State of Illinois, that the budget for said school district for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at 6248 North Boone School Road, Poplar Grove, IL 61065 in the school district from and after 8:00 A.M. on the 16th day of August 2023.

Notice is further hereby given that a public hearing on said budget will be held at 6:30 P.M. on the 19th day of September 2023, at 6248 North Boone School Road, Poplar Grove, IL 61065 in the North Boone CUSD No. 200.

Dated this 16th day of August 2023, Board of Education of North Boone CUSD No. 200 in the County of Boone, State of Illinois.

Brian Haselhorst, Board of Education

Published in *The Boone County Journal*: 8/17



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Published in Boone County Journal 8/3, 8/10, 8/17 - P

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Published in Boone County Journal 08/03,10,17

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Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder

Published in *Boone County Journal* 8/17, 8/24, 8/31 - P

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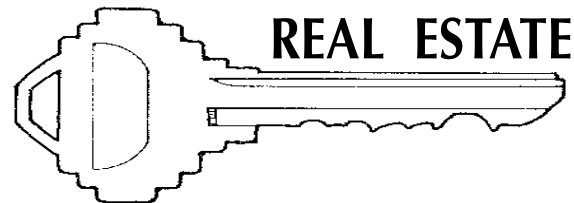
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Kelly Joesten Theisen, 524 Hunter Road, Caledonia, Illinois 61011

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Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder

Published in *Boone County Journal* 8/17, 8/24, 8/31 - P



**REAL ESTATE**

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

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST, Plaintiff,

vs. 22 FC 46 UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF JIMMY E. WOODARD; KIMBERLY ANN TUREK AKA KIMBERLY A. TUREK AKA KIMBERLY TUREK INDIVIDUALLY AND EXECUTOR OF THE WILL OF JIMMY E. WOODARD; WENDY SHAVER; DONALD SHRIVER AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR JIMMY E. WOODARD; 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, September 14, 2023, 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 815 WHITNEY BLVD, BELVIDERE, IL 61008. P.I.N. 05-36-111-010.

The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act.

Sale terms: 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 The Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Diaz Anselmo & Associates, P.A., 1771 West Diehl Road, Naperville, Illinois 60563. (630) 453-6925. 1446-184225

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Published in The Boone County Journal: 8/10, 17, 24

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

PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC Plaintiff,  
-v.- 23 FC 12  
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PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on May 18, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on September 20, 2023, 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:

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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.

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Published in *The Boone County Journal*: 8/17, 24, 31

**Mapes Day 3 from page 9**

While Madigan had entrusted Mapes with his role as chief of staff – in addition to companion jobs as clerk of the Illinois House and executive director of the Democratic Party – Hill sought to drive home that the relationship between the two was chiefly professional.

“Tim had very good reason to believe that when it came to McClain and Madigan, there were a lot of things he did not know,” Hill said. “Tim knew better than to presume he knew anything about those private conversations.”

Hill also tried to preempt the dozens of wiretapped phone calls the jury will hear during trial by telling them that Mapes’ indictment is based on his answers to just seven of the more than 650 questions he was asked during his grand jury testimony.

“You already know the government’s big punchline: All of this is on tape,” Hill said. “But as you consider that evidence ladies and gentlemen, consider that...they didn’t play him the tapes.”

The idea that Mapes was not given the opportunity to review any of the wiretapped calls or any other evidence – save for one document – during an early 2021 meeting with the FBI or his grand jury testimony is one the defense sprinkled throughout opening statements and while cross-examining the two witnesses put on the stand on Wednesday. Hill likened it to not being able to recall details from high

school a decade after graduation unless prompted with items like a yearbook or notes passed in class.

Hill told the jury that when the defense makes its case later in trial, they’ll hear from a witness with expertise in how memory works, and how the ability to recall certain facts can be affected by being under stress. On that note, Hill said, Mapes was acutely aware of the high-stakes immunity order he was under, and therefore chose his answers to the grand jury carefully.

“Tim Mapes was told by the government that he’d be charged with a crime if he answered these questions wrong,” she said. “This was not the time to speculate.”

Wednesday also featured the first two witnesses of the trial, including former state Rep. Greg Harris, D-Chicago, who retired in January after serving the last four of his 16 years in office as the second-highest ranking member of the House. Harris served as House majority leader for Madigan’s final two years in office, and then continued the role after the speaker was ousted by his own party in 2021.

Harris’ testimony mostly gave the jury a basic understanding of how laws are made in Springfield and laid a foundation for how Madigan and Mapes ran the House. Earlier on Wednesday, Judge John Kness sided with the defense and blocked the government from playing a wiretapped call in which Harris had asked McClain advice about how he should approach Madigan to let him know he was interested in becoming majority leader in late 2018.

Asked earlier in his testimony why someone might approach McClain for advice even though he held no official role in state government, Harris said people “would assume he had the speaker’s ear.”

MacArthur asked Harris if McClain would also communicate information from Madigan – an important element for the government to prove at trial.

“I think sometimes, yes,” Harris said.

Lobbyist Tom Cullen, a longtime Madigan staffer in the speaker’s “inner circle,” testified about McClain’s involvement in the state’s Democratic Party, particularly when it came to fundraising.

He also spoke to Mapes’ power in both his official government roles and as director of the state party.

“He ran the entire operation,” Cullen said. “He was in charge of everybody and everything.”

Cullen also described a close friendship with Mapes and said he was shocked when Mapes was forced to resign from all three of his roles in June 2018.

The jury will be shielded from the exact nature of Mapes’ departure, which came after an employee of the House Clerk’s office publicly accused him of sexual harassment. Assistant U.S. Attorney Julia Schwartz read a stipulation into the record on Wednesday that Mapes resigned amid allegations of “inappropriate workplace professionalism regarding Mr. Mapes,” but also said it “has no relevance” in this trial.

“I was devastated,” Cullen said when asked for his reaction to Mapes’ ouster. “I couldn’t believe it happened.”

When Schwartz asked Cullen why he was shocked, Cullen answered simply.

“Because he was a loyal, hard-working individual for the speaker,” he said.

Cullen’s name has come up in the feds’ wide-ranging Madigan investigation before; his lobbying firm has identified as an entity through which AT&T Illinois allegedly funneled payments to a former state representative for a little-to-no-work contract – charges added to Madigan’s and McClain’s case in a superseding indictment last fall. But none of that was broached while Cullen was on the witness stand on Wednesday, and Cullen testified that he had been given a “non-target letter” by the feds.

The trial continues at 9 a.m. Thursday.



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