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## Daytripping Chicago Auto Show— A Great Exhibition Gets Even Better

By Charles Herbst

The 117th Chicago Auto Show is in progress through President's Day, February 17th, at McCormick Place, 2301 South King Drive. As always, there are well over a hundred different models on display!

The Chicago Auto Show has always been a great place to compare various manufacturers' models of cars all under one roof. This year, more companies than ever are offering test drives just outside. About a dozen are also offering rides in their electric vehicles (EVs) on the indoor track.

What makes this year exciting is that Stellantis and BMW have both come to their senses and returned to the show. And Rivian is there for the first time. They are joined by Tesla, Lucid, Polestar, Vinfast, Subaru, Toyota, Volkswagen, GM, Hyundai, Ford, Honda, Nissan, and many more. (No one of consequence is missing!)

More and more, the show is focusing on being an "experience" as well as an exhibition. Many of the exhibitors are providing entertainment such as Camp Jeep, Bronco Born Wild, or Overlanding Chicago. Subaru makes an impressive salute to the National Parks and the great outdoors. The show itself is offering an automotive career day on Wednesday and a craft beer tasting on Friday. You can even donate blood at the show!

I was particularly impressed by the smart styling of the Lucid vehicles, both the Air and the Gravity. I had not seen them before. They are made in Arizona.

Stellantis featured an electric Jeep Wagoneer, made in Mexico and priced at about \$65-75,000.00. The vehicle does not resemble a traditional Jeep.

History is being made in the auto business, and this year's auto show allows you to see the dramatic changes that have come to the cars we are driving. Even if you aren't in the market for a vehicle, it's worth attending just to see what has happened to this industry:

First, you'll be offered rides from car companies you've never heard of. One these companies is from Vietnam! (You can enter to win one of their electric bikes.) These companies produce EVs only.

Second, cars are more electronic than ever. This has been a huge challenge for legacy car companies to gear up. Many of these electronic systems are needed to support EVs, but even gasoline-powered, Internal Combustion Vehicles (ICVs) use electronic systems instead of the more mechanical assemblies we are used to. Many of the new companies (BVD and Tesla, for example) come from an electronics-based heritage, and it's catch-up time for the legacy car makers.

One of the most interesting examples is playing out in China. The Chinese government has

*Continued on page 4*

## Madigan Guilty of Bribery

*Jurors deadlock on charges related to co-defendant Mike McClain*

By Hannah Meisel Capitol News Illinois

Former Democratic Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan, the longest-serving legislative leader in U.S. history, has joined the list of Illinois political figures who've been convicted on public corruption charges after a federal jury Wednesday found him guilty on 10 of 23 counts.

But the jury, which deliberated for roughly 65 hours over two weeks following a marathon three months of evidence and testimony, was split in its verdict. They acquitted the former speaker on seven other charges and ultimately deadlocked on six counts.

Madigan's co-defendant, veteran Springfield lobbyist Mike McClain, walked free after the jury deadlocked on the same charges. Prosecutors alleged the ex-speaker and McClain – his close friend dating back to the 1970s when they were young legislators in the Illinois House – ran a "criminal enterprise" meant to preserve and

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*Former Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan leaves the Dirksen Federal Courthouse in Chicago on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2025, flanked by two of his daughters after a jury delivered a partial verdict in his corruption trial. Jurors found Madigan guilty on 10 corruption counts but acquitted him on seven more. The jury also deadlocked and a mistrial was declared on six counts – including an overarching racketeering charge.*

*(Capitol News Illinois photo by Andrew Adams)*



*Lucid Gravity*



*Jeep Wagoneer EV*



*Lucid Gravity Interior*



**Mae Negus Totz 1930- 2025**

Mae Negus Totz, 94, of Belvidere, IL, passed away into Her Savior's arms on February 4, 2025. Born on May 26, 1930, in Belvidere, she was the only child of Wesley and Eva (Bailey) Negus. A lifelong resident of Belvidere, Mae was a proud 1948 graduate of Belvidere High School. She went on to graduate from Evanston Hospital School of Nursing in 1951 and later earned her degree from the College of St. Francis in Peoria in 1975.

Mae dedicated her career to nursing, working at Highland Hospital until her retirement in 1992. She was a beloved figure in her community, known for her generosity, fairness, and tireless efforts to help others. She was a lifelong member

of Immanuel Lutheran Church and was heavily involved in various church groups, including the Ladies Guild, Helping Hands, and was a Stephen Minister. Mae also held leadership roles in multiple organizations, including as a charter member of the Association of Operating Room Nurses-Rockford, a member of the Fellowship Board, A.A.L. Board, and the Belvidere Zonta Club, where she was a member for 50 years.

Her dedication to service extended beyond her church, as Mae was a longtime member of the Boone County Unit American Cancer Board and the Friends of the Library. She was actively involved with Meals on Wheels, the Boone County Arts Council, and Maple Crest Auxiliary, and she was a life member of the Women's Auxiliary VFW. In 1989, she was honored with the Chamber's "Professional Woman" award.

Mae married the love of her life Ray in 1993 after dating for over a decade. Together they built a home and enjoyed retirement adventures including traveling, gardening, fishing and volunteering for whatever needed done.

Mae had a passion for cooking, baking, and entertaining. She found joy in bringing meals to those in need, always thinking of others before herself.

Mae's life exemplified her commitment to her faith, family, and community. Her legacy of kindness, service and generosity will be cherished by all who knew her. "Well done, good and faithful servant". (Matthew 25:23)

She is survived by her granddaughter, Jessica Nunez (George), and numerous cousins Special cousins David Case & Matthew Koch (Lisa). She was preceded in death by her husband, Ray. Her parents, Eva and Wesley Negus, as well as her aunts, Pearl Fell and Anna Case, and special cousin, Mary Lou Koch.

Funeral services will be held at 11am on Saturday, February 15th. Visitation will be at 9:30am until the time of service at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Belvidere. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the church or Helping Hands.

executive branch that is exercising power outside the channels of the Constitution and the statutes that Congress authorized."

Let's imagine that, all along, Trump's only job in the last ten years was to divide the populace and create a grand distraction so that, now, Musk can come in and subvert the Constitution, and therefore, the ideals of the Republic. Say that this is because, largely, the billionaire class cares only for itself as Senator Bernie Sanders told us repeatedly, and oh so long ago. And imagine further that all of this is adding up to an unequalled power and money grab that will impact the freedom and livelihood of all Americans.

What if the left was largely wrong except for their empathy and compassion? What if the right was right and we'll be glad we kept our Second Amendment rights? What if, in the enduring foresight of the Founding Fathers, a "well-regulated militia" means us?

For just a minute, let's imagine that we stopped judging each other based on right wing and left wing. Let's say, as Americans, we stopped calling each other "Lib", "Nazi", "Communist", "Socialist", "Bigot", "Crackpot", and turned our attention to the dividers.

What if both sides of that 50/50 divide were right about some things and wrong about some things, but we didn't let the oligarchs continue to exploit us? Imagine that we gave each other grace, a listening ear, a place at the table. Unity is power and power is golden.

There truly is an enemy and it is the big lie that is coming from the top. It is the blatant theft of our freedom and way of life. It is a lack of action to truly help the American worker. Think about the Chrysler plant in Belvidere, now sitting idle since February of 2023, after 1,300 workers were laid off. In 1980, it employed over 4,000 workers. Between 1979-2000, Milwaukee County, to our north, lost 47% of its manufacturing jobs (The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel April 27,2017). Americans have been struggling for a long time. Some are getting by. Many have no hope of becoming homeowners or saving anything to fall back on in hard times.

We need to start protecting and defending each other. Our sense of togetherness and collective peace of mind has been systematically eroded and taken from us over an exhausting and vicious decade. Division is to the advantage of the dividers. The dividers are apparently rich enough to make themselves King and Jester of a free democracy. The rest of us are in this together and we need to start acting like it right away.

Paula Coulahan  
Rockford, Illinois

**OBITUARIES**

- Stephen Ashley, 80, Belvidere, Feb. 5
- George Biavati, 87, Formerly of Poplar Grove, Jan. 24
- Kailey Harrison-Gates, 24, Harvard, Feb. 4
- Donna Kirkpatrick Pinson, 67, Cherry Valley, Jan. 30
- Wayne LaCourse, 81, Poplar Grove, Feb. 4
- Allen Martin Sr., 88, Poplar Grove, Feb. 5
- Edward Sola, 73, Belvidere, Feb. 3
- Mae Negus Totz, 94, Belvidere, Feb. 4

**Letters to the Editor**


**America's Division is at the Hands of the Dividers**

Albert Einstein once said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge." So, I ask you to imagine. What if the division in America was created at the hands of the dividers? The dividers are Trump and Musk, and associates.

Musk, who has no allegiance to the Constitution, must now be Vice President because I haven't seen Vance for some time. In reality, Musk is unelected, unappointed, and unconfirmed. He and his operatives have breached the sensitive data of every American, including banking information, Social Security numbers, and employment information. Think about the most diabolical thing they can do with this data, because that is what they plan to do.

They have accessed documents in the U.S. Treasury, United States Agency for International Development, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. If you aren't asking yourself what their end-game is, by now, you should be.

The Washington Post stated last week, "The big-picture worry is that there is a kind of shadow



**REAL JOURNALISM FOR A REAL DEMOCRACY**

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Photography	Susan Moran

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

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# Hard Roads Changed Illinois Transport, Economy

By Tom Emery

After struggling over paths of ankle-deep mud for decades, Illinoisans were ready for a major overhaul of their roads in the early twentieth century. The improvements revolutionized transportation and economic growth around the state.

Surprisingly, paved roads in Illinois were nothing new. Some streets in Bloomington were paved with brick in 1877, and sixteen years later, a rural road near Monmouth was laid in brick.

Still, by 1903, only scattered patches of experimental highway were found across Illinois. That May 15, a state highway commission was founded, and motorists were required to register their vehicles, paying two dollars for “identification plates.” The fees went into a road fund.

A string of Illinois governors advocated “hard roads,” including Charles Deneen and Edward Dunne, who declared that April 15, 1913 was “road day” in the state. The event asked all able-bodied male residents to volunteer their labor to improve roads.

At Mooseheart in Kane County, some 1,300 volunteers, including Dunne, turned out. The men were paid one cent each for their work.

One of the unsung heroes of the movement was state representative Homer Tice, a Greenview farmer who sponsored a bill in 1913 that molded Illinois road maintenance to come.

A state highway department with commissioners and engineers was created, along with county highway superintendents. The burden of maintaining main roads was shifted from townships to counties, and the state aid was increased for county roads. Counties could also sell bonds to cover their share of maintenance.

In Vermilion County, some 174 miles of roads, mainly concrete, were constructed, and several other counties managed to pass bond issues. In October 1914, the first mile of cement highway in the nation was set near Malta, which became part of the famed Lincoln Highway, later U.S. 30.

Illinois and other states were boosted in July 1916 when Congress voted to match state funding with an \$85 million appropriation. The Illinois share was projected at \$3 million, and an ambitious plan to pave 4,000 miles of road was developed.

In 1918, Gov. Frank Lowden pushed for a \$60 million bond issue for 4,800 miles of hard roads that would be financed with automobile license fees. Support for the measure was widespread and enthusiastic.

In Sycamore, the True Republican declared “there is nothing that would come closer to the people or benefit the country so much” as the bond issue. On campus in Champaign-Urbana, the Daily Illini wrote that passage would “mean the disappearance of the old, muddy, impassible roads.” The bond issue passed with 81 percent of the vote.

Though the impetus for hard roads came in earlier administrations, much of the physical work was done under Gov. Len Small, whom one scholar calls “one of the great American road builders” despite a record of corruption. The 1918 bond vote covered preliminary engineering and rights-of-way, so Small could get right to construction.

Small reduced the cost per mile of road construction and set tighter parameters for builders, dropping the burden to \$27,000 a mile in 1924. That same year, voters passed another bond issue of \$100 million for roads. Illinois set several national records for highway construction throughout the decade.

In Small’s bid for a third term in 1928, he accurately stated that “Illinois leads the world... and its 7,000 miles of completed concrete pavement exceed the mileage of any other state in the Union.” In 1927, Illinois became the last state to implement a motor fuel tax.

The roads found plenty of traffic. In 1919, there were 478,438 licensed automobiles in Illinois, a number that jumped to 1,630,816 a decade later.

There was also a spike in new types of business relating to auto travel. In 1929, Illinois boasted 2,477 new car dealers, 218 used car dealers, and 3,967 filling stations. Another 1,128 filling stations were part of other businesses, while roadside food and lodging also sprang up. Indeed, hard roads had a sweeping impact on life in Illinois a century ago.

## Pritzker Emerging as One of Trump’s Most Vocal Critics

*Governor mum about reelection plans as he speaks out on national issues*

By Ben Szalinski Capitol News Illinois

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker made a “special announcement” on Friday: Illinois is renaming Lake Michigan to “Lake Illinois” and annexing Green Bay, Wisconsin, “to protect itself against” the Green Bay Packers.

The video shared by his campaign “was intended to inject some humor at a moment when I think people don’t find much that’s going on humorous,” Pritzker told reporters Monday. It poked fun at President Donald Trump for renaming the Gulf of Mexico to Gulf of America and pledging the U.S. will acquire Greenland.

Pritzker never referenced Trump in that video, but it was the governor’s latest method to drum up attention toward his criticism of the president. Pritzker has emerged as one of the most vocal Democrats speaking out against

Trump since the Jan. 20 inauguration.

Pritzker told reporters in Springfield at the end of January he’s pushing Illinois’ Democratic members of Congress to be “persistent” about communicating the effects of Trump’s policies because he believes national media organizations don’t prioritize governors and state leaders the same as D.C. politicians.

National media attention hasn’t been a big issue for Pritzker, however. Since Trump was sworn in, Pritzker has done two CNN interviews, an MSNBC Sunday show and a profile in Puck — a national political newsletter. He’s often asked in the interviews how Democrats can infiltrate a Trump-driven news cycle.

“We need to make sure that we’re communicating properly,” Pritzker said in a CNN interview on Jan. 26. “I think that’s one of the big challenges that we had in the last election: our message wasn’t right.”

Pritzker helped organize a call at the end of January between some Democratic governors and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer of New York to encourage Senate Democrats to more forcefully push back on Trump, according to The New York Times.

Stephen Maynard Caliendo, a political science professor at North Central College in Naperville, said while Pritzker has always been a vocal leader, it seems to have “ramped up” in Trump’s second term.

“It appears to me that he sees an opportunity to capture the American imagination a bit,” Caliendo said in an interview.

Another vocal Democratic voice, California Gov. Gavin Newsom, has been responding to wildfires near Los Angeles, which has forced him to tamp down on criticizing Trump to ensure federal disaster aid gets directed to his state, Caliendo said.

Asked Monday how he has sets himself apart from other Democrats in responding to Trump, Pritzker said he sees negative impacts already coming from Trump’s policies.

*Continued on page 5*

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## Hi, my name is John Albertini.

I’m running for Mayor of Belvidere. I am hosting a meet and greet at the HUB, 402 S state St. on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.

I will be talking about my goals for the city, and answer any questions you have. Hope to see you all there.

Thank you,  
John Albertini

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**Auto Show**

from page 1

offered tremendous incentives for car buyers to select EVs. This has set up a grapple between Volkswagen, the world's second largest automaker, and, historically, the largest producer and seller of cars in China versus BYD, the Chinese manufacturer who has become the world's 11th largest car maker.

Instead of relying on subcontractors, Volkswagen is desperately trying to develop and achieve in-house mastery of electronic systems to match its historic know-how in building ICVs. After running through several chief executives and a multi-year effort by Volkswagen, this past fall, the German automaker made a \$5.8 billion investment in Rivian, largely to get access to the technology it needs to effectively compete.

Back in Chicago, you can judge for yourself how much progress the various car companies have made on electronic proficiency at this week's exhibition.

Third, it's electric. There still are ICVs available to buy (for now), but the world has made its decision. The industry is going electric, and it isn't waiting for America to climb on board. Battery systems improve every day and new charging systems are making their debut just as often. No matter who is in office, what tariffs are in place, or incentives are or aren't being offered, the electric vehicle is becoming the global standard. Even the world's trains are being electrified! (And really, there is no incentive to resist.)

To summarize, whether Stellantis or anyone else produces a vehicle in Belvidere in the future, these are the products that Belvidere must be able to either match or exceed in performance.

Admission is \$17 for adults, \$12 for children and seniors. You can buy tickets in advance or at the door. Please note that the Auto Show has gone cashless, and you'll need to use a payment card. This also applies to souvenirs and refreshments. Only small clutch purses and clear tote bags up to 12 x 12 x 6 are allowed inside. A \$2.25 shuttle bus will be operating from both Union and Ogilvie Metra Stations. The weekday Metra fare from McHenry County or Elgin is \$6.75 each way, weekend days are \$7 for a round trip. Alternatively, plan to pay about \$27 to park.

Website: [chicagoautoshow.com](http://chicagoautoshow.com).



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## Madigan

from page 1

enhance Madigan's political power, in addition to enriching them and their allies.

But the jury did not return a verdict in the overarching racketeering charge against the two men.

"My head is spinning," McClain told reporters in the lobby of the Dirksen Federal Courthouse late Wednesday morning.

Madigan exited the courthouse 20 minutes earlier, declining to comment to Chicago Tribune reporter Ray Long, who'd published a book on the former speaker in 2022, but shaking his hand and smiling before getting on the elevator down to the lobby. Madigan continued to ignore reporters while he, his attorneys, and two of his daughters walked across the street from the courthouse in the falling snow.

As the courtroom deputy read the jury's verdict Wednesday morning, the 82-year-old Madigan sat stone-faced at the head of his defense table in U.S. District Judge John Blakey's wood-paneled courtroom – the same spot he's spent nearly every weekday since early October when jury selection for the trial began.

McClain was similarly emotionless while the verdict was read but appeared to get emotional after his family members got teary-eyed when it became clear the jury had deadlocked on the McClain-specific counts.

The jury's decision comes four years since Madigan mostly stepped away from politics, having been forced to give up his speaker's gavel amid growing pressure from his own Democratic House caucus in January 2021 as a federal criminal investigation into his inner circle drew nearer. In the weeks that followed his demotion back to a mere state representative, the former speaker would also resign from the legislative seat he'd held for five decades and from his position as chair of the state's Democratic Party.

Even after Madigan retreated from public life, it took another year for a grand jury to indict him on 22 counts – later upped to 23 – of racketeering, bribery, extortion and wire fraud, alleging he both solicited and accepted bribes to benefit him both politically and personally.

Unlike the defendants, one juror agreed to speak with reporters outside the courthouse as Madigan and his group passed by. The juror, who declined to give his name, said he was surprised to learn that McClain had been convicted in 2023 in a trial featuring much of the same evidence as the one that ended Wednesday.

He said his fellow jurors struggled over some counts, like the overarching racketeering charge. But he cited one count as clear: an allegation that Madigan participated in a bribery conspiracy to get five of his allies no-work contracts with electric utility Commonwealth Edison. Prosecutors alleged the contracts were meant as bribes to Madigan in order to grease the wheels for legislation the utility supported in Springfield.

"That was absolutely there," the juror said of the government's evidence that Madigan was aware of the no-work contracts – despite his claims that he didn't know about them.

But the jury deadlocked on a similar bribery charge in which both Madigan and McClain were alleged to have arranged a similar scheme with AT&T Illinois.

Speaking to reporters an hour after the verdict was delivered, acting U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois Morris Pasquale said there had not yet been a decision on whether to retry Madigan on the counts over which jury had deadlocked. Still, he framed the split decision as a win.

"Bribery – whether it's the old-fashioned cash stuffed in an envelope or the more refined version practiced by Madigan – is still illegal, it's still corrupt and it's still against the law, and it still undermines public confidence in government," he said. "Public officials can choose to violate the public trust can and should be held accountable."

*Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.*

## Pritzker

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"People have been promised something by this Trump administration that he is not delivering," Pritzker said this week. "They've been promised lower prices. They've been promised lower grocery prices. They've been promised lower gas prices. They've been promised more affordability and that is precisely the opposite of what's happening."

### Weighing in on the issues

Just about every major story coming out of the Trump White House has been fair game for Pritzker. That includes the president's reaction to a crash between an American Airlines plane and Black Hawk helicopter in Washington, D.C.

"While times of tragedy should be focused on mourning the victims and getting answers to their loved ones, we face the unfortunate reality that we must be honest with the nation about: Donald Trump is unfit to lead during moments of crisis like this," Pritzker said in a statement.

Trump blamed the crash on efforts to hire a more diverse workforce, including people with disabilities, in the federal government.

Pritzker noted that he is governor of one of the busiest airspaces in the country around O'Hare and Midway airports and listed eight questions he wants the federal government to answer, including about staffing at the Federal Aviation Administration, Elon Musk's role in personnel changes at federal agencies and if top Trump administration officials plan to cooperate in the investigation.

"There's no way to read that other than it's an attempt to sort of gain national prominence," Caliendo said, adding Trump gave Pritzker an opening to position himself as a progressive alternative to Trump.

Other issues Pritzker has focused on directly affect Illinois. He's defended the state's "sanctuary" laws for immigrants, slammed Trump for proposing tariffs that would likely raise prices for Illinois consumers and quickly organized a news conference to explain the effects of a proposed federal spending freeze on Illinois.

"I have to say that the last 48 hours have been among the most bizarre and terrible since I took office back in the middle of Trump's first term," Pritzker told CNN's Anderson Cooper after the federal spending freeze was announced then rescinded.

The governor has also often criticized the role of "President Musk" in Trump's administration. The billionaire was put in charge of an advisory organization, the "Department of Government Efficiency," which has played key roles in shutting off federal funding sources and controversially sought records with sensitive data about Americans.

Amid all the criticism, Pritzker has said there's been no communication between Illinois and Trump or the White House.

"I'm looking forward to that call; certainly have a lot of things I'd like to say directly to him,"

Pritzker said last week in Springfield.

### Looking to 2028

Pritzker, who turned 60 in January, was vetted as a possible running mate for former Vice President Kamala Harris during the 2024 campaign, but he wasn't a well-known or popular choice among Democratic voters. A NPR/PBS News/Marist poll last July found just 7% of Democrats thought Pritzker should be Harris' running mate.

Pritzker has downplayed any interest in running for president when asked by reporters but admitted last August he was "torn" about leaving Illinois to become vice president should he have been selected by Harris and won the election.

"You don't get on that list unless they think you actually could be president of the United States and do the job if you had to," Pritzker told reporters in August.

Governors have good paths to the presidency because of their executive experience overseeing a state government, Caliendo said. If Pritzker is interested in running for president in 2028, there will be more obvious signs than him criticizing Trump, he added.

"If he starts heading out to a lot of visits to South Carolina and Iowa and New Hampshire, that's when you really start to get tipped off," Caliendo said. "Right now, this could be laying the groundwork for that, but it isn't that out of the ordinary that somebody who feels as protected, I think, as he does to make himself one of the chief critics of the president."

Forbes estimates Pritzker to be worth around \$3.7 billion, making him one of the wealthiest politicians in U.S. history. He self-funded his way through both of his campaigns for governor with hundreds of millions of dollars. But if he runs for national office, he will need more help, Caliendo said.

"What we need to be looking for besides these very sort of public things over the next two years is how that's going," Caliendo said. "In other words, what kind of money is Pritzker raising? What kind of coalitions is he putting together that can be fundraising? Because as wealthy as he is, it's hard to fund a presidential campaign out of his own pocket."

While Pritzker hasn't solicited any big donations to his state campaign organization, in 2023 he launched an abortion rights advocacy group that has funded ballot measure campaigns in Nevada, Ohio and Arizona. The organization, Think Big America, is sometimes called a "dark money" group because it isn't required to report its donors – though Pritzker himself is its main financial backer.

Pritzker hasn't made any decisions about running for a third term as governor in 2026, though he didn't announce his 2022 reelection campaign until July 2021.

Being an incumbent isn't as important as it used to be for a presidential candidate to be successful, Caliendo said.

"Trump has changed a lot about American politics and I think one of the things he changed is that you don't have to have any governmental experience," Caliendo said. "But JB Pritzker has lots of it so simply being out of position or spending all his time running for president as opposed to running a state while he's running for president, I don't think that's going to be as much of a disadvantage as it would have been prior to 2015."

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# LEGAL NOTICES

## Early Voting Hours

Early Voting for the February 25, 2025, Consolidated Primary Election will begin on Thursday, January 16, 2025, and end Monday, February 24, 2025. Early Voting for Boone County residents will be conducted at the Boone County Clerk's Office, 1212 Logan Ave, Suite 103, Belvidere, IL 61008. The office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30AM to 5:00PM. The office will also be open on Saturday, February 22, 2025, from 9:00AM to 12:00PM. Please note: The office will be closed on Monday, February 17, 2025, in observance of President's Day.

For more information about Early Voting, please contact the Boone County Clerk's Office at 815-544-3103.

Laura Bettis  
Chief Deputy Clerk

Published in The Boone County Journal Jan 9 thru Feb 20th

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
CIVIL DEPARTMENT

**GPM Midwest, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, Plaintiff,**  
**v. Case No. 2024EV99**

**AHRB, Inc., an Illinois corporation, and**  
**ALL UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, Defendant.**

### NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you, AHRB, Inc., and All Unknown Occupants, Defendant(s) in the above-entitled suit as parties to be served, that the said suit has been commenced in the 17th Judicial Circuit Court of Boone County, Illinois, by Plaintiff, GPM Midwest, LLC, against Defendant(s), praying for the possession of the leased real commercial property located at 1052 E. Belvidere Road, Belvidere, Boone County, Illinois 61008 (the "Premises").

Notice is also hereby given you that the said Complaint also prays for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as Defendant(s) as provided by law; and that the said suit is now pending.

UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before March 3, 2025, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit [www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp](http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp), or talk to your local circuit clerk's office.

Kim R. Walberg  
kwalberg@taftlaw.com  
Nicollette L. Khuans  
NKhuans@taftlaw.com  
Counsel for Plaintiff

TAFT STETTINIUS & HOLLISTER LLP  
111 East Wacker Drive Suite 2600 Chicago, IL 60601-4208  
Telephone: (312) 527-4000  
Published in The Boone County Journal Jan 30, Feb 6,13, 2025

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

**GMFS LLC, Plaintiff,**  
**vs. CASE NO. 2024FC72**

**KATHY CORTES A.K.A. KATHY BRITO; UNKNOWN OWNERS**  
**AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendant(s).**

**Property Address: 705 Union Ave. Belvidere, IL 61008**

### NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you, KATHY CORTES A.K.A. KATHY BRITO; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; defendants in the above entitled cause, that suit has been commenced against you and other defendants in the Circuit Court for the Judicial Circuit by said plaintiff praying for the foreclosure of a certain mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:

LOT ONE (1) IN BLOCK ONE (1) OF HOLLISTER AND KINGS ADDITION TO THE CITY OF BELVIDERE, AS PLATTED AND RECORDED IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN BOOK 47 OF DEEDS ON PAGE 518; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

P.I.N.: 05-35-231-025

Said property is commonly known as 705 Union Ave., Belvidere, IL 61008 and which said mortgage(s) was/were made and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds as Document Number 2024R01596, and for other relief; that Summons was duly issued out of the above Court against you as provided by law and that said suit is now pending.

NOW THEREFORE, unless you, the said above named defendants, file your answer to the complaint in the said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Boone County on or before FEBRUARY 24, 2025, a default may be taken against you at any time after that date and a Judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said complaint. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit [www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp](http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp).

YOU MAY BE ABLE TO SAVE YOUR HOME – DO NOT IGNORE THIS DOCUMENT. By order of the Chief Judge of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit, this case is subject to Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program. For further information on the mediation process, please see the NOTICE OF MANDATORY MEDIATION on file with the Clerk of the Circuit Court by contacting the Plaintiff's attorney at the address listed below.

This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120  
Naperville, IL 60563  
Telephone: (630) 453-6960  
Facsimile: (630) 428-4620  
Attorney No. Cook 64727, DuPage 293191  
Service E-mail: [midwestpleadings@dallegal.com](mailto:midwestpleadings@dallegal.com)  
6088-949597  
Published in The Boone County Journal Jan/23, 30. Feb 6, 2025

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
CIVIL DEPARTMENT

**GPM Midwest, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, Plaintiff,**  
**v. Case No. 2024EV97**

**GNP4, Inc., an Illinois corporation, and**  
**ALL UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, Defendant.**

### NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice

is hereby given you, GNP4, Inc., and All Unknown Occupants, Defendant(s) in the above-entitled suit as parties to be served, that the said suit has been commenced in the 17th Judicial Circuit Court of Boone County, Illinois, by Plaintiff, GPM Midwest, LLC, against Defendant(s), praying for the possession of the leased real commercial property located at 1705 S. State Street, Belvidere, Boone County, Illinois 61008 (the "Premises").

Notice is also hereby given you that the said Complaint also prays for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as Defendant(s) as provided by law; and that the said suit is now pending.

UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before March 3, 2025, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit [www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp](http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp), or talk to your local circuit clerk's office.

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Nicollette L. Khuans  
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Counsel for Plaintiff

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Telephone: (312) 527-4000  
Published in The Boone County Journal Jan 30, Feb 6,13, 2025

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
CIVIL DEPARTMENT

**GPM Midwest, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, Plaintiff,**  
**v. Case No. 2024EV98**

**HRB Group, Inc., an Illinois corporation, and ALL UNKNOWN**  
**OCCUPANTS, Defendant.**

### NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you, HRB Group, Inc., and All Unknown Occupants, Defendant(s) in the above-entitled suit as parties to be served, that the said suit has been commenced in the 17th Judicial Circuit Court of Boone County, Illinois, by Plaintiff, GPM Midwest, LLC, against Defendant(s), praying for the possession of the leased real commercial property located at 2001 N. State Street, Belvidere, Boone County, Illinois 61008 (the "Premises").

Notice is also hereby given you that the said Complaint also prays for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as Defendant(s) as provided by law; and that the said suit is now pending.

UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before March 3, 2025, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit [www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp](http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp), or talk to your local circuit clerk's office.

Kim R. Walberg  
kwalberg@taftlaw.com  
Nicollette L. Khuans  
NKhuans@taftlaw.com  
Counsel for Plaintiff

TAFT STETTINIUS & HOLLISTER LLP  
111 East Wacker Drive Suite 2600 Chicago, IL 60601-4208  
Telephone: (312) 527-4000  
Published in The Boone County Journal Jan 30, Feb 6,13, 2025

### STATE OF ILLINOIS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL  
BOONE COUNTY

### IN RE THE PARENTAGE OF:

**ANA CRISTINA MERCADO PERALTA, Petitioner**  
**and**

**CASE # 2024FA61**

**LEONEL SANTANA ROJAS**

**Respondent**

### ORDER

This cause coming before this Honorable Court on Petitioner's Motion to Serve the Respondent by Publication; Petitioner present and represented by John Curnyn, appearing by zoom; the Court fully advised:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

- 1.) The Petitioner's Motion to Serve the Respondent by Publication is allowed.
- 2.) The Petitioner shall cause publication to be made within the matter provided by law.
- 3.) This matter is continued to December 11, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. for status of publication.

Enter: 10/2/2024

Order Prepared by:  
John Curnyn  
Attorney for Petitioner  
LAW OFFICE OF JOHN CURNYN  
701 Main Street, Suite 202  
Evanston, Illinois 60202  
(312) 636-8997 (office)  
(312) 854-0801 (fax)  
email: [john@curnynlaw.com](mailto:john@curnynlaw.com)  
Published in The Boone County Journal – 02/06, 02/13, 02/20/2025 (P?)

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
CASE NO. 2024-PR-4

DENIS D. ANDERSON, Deceased.

### CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of DENIS D. ANDERSON, of Loves Park, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on January 27, 2025, to CENTRAL BANK ILLINOIS, whose address is 101 N. State St., Geneseo, IL 61254, and whose attorneys are Fearer, Nye & Chadwick, 420 4th Avenue, PO Box 117, Rochelle, IL 61068.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk of the Court at Ogle County Courthouse, Oregon, IL 61061, or with the representative, or both, no later than August 6, 2025, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

FEARER, NYE & CHADWICK, Attorneys for CENTRAL BANK ILLINOIS, Executor of the Estate of DENIS D. ANDERSON, deceased  
Published in The Boone County Journal – 02/06, 02/13, 02/20/2025

### Notice of Public Hearing

Belvidere Community Unit School District No. 100  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the School board of School District Number 100, in the County of Boone, DeKalb, and McHenry, State of Illinois, that tentative amended budget for said School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at 1201 5th Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois in this School District from and after 8 o'clock am., on the 14th day of February 2025.

Notice is further hereby given that a public hearing on the said budget will be held at 6 o'clock pm., on the 17th day of March 2025, at 1201 5th Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois in this School District Number 100. Dated this 13th day of February 2025. School

board of School District Number 100, in the County of Boone, DeKalb, and McHenry, State of Illinois.

By: Jorge Herrera, Board Clerk

Published in The Boone County Journal February 13, 2025

### NOTICE

Belvidere Community Unit School District #100 is seeking bids for a Roof Restoration/Joint Resealing project at Belvidere High School and Central Middle School.

An optional pre-bid meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 18th, at 11:30 A.M. at the Central Office building located at 1201 5th Ave.

All bids are due by 10:30 A.M., Tuesday, March 4th, 2025 and a public bid opening will take place at 10:45 A.M. the same day at the Central Office Building. All bids should be submitted through SECURE BIDS. Link to CUSD 100 website with SECURE BIDS <https://colbisecurebids.com/agency/bcusd100>.

Proposal specifications will be available through the SECURE BIDS website. If you have any questions please contact the District Office at 815-544-8616 or via email at [Purchasing@District100.com](mailto:Purchasing@District100.com).

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Jorge Herrera, Clerk

Board of Education

Published in The Boone County Journal February 13, 2025

### Notice of Public Hearing Concerning the Intent of the Board of Education of

**Community Unit School District Number 100,  
Boone, McHenry and DeKalb Counties, Illinois**

**to Sell \$21,000,000 School Fire Prevention and Safety Bonds**

Public Notice is Hereby Given that Community Unit School District Number 100, Boone, McHenry and DeKalb Counties, Illinois (the "District"), will hold a public hearing on the 18th day of February, 2025, at 5:30 o'clock P.M. The hearing will be held in the Central Office Lower Level Conference Room, 1201 Fifth Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive public comments on the proposal to sell bonds in the amount of \$21,000,000 for the purpose of conforming its existing facilities that house students to the building code promulgated by the State Board of Education of the State of Illinois, by altering, reconstructing and repairing said facilities and having equipment purchased and installed therein.

By order of the President of the Board of Education of Community Unit School District Number 100, Boone, McHenry and DeKalb Counties, Illinois.

Dated the 6th day of February, 2025.

Jorge Herrera

Secretary, Board of Education, Community Unit School District Number 100, Boone, McHenry and DeKalb Counties, Illinois

Published in The Boone County Journal February 13, 2025

### Public Notice

Manchester Rural Fire Protection District #5

Public Notice is hereby given that at 7:00 p.m. February 13, 2025 a meeting will be held at Manchester Town Hall, 20904 Grade School Road, Caledonia, IL.

The opening of proposals from area fire departments to provide service to Fire District #5 will take place.

Published in The Boone County Journal 02/13/2025 (B)

# ASSUMED NAMES

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

No. DBA4220 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a MAKING SHIRTS ETC. AND SELLING AT CRAFT FAIRS business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of FIRBRAE ART that its location is or will be 2405 RANDOLPH ST, in Caledonia, in the County of Boone County, State of Illinois, and that the true or real name(s) of the person(s) owning, conducting, or transacting the same with the post office address or address of said person(s) is shown below.

Phone Number: 815-988-1233

Rae Duncan 2405 Randolph St., Caledonia, IL 61011

I, Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk And Recorder of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do the hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: January 24, 2025.

Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder

Published in Boone County Journal 01/30 02/06,13 - P

CHANGE IN CERTIFICATE OF OWNERSHIP OF  
BUSINESS PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on JANUARY 28 th A.D. 2025, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois, concerning the business known as KASSANDRA'S BEAUTY SALON, located at 145 S. STATE ST., BELVIDERE, IL 61008, which certificate sets forth the following changes in the operation thereof: THE BUSINESS WILL BE DISSOLVED.

Dated this 28TH day of January, A.D. 2025

Julie A. Bliss

Boone County Clerk

Published in the Boone County Journal 01/30, 02/06,13 (P)

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

No. DBA4219 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a LANDSCAPING business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of LUCKY'S LAWN SERVICE that its location is or will be 3060 GRANT HIGHWAY 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: 779-238-0655

Austin Tyler Westergaard, 1913 Midway Drive, Rockford, IL 61103

I, Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk And Recorder of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do the hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: January 22, 2025

Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder

Published in Boone County Journal 1/30, 2/6, 2/13 - P



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

No. DBA4221 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a VEGETABLE AND SMALL GRAIN FARMING AND MILLING business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of PIXOR PAX FARM that its location is or will be 4649 BATES RD, 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: 815-703-2639

Kristine Marie Ramsay-Schnor 4649 Bates Rd., Belvidere, Illinois 61008

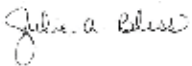
I, Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk And Recorder of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do the hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: February 5, 2025.

Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder

Published in Boone County Journal 02/13,20,27 - P

**REPUBLICAN SPECIMEN BALLOT  
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
CONSOLIDATED PRIMARY ELECTION  
FEBRUARY 25, 2025**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS SPECIMEN BALLOT IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE OFFICES AND CANDIDATES TO BE VOTED IN THE CONSOLIDATED PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD IN BOONE COUNTY ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025.



JULIE A. BLISS, COUNTY CLERK  
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

CITY OF BELVIDERE	
FOR MAYOR	
(Vote for one)	
<input type="radio"/> Frederic C. Brereton	REPUBLICAN
<input type="radio"/> Daniel N. Arevalo	REPUBLICAN
FOR ALDERPERSON WARD FOUR	
(Vote for one)	
<input type="radio"/> Matthew Fleury	REPUBLICAN
<input type="radio"/> Chris Linenfelser	REPUBLICAN
BELVIDERE TOWNSHIP	
FOR SUPERVISOR	
(Vote for one)	
<input type="radio"/> Bernard O'Malley	REPUBLICAN
<input type="radio"/> Rodney J. Riley	REPUBLICAN



## Groups Demand Release of After-School Program Funding

*Programs close, staff laid off while \$50M in funding remains unspent*

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

Organizations that provide tutoring, recreation and other after-school programs are calling on Gov. JB Pritzker and the Illinois State Board of Education to release \$50 million that was included in this year’s budget to fund those programs.

The organizations say tens of thousands of students are being denied access to services because the money is not being spent.

“The General Assembly knew the importance of these programs and heard our caution that funds were ending, so they saw fit to include \$50 million for these programs in the FY 25 budget,” Susan Stanton, executive director of the advocacy group ACT Now, said at a recent news conference.

The programs in question normally receive federal funding through the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers program. They include programs such as local

YMCA chapters, Boys & Girls Club and other organizations.

That money flows through ISBE, which awards competitive grants. Those grants are made in three-year or five-year cycles, and at the end of each cycle, the grants can either be renewed or the organization can reapply through a new competitive grant process.

In 2023, however, ISBE miscalculated how much federal funding would be available and made commitments to award more grants than the state could afford to fund. As a result, many organizations whose grant cycles came due in 2024 could not get them renewed because there was no federal funding available.

As a result, ACT Now and many of the after-school programs it represents sought, and received, \$50 million in state funding in this year’s budget to make up for the loss of federal funding.

Read more: Thousands of youths at risk of losing access to after-school programs

But now, seven months into the fiscal year, none of that money has been released by ISBE. Stanton said that while some organizations have been able to continue operating, many have been forced to close their doors and lay off staff, cutting off access to after-school programs to as many as 27,000 youths in Illinois, mainly in high-minority and lower-income communities.

“There’s no amount of private philanthropy that exists to fill the hole that we’re looking at right now,” she said. “We’re looking at about a \$50 million hole statewide ... and I encourage you to contact any private family foundation or community foundation or philanthropic group in Illinois, and they will tell you that they don’t have \$50 million sitting around for this.”

In an email, a spokesperson for ISBE said the agency would like to see the organizations receive their funding as well, but they need more direction from the legislative leaders about how they want the money distributed.

The spokesperson noted that while the money was included in the omnibus appropriations bill that lawmakers passed in May last year, it was not tied to any existing statutory program that outlines a method for distributing the funds.

“We understand the urgency surrounding after-school programming and remain committed to ensuring that these resources are allocated in a way that best serves students and families across Illinois,” the spokesperson said. “At the request of the General Assembly, ISBE is awaiting their direction before proceeding.”

But state Rep. Will Guzzardi, D-Chicago, one of the lead budget negotiators for the House Democratic caucus, said in an interview that lawmakers are equally frustrated that the money hasn’t been released.

“We feel as though we gave the agency the appropriations authority that it needs to disperse these funds and make sure these programs can continue to operate,” he said. “But certainly, if ISBE needs further guidance from the General Assembly, we’re happy to provide it to make sure that they perform their statutory responsibility.”

*Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.*

## Vella Speaks Out Against Tariffs, Passes House Resolution for Better Path Forward

Press Release

Concerned about the impact reckless tariffs would have on local families and businesses, state Rep. Dave Vella, D-Rockford, led passage of a resolution Wednesday condemning Donald Trump’s trade war proposals expected to raise costs on households and put jobs at risk.

“Illinois and our region in particular would be hit hard by these misguided tariffs, and families are the ones who will pay the price,” Vella said. “Creating economic pain and instability is irresponsible, which is why we’re calling on the White House to choose a better path forward.”

If fully implemented, tariffs are expected to increase prices on everyday items – including gas, utilities and groceries. Many economists believe the action would spur inflation, and according to some estimates, families could see annual costs rise as much as \$2,600 (Peterson Institute for International Economics, Aug. 2024).

House Resolution 119 passed the Illinois House on Wednesday.

## Sorensen Reintroduces Bipartisan Bill to Crack Down on AI Robocalls

Congressman Eric Sorensen (IL-17) is taking action to stop AI-driven scams that prey on Illinois seniors by reintroducing his bipartisan Quashing Unwanted and Interruptive Electronic Telecommunications (QUIET) Act alongside Congressman Juan Ciscomani (AZ-06). The bill requires robocallers to disclose when they use artificial intelligence (AI) technology and increases penalties for scammers who use AI to impersonate individuals.

“The last thing our seniors and working families need is to be bombarded with attacks from scam callers using new technologies to impersonate their loved ones, their bank, or the government. This bill puts real penalties in place to stop scammers from using AI and reduces the frustrating scam calls that unfairly target seniors and vulnerable communities.”

“The advancement of technology combined with the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) have transformed robocalls from an occasional nuisance into a powerful tool used by scammers and other bad actors to defraud

The QUIET Act increases penalties for violators who use AI to impersonate individuals or organizations with the intent to defraud, cause harm, or wrongfully obtain anything of value. This measure strengthens protections for seniors and vulnerable communities who are often the biggest targets of these scams.

Since coming to Congress, Sorensen has made fighting scam robocalls and robotexts a priority. Last Congress, he led a bipartisan effort urging the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to outline its plans to combat these scams, which disproportionately target older Americans.

Sorensen’s leadership on this issue underscores his commitment to keeping Illinois families safe from fraud and ensuring AI is not used as a tool to exploit hardworking people.

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

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