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Camp Epworth

By David Larson

Camp Epworth was located on the banks of the Kishwaukee River upstream from Rainbow Gardens, the subject of our story last week. The site of Camp Epworth straddles the present Epworth Road. It was on the Elgin & Belvidere Electric Line and the picture is of the train station at Camp Epworth. Weekends during the summer months, the Elgin & Belvidere would bring visitors from both directions to take in the spiritual experience in a natural setting.

Founded in 1889, the Epworth League is a Methodist young adult association for people aged 18 to 35. It had its beginning in Cleveland, Ohio. At its conception, the purpose of the League was the promotion of intelligence and piety among the young people. The League took its name from the Village of Epworth in Lincolnshire, England, the birthplace of John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Church. Today it has survived as the United Methodist Youth Fellowship. It is not clear if there was a direct connection between the League and the Boone County Camp, but each has a similar mission within Methodism.

After a campground near Cherry Valley was abandoned, Camp Epworth began to emerge in 1894 with a few cottages and a tent camping site on 12 acres along the Kishwaukee, inspired by the Methodist faithful. It was used most weekends from May to August, with August drawing more visitors to hear the spirited preaching of visiting ministers. In August 1895, 55 tents were pitched. It was a mix of young men and women who practiced temperance and the rejection of alcoholic beverages. Sharing a common camping community during the weekend summer months, they met for their meals in a dining hall that had been built as a community project. And, if not sleeping in tents or one of the cottages, they



Elgin & Belvidere Electric Line Train Station at Camp Epworth, early 20th Century

stayed in a newly-constructed dormitory together. A water system was created to supply their needs.

August of 1897 brought 8,000 visitors who pitched 1500 tents for Golden Wedding Day. Their Golden Wedding Day was a celebration held for those who had accepted Christ as their savior for over 50 years. Rain during these jamborees was said to extract the lesson of patience. Many different preachers spoke over the course of any given weekend.

A tabernacle was built in summer of 1900 and a flagpole installed. In celebration of the opening of the tabernacle, and in their expression of equality of all men, an African-American preacher was invited to speak.

By the 1920s, attendance began to slow and by

1938 Camp Epworth was dormant. The spiritual camp experiences were thereafter held at Lake Geneva. In 1943 the Camp Epworth property was transferred from the Rock River Methodist Church Conference to the Free Methodists of the Elgin District.

After World War II, there was a housing shortage in the United States. The Camp Epworth cottages were converted into homes when water and sewer systems were created, and insulation put in the summer cottages. The residents in that isolated community between Belvidere and Garden Prairie formed an informal town government to resolve community issues.

Today, a portion of the Camp Epworth site is being used as a family campground.

Just Weeks Before Republican National Convention, Illinois GOP Chair Announces Resignation

After 3 ½ years as ILGOP chair, Don Tracy cites intraparty fighting as reason for quitting

By Hannah Meisel Capitol News Illinois

Halfway through the 2024 election cycle and just a few weeks away from the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, Illinois GOP Chair Don Tracy on Wednesday announced his resignation as head of the state Republican Party.

Tracy, who'd held the job since February 2021, explained his resignation in a two-page letter that cited intraparty "power struggles." He also said he is concerned about the direction the party is taking under the current membership of the Illinois Republican State Central Committee – a 17-person

body that steers the ILGOP, with one member elected from each congressional district.

"In better days, Illinois Republicans came together after tough intra party elections," Tracy

wrote. "Now however, we have Republicans who would rather fight other Republicans than engage in the harder work of defeating incumbent Democrats by convincing swing voters to vote Republican."

Tracy was narrowly elected Illinois Republican Party chair in the wake of the 2020 election and Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection on the U.S. Capitol by those who sought to stop certification of the election for its winner, President Joe Biden, over former President Donald Trump. Even as Republicans publicly reckoned with the events of Jan. 6, hardline conservatives on the state central committee were pushing for a more



Illinois Republican Party Chairman Don Tracy rallies the party faithful at the 2023 Illinois State Fair. Less than a year later, Tracy announced his resignation, citing party infighting. (photo by Jerry Nowicki)

Continued on page 4

Judge Blocks Law That Would Have Banned Newly Slated Candidates

Banning post-primary slating in middle of election cycle unconstitutional, judge says

By Hannah Meisel Capitol News Illinois

A Sangamon County judge on Wednesday blocked the Illinois State Board of Elections from enforcing a new law that would have prevented certain General Assembly candidates who didn't run in the March primary from getting on the November ballot.

The move doesn't void the bill in its entirety, but rather blocks it only for this year's general election for the 14 named plaintiffs in the case.

Democrats who control the legislature quickly moved the measure from introduction to Gov. JB Pritzker's desk last month, claiming banning the practice of post-primary "slating" – long used by both parties – was in service of empowering voters. It applies in races where no candidate ran for a seat in the party's primary.

But Republicans cried foul, alleging the majority party passed the law to protect its incumbents from GOP challengers. Four such candidates sued last month, with 10 others joining them last week, and after Judge Gail Noll's order Wednesday, they will appear on the November ballot – if they survive the normal process of challenges to their nominating petitions.

"The General Assembly could make the revisions effective for the next election, rather than in the midst of the current election," Noll wrote in her 12-page order. "Changing the rules relating to ballot access in the midst of an election cycle removes certainty from the election process and is not necessary to achieve the legislation's proffered goal."

Noll echoed the plaintiffs' arguments from a Monday hearing, in which their attorney stressed that they weren't taking a position over the constitutionality of the law eliminating the slating process for candidates to the General Assembly.

Rather, Noll said, she sided with the candidates' contention that the law's application during the current election cycle violated their constitutional rights because it "impermissibly burdens their right to vote and to have their names placed on the November ballot."

The plaintiffs were represented by the Liberty Justice Center, a libertarian outfit behind lawsuits intervening in state law and politics – including one that ultimately resulted in the U.S. Supreme Court striking down "fair share" union dues in 2018. In a statement Wednesday, LJC attorney Jeffrey Schwab applauded Noll's ruling.

"The General Assembly can change the rules for elections, but they can't do it in the middle of the game to keep challengers off the ballot," he said. "We are proud to stand up for these candidates and against yet another scheme to suppress competition in Illinois elections."

Neither the attorney general's office nor attorneys for House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, who intervened in the lawsuit in favor of the law, immediately responded to a request for comment as to whether they would appeal the ruling.

Though Wednesday's ruling was aimed at the state Board of Elections, it won't change what the board was already doing, as elections officials continued to collect nominating petitions from prospective candidates despite Pritzker signing the law on May 3.

Monday's hearing coincided with the June 3 deadline for slated candidates to submit the requisite signatures to get on the ballot – 75 days after the March 19 primary as prescribed by state law. As of 5 p.m. on Monday, 16 candidates, all Republicans, filed to run in the November election via the slating process.

Objections to those petitions are due at the close of business on Monday, June 10. As of Wednesday afternoon, however, no objections had been filed.

Fourteen of the 16 candidates filed were plaintiffs in the suit,

including one who filed his nominating petitions to the board of elections just minutes after the governor's signature on the law last month.

The only candidate who turned in signatures to get on the ballot before May 3 was Jay Keeven of Edwardsville, who is challenging Democratic Rep. Katie Stuart, also of Edwardsville. He was not party to the lawsuit.

Without naming him, Noll pointed out that the law would "arbitrarily treat" Keeven differently than the other 15 candidates. Even if she didn't rule on the merits of the candidates' voting rights being violated, Noll wrote, the law's application in the middle of the current election cycle is still discriminatory because it "does not apply the same rules to all potential candidates."

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Quidnunc



The Kishwaukee River is Boone County's defining geographic feature. A park should run from one end of town to the other.



- Carmen "Lilly" Caraballo Ayala, 69, Bel., June 22
- Lana Cavin, 82, Harvard, June 16
- Roger Cummings, 93, Belvidere, June 15
- Maria DeMoss, 82, Harvard, June 21
- Andrea Gustafson, 82, Cherry Valley, June 18
- Michael Paun, 63, Caledonia, June 21
- Robert Prouty, 81, Belvidere, June 19
- David Replogle, 57, Cherry Valley, June 24

- Bill Walton, 71, San Diego, May 26
- Donal Sutherland, 88, Miami, June 19
- Willie Mays, 93, Palo Alto CA, June 17

Advocates Say SCOTUS Ruling Paves Way for Law Ensuring Abusers Have Guns Confiscated

Urge passage of 'Karina's Bill' when lawmakers return in the fall

By Hannah Meisel Capitol News Illinois

After the U.S. Supreme Court last week upheld a federal law that bars those under domestic violence-related restraining orders from owning guns, victim advocates say Illinois lawmakers should pass a measure to ensure firearms are actually confiscated in those situations.

The legislation has been stalled for more than a year, despite efforts this spring and fall to resurrect it after the high-profile murder of Chicago resident Karina Gonzalez. She and her 15-year-old daughter Daniela were allegedly shot to death by her estranged husband less than two weeks after a judge issued an order of protection against him. Jose Alvarez remains in Cook County Jail and is next due in court on Tuesday.

But after Friday's high court ruling, advocates say there is nothing else standing in the way of lawmakers taking up the bill, which last summer was rebranded "Karina's Bill" after Gonzalez's murder. The bill would clarify existing state law and require law enforcement to take guns from those subject to certain domestic violence orders of protection.

Amanda Pyron, executive director of Chicago-based domestic violence advocacy organization The Network, said it "hit a lot of us really hard" that Friday's Supreme Court decision was published on the one-year anniversary of Gonzalez's order

Continued on page 4

REAL JOURNALISM FOR A REAL DEMOCRACY

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OP-ED

Thoughts on the Presidential Debate by A Political Scientist

By Bob Evans Rockford University

Thursday evening in Atlanta Joe Biden and Donald Trump will conduct a Presidential debate; it will be unique in a number of ways. It will be the earliest debate by far, by a matter of months. It will be the first debate between candidates both of whom have previously held the office. The rules will be different from previous debates. A serious candidate will be excluded from the event. These are not mere factoids; they matter, and could mold or shape the rest of the campaign.

The date enhances the importance of the event. It will precede early voting (a phenomenon to which neither political scientists nor the media have adjusted). It will have more of an impact on those voters who remain undecided. There will also be time to adjust campaigning to the results. Since both candidates are so well known the debate will be likely to reinforce, rather than mold, public opinion. The revised rules may actually promote serious debate. Observers disagree as to which of the other two candidates Kennedy impacts more. Will his exclusion constitute a mortal blow to his candidacy?

The earliest ever debate is only one more curiosity of this strange campaign. Not only do we think that we know all we need to know about these familiar candidates, but it also seems to be the case that familiarity has indeed bred contempt. In some polls more than 25% of those polled disapprove strongly of both candidates. Some polls reveal that over 60% of respondents would have preferred other candidates. Large percentages of those polled indicate they believe that both candidates are too old. There is a newly

minted media term- "double haters". It will be interesting to see what ultimate impact on turnout results from this impending debate under these circumstances.

What debate strategies are the two candidates likely to pursue? Ordinarily, a second term Presidential election constitutes a referendum on the performance of the incumbent. President Biden, however, is attempting to turn this election into a referendum on Donald Trump. "Democracy will be on the ballot..." is a recurrent Biden refrain. We are reminded frequently that Donald Trump is now a convicted felon. These are indeed serious criticisms, but there is risk in this strategy. Trump's legal woes have not helped

his cause, but neither have they felled him. As was noted above voters know all about both of these candidates; so it is not clear how effective a purely personal attack can be.

The campaign against Donald Trump needs to remind voters of the policies he would espouse. Any alleged character flaws would matter more to voters who also disapprove of his policy platform. His views on reproductive rights could be stressed and tied to his policy of "packing the Court". This criticism opens logically into an attack on his attitudes toward racial, gender, and religious minorities. These views could be tied to the criticism of immigrants and his attitude toward organized labor.

Biden could tie Trump's legal problems to his policy positions. The general conclusion would be that Trump reveals himself to favor the "haves" over the "have nots". He seeks every advantage for people like himself at the expense of the average, ordinary American. Average folks need the rules to protect them, yet Trump flouts the rules to his own advantage. What could degenerate into a personal attack could be welded instead to a defense of a system that should protect everyone. The President must never forget that people believe that they already know all they need to know about Donald Trump's character.

What, on the other hand, might be a successful Trumpian campaign strategy? The challenger should avoid merely creating the mirror image of the personal attack strategy that Biden should avoid. So far Trump has campaigned almost exclusively against Biden based on age and alleged infirmity. Every reference is to an aging, enfeebled Biden. Trump needs to do more. Remember that voters know these two better than almost any previous contenders for the office. Biden's age and Trump's character have likely been assessed already. Voters need to be given reasons to reject Biden's policies.

Biden's age should underpin criticism of his policies. Because he is old and isolated he does

not understand or appreciate the deleterious impact of inflation. He is insulated from the real and ominous threat of crime. Immigration problems do not threaten his economic and social well being. Biden and the Democrats do not understand, because they do not experience, the inexorable erosion of independence resulting from the encroachment of government. Trump should harness Biden's age to insulation and alienation. Age matters because age exacerbates the problems faced by average Americans.

The impending debate matters. It matters in a number of ways and for a number of reasons. It matters most because this election matters more than most. If the two candidates can rise above personal invective they can do us all a service by highlighting the profound policy questions at issue in this election. This debate should offer us an appropriate introduction to the campaign that follows.

State Highway Shootings Decline As Critics Sue Over 'Dragnet Surveillance'

Same group that successfully blocked election 'slating' law takes aim at highway cameras

By Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

Belvidere is presently applying for a grant to install 4 license plate reader cameras.

Illinois State Police say an automated license plate reader program has helped the agency identify witnesses or suspects in 82 percent of highway shooting cases this year, including all eight that resulted in a death.

But as the state looks to further expand its network of more than 400 cameras this year, it faces a lawsuit accusing ISP of operating "a system of dragnet surveillance" by using the cameras to monitor all traffic that passes them.

The fiscal year 2025 state budget that lawmakers approved last month includes \$7 million in new funding for the technology as well as \$2.5 million reappropriated from a previous year.

The cameras are constantly monitoring the highways where they are installed, collecting images, time and location data on hundreds of millions of vehicles each year. In May alone, the cameras captured 1.4 million "hits," or instances

Continued on page 5

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ardent supporter of Trump and his politics than the previous chair, who was hand-picked by former Gov. Bruce Rauner.

Instead, the party got Tracy, another Rauner ally who served as chair of the Illinois Gaming Board during the one-term governor's administration. Tracy had unsuccessfully run for lieutenant governor in 2010, and in 2002, he lost a bid for a state Senate seat – but as a Democrat.

Tracy's electoral history, as well as his experience as an attorney and co-owner of his family's food distribution business, fit the mold of previous ILGOP chairs in a state where fiscally conservative and socially moderate suburban Republicans for decades were a political powerhouse.

But as Republican politics have changed both nationally and in Illinois, Tracy's run as party chair proved tumultuous.

In the 2022 election cycle, Tracy's first at the helm, Republicans lost big at the state level despite picking up one seat in the state Senate.

Even so, Tracy survived a no-confidence vote last spring and was holding onto power until this week.

In his letter, Tracy cited "recent events," including state central committee members earlier this week removing one of their own from his position as state party vice chair "without due process." Tracy wrote the move "portends a direction of the State Party I am not comfortable with."

According to reporting from the Chicago Tribune, Mark Shaw, a state central committee member from Illinois' 10th Congressional District, was stripped of his title and removed from the party's fundraising committee on Monday. The vote was a rebuke of his behavior at a state party convention last month where he allegedly voted as a delegate despite not being one, and challenged another Republican official to a fight, the paper reported.

Additionally, Tracy wrote that he was "concerned about the current infatuation" of some state central committee members "with certain individuals they call 'grass roots' leaders."

One such self-proclaimed grassroots Republican, former state Sen. Darren Bailey, celebrated Tracy's resignation on social media Wednesday, calling it a "cleansing" of the state GOP.

"Fake republicans got us into this mess," wrote Bailey, who earlier this year lost a primary challenge to U.S. Rep. Mike Bost and unsuccessfully ran for governor in 2022. "Real Republicans standing firm will get us out!!!"

The state's Democratic Party – which had its own leadership fight two years ago – took the opportunity to gloat about the "chaos" within the ILGOP, claiming Democrats are a "united party" ahead of the November election.

Democrats panned the state GOP as "defined by a litany of electoral disasters, constant infighting, meager fundraising, and a strict adherence to a losing set of anti-choice, anti-worker, pro-Trump policies."

"While we don't expect new leadership to change any of that, we do wish the best of luck to the inevitable MAGA extremist who will succeed Don Tracy as Chair," the party said.

Tracy's letter indicated he would resign upon the election of a successor, "preferably no later than" July 19 – the day after the RNC is scheduled to conclude.

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U.S. Supreme Court Building

Photo By Morguefile.com

Court

from page 2

of protection against her husband.

"I think it says a lot about our state that it took this long and we hope it will say something different about our state if we get it passed in (the General Assembly's fall) veto session," Pyron said of lawmaker inaction on Karina's bill during a call with reporters on Monday.

State Rep. Maura Hirschauer, D-Batavia, a chief sponsor of Karina's Bill, said in a statement Friday that while the high court's ruling is "a great relief for survivors of gender-based violence," the decision "merely preserve(s) the status quo."

"Here in Illinois, we should move forward by enacting Karina's Bill, which will provide clear guidance for getting guns out of the hands of abusers, and ensure those weapons are removed sooner – all within a framework that justices have now overwhelmingly endorsed," she said.

Hirschauer pushed an earlier, broader version of the bill through the Illinois House in May 2023, but it failed to advance in the Senate. Gonzalez and her daughter were killed two months later.

Under existing state law, when petitioning a court for a domestic violence order of protection, a victim can ask for 18 specific "remedies," including the confiscation of the alleged abuser's firearms. But state law is less than clear on how firearms should be surrendered – or forcibly taken by law enforcement if need be.

Karina's Bill would clarify that firearms must be surrendered or confiscated within four days of a victim being granted a domestic violence order of protection against their abuser – a change from an earlier version of the bill that stipulated a 48-hour timeline. It would also explicitly allow a judge to issue a search warrant for those weapons when law enforcement goes to serve the order of protection.

Although advocates had been waiting for Friday's Supreme Court decision, they say lawmakers could have taken up Karina's Bill this spring during the General Assembly's regular legislative session.

But the pending high court case wasn't the only barrier; law enforcement groups like the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police have expressed concerns about smaller, more rural police departments' abilities to follow the law's directive to confiscate weapons within four days of an order of protection being issued.

Even Gov. JB Pritzker, while generally

supportive of the bill, pointed out last month that law enforcement officers could be going into volatile situations when serving a search warrant for firearms.

"In the instance where you've got to go confiscate the firearm, literally you have to bring sometimes four officers to one situation in order to remove the weapon," he said. "And if somebody doesn't want to give it to you, it becomes quite complicated and maybe dangerous."

The latest version of the legislation would allow federally licensed gun dealers to store any guns seized or surrendered by someone under a domestic violence order of protection with the firearm remedy – a change made after smaller police departments said they wouldn't be able to store all of those guns themselves.

Pyron and other advocates said the bill has been tweaked and is ready for lawmakers to take it up again when they return to Springfield in November. She also warned that the General Assembly's consideration of Karina's Bill is made even more urgent by a recent "upward trend" in domestic violence-related gun homicides in Illinois.

According to The Network's analysis of statistics compiled by the Gun Violence Archive, Illinois saw a near-doubling of domestic violence shooting deaths from 2020 to 2023. Four years ago, 37 such victims died of gunshot wounds, compared with 70 last year. Pyron said that as of April 30, 34 people had died in domestic violence-related shootings in 2024 – a 55 percent increase from the previous year.

The number of domestic violence victims injured, but not killed, in shootings is also increasing, she said. The Network's latest annual report containing 2023 data has not yet been published.

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Cameras

from page 3

in which a pictured license plate matched one in a law enforcement database for “hot” vehicles – such as stolen cars or those connected to a crime. That was out of 215 million recorded “detections” in May, which includes any instance of a vehicle image being stored with date and time data.

The libertarian legal group Liberty Justice Center contends the constant nature of that surveillance violates the rights of two Cook County residents named as plaintiffs in their lawsuit filed May 30.

The group is the same one that successfully sued to block implementation of a state law that would have prevented certain General Assembly candidates who didn’t run in the March primary from getting on the November ballot. It was also behind the lawsuit that ultimately resulted in the U.S. Supreme Court striking down “fair share” union dues in 2018.

“Defendants are tracking anyone who drives to work in Cook County – or to school, or a grocery store, or a doctor’s office, or a pharmacy, or a political rally, or a romantic encounter, or family gathering – every day, without any reason to suspect anyone of anything, and are holding onto those whereabouts just in case they decide in the future that some citizen might be an appropriate target of law enforcement,” the lawsuit reads.

The lawsuit contends the program violates the plaintiffs’ search, seizure and due process rights under the 4th and 14th amendments to the U.S. Constitution. It seeks to end the state’s operation of the license plate reader program and to provide specific protections for the two named plaintiffs.

A lawyer for the Liberty Justice Center told Capitol News Illinois the plan is to seek a temporary injunction against the surveillance program as the full case progresses.

About three weeks after the lawsuit was filed in federal court in the Northern District of Illinois, ISP sent a news release touting the efficacy of the program.

Highway shootings had been on the rise before the legislature authorized and provided funding for automated license plate readers, or ALPRs, in Cook County. There were 51 such shootings in 2019, 147 in 2020 and 310 in 2021, according to Illinois State Police data. That dropped to 189 in 2022 and 129 in 2023, with 42 recorded through mid-June in 2024 – a 42 percent decline through the same period last year. The cameras were used in at least 260 investigations this year, according to ISP.

“The use of automated license plate readers has been a game changer in investigating interstate shootings, as well as vehicular hijackings and thefts,” ISP Director Brendan Kelly said in the Tuesday news release. “They provide us vital leads for our investigation, allowing us to track the events immediately leading up to and following the shootings to identify the vehicle involved.”

State police can review images instantly upon report of a shooting or other incident, and once a suspect vehicle is identified, law enforcement can set the system to alert them if that vehicle is spotted on an ALPR.

Under law, the cameras can be used in the investigations of offenses involving vehicular hijackings, terrorism, motor vehicle theft, or any forcible felony, which includes such crimes as murder and firearms offenses. Cameras can also be used for monitoring roadway conditions for safety purposes.

The law, however, prohibits officers from using footage to enforce “petty offenses,” such as speeding.

ISP said their policy is to keep data collected by the cameras for 90 days.

“That’s kind of our big concern is the historical collection and aggregation of all the data,” Reilly Stephens, a Liberty Justice Center attorney, told Capitol News Illinois. “If you only have 24 hours of data, maybe it’s a different case.”

There’s 430 such cameras throughout the state, including 340 in Cook County, 78 in St. Clair County and four each in Champaign, Morgan and Winnebago counties.

Later this year, ISP plans to add cameras in Macon, Madison, Peoria, Bureau, Lake and Winnebago counties. ISP said it could also “potentially” add cameras in Boone, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Henry, Kane, Kendall, LaSalle, McHenry, Rock Island, Sangamon, and Will counties, as well as on DuSable-Lake Shore Drive in Chicago.

The law creating the camera program passed in 2020 with a focus on Chicago, but a 2022 expansion covered another 6,000-plus miles of roadway outside of Cook County. That move was widely supported in the legislature, although some raised civil liberty concerns about broad definitions in the law.

Members of both parties expressed concern that the cameras could be used to profile drivers and that individuals were not allowed to request their own data through the Freedom of Information Act.

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Illinois Child Tax Credit: Who Gets It, How Much Is It?

\$50M tax credit program will provide up to roughly \$300 for low-income families

By Andrew Adams Capitol News Illinois

In the final hours of their spring legislative session, Illinois lawmakers approved a tax credit of up to about \$300 for families with young children.

The credit is available to Illinoisans with children under age 12 who qualify for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit, or EITC. Although it has exceptions, that credit is generally available to married couples earning up to about \$60,000 and single people earning up to about \$50,000, depending on the number of children they have.

For taxes on 2024 income, the tax credit will cap at just over \$300 for tax filers with three or more children who meet certain income requirements. Taxpayers with two children face a cap of about \$270 and taxpayers with one child face a cap of about \$170.

Continued on page 7

Communities, Commission Push Pritzker Admin for More Prison Plan Details

Legislative panel set to make recommendation on closures later this week

By Dilpreet Raju Capitol News Illinois

Jimmy Soto spent more than 42 years wrongfully imprisoned in Illinois Department of Corrections facilities.

In 2020, he was moved to the “F-House” at Stateville Correctional Center in Joliet, a condemned unit, not because he was being punished, but because it was where the facility was housing individuals in custody who’d tested positive for COVID-19. Four years earlier, the F-House had closed due to health and safety concerns.

“Roaches galore,” Soto recalled. “I had only cold running water. There was no hot water.”

He said conditions inside Stateville’s active units were hardly better: mold, cold water and poorly functioning drains were all common. Eating food prepared at the prison or drinking water from its pipes is a risk every time, Soto said.

“In particular, the kitchen – maintenance of it wasn’t kept up. You would often have broken pots, grease would be allowed to build up, they had a really bad mice and roach infestation,” he told Capitol news Illinois.

He was one of the individuals to speak in favor of Gov. JB Pritzker’s plan to demolish the facility at a public hearing Tuesday night, while the union representing workers at the prison arrived in droves to seek more clarity on the governor’s proposal – which could close Stateville as soon as September.

The plan, announced by Pritzker in March, seeks to demolish and rebuild Stateville, along with Logan Correctional Center in Lincoln, following a commissioned report that showed they were among several IDOC facilities in drastic disrepair. Stateville was built in 1925 and Logan was built in the 1870s as the Illinois Asylum for Feeble-Minded Children before it was converted to a women’s prison in 1978.

The Tuesday night hearing was the first of two on the planned demolitions and closures that will be held by the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability this week before it gives a nonbinding recommendation to the governor on Friday.

Pritzker’s Plan

The budget for fiscal year 2025, which begins July 1, includes \$900 million for the rebuild plan. It comes almost a year after the governor’s office commissioned an infrastructure report by CGL Companies, an international consulting firm which exclusively evaluates correctional facilities.

The report – which the state paid CGL Companies about \$1.3 million to conduct – found facilities housing Illinois’ roughly 30,000-person prison population have been in disarray for decades. A “master plan” in the report recommended roughly \$260 million worth of projects across the state’s prisons, though it made no mention of rebuilding entire correctional centers. It also suggested addressing the agency’s \$2.5 billion backlog of deferred maintenance – which it predicted could double in five years – but did not determine which ongoing capital development projects to prioritize.

CGL’s report recommended building out program space across IDOC, including mental health and treatment space, building a geriatric unit, reducing

Continued on Page 8

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LEGAL NOTICES

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

GITSIT SOLUTIONS LLC, Plaintiff,
-v.- **23 FC 68**
UNKNOWN HEIRS OF SHARON C. HAMPTON A/K/A SHARON COLLEEN HAMPTON, ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, J.F. HECKINGER, P.C. A/K/A J.F. HECKINGER, LLC, TIME INVESTMENT COMPANY, INC., STEVEN HAMPTON, SHERRI PRUITT A/K/A SHERRILL PRUITT A/K/A SHERRI HAMPTON, STEPHANIE FOLEY A/K/A STEPHANIE HAMPTON, TIM MILLER AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

510 WEST 10TH STREET BELVIDERE, IL 61008
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 4/23/2024, an agent of Auction.com LLC will at 12:00 PM on 7/25/2024 located at 601 N Main Street, Belvidere, IL 61008, sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate.

LOT THIRTY-FIVE (35) AS DESIGNATED UPON PLAT NO. 2 OF BEL-AIRE SUBDIVISION, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, THE PLAT OF WHICH IS RECORDED IN BOOK 5 OF PLATS ON PAGE 18, IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN BOONE COUNTY IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 510 WEST 10TH STREET, BELVIDERE, IL 61008

Property Index No. 05-35-478-003
The real estate is improved with a Single Family Residence.
The judgment amount was \$197,850.53
Sale Terms: 20% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to Auction.com LLC. No third party checks will be accepted. All registered bidders need to provide a photo ID in order to bid. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. (relief fee not required) The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a certificate of sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property, prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9 (g)(l) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For information, contact Plaintiffs attorney: Law Offices of Ira T. Nevel LLC. (312) 357-1125 please refer to file number 23-01920.

Auction.com LLC
100 N LaSalle Suite 1400 Chicago, IL 60606 - 872-225-4985
You can also visit www.auction.com.
Attorney File No. 23-01920
Case Number: 23 FC 68

NOTE: PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, YOU ARE ADVISED THAT PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

6088-942589
Published in *The Boone County Journal* June 13, 20, 27

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

SERVBANK, SB, PLAINTIFF,
VS. NO. 2024 FC 31
LEAH MILLS; XAVIER MILLS; MARINER FINANCE, LLC; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DEFENDANTS.

4116 CORNFLOWER ROAD
POPLAR GROVE, IL 61065
JUDGE PRESIDING JUDGE

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO YOU,
Xavier Mills Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants defendants, that this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, asking for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:

LOT ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SIX (146) AS DESIGNATED UPON WEST GROVE SUBDIVISION PLAT NO. 2, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTH HALF (1/2) OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (1/4), PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (1/4) OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (1/4) AND PART OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (1/4) OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (1/4), ALL IN SECTION 23, TOWNSHIP 45 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED AUGUST 25, 2005, AS DOCUMENT NO. 2005R09773 IN BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as: 4116 Cornflower Road
Poplar Grove, IL 61065
and which said Mortgage was made by,
Leah Mills and Xavier Mills
Mortgagor(s), to
Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for First Centennial Mortgage Corp.
Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Boone County, Illinois, as Document No. 2017R06339; and for other relief.
UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before July 22, 2024, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT.
You have been sued. To participate in the case, you MUST file an official document with the court within the time stated in this Notice called an "Appearance" and a document called an "Answer/Response". The Answer/Response is not required in small claims or eviction cases unless ordered by the court. If you do not file an Appearance and Answer/Response on time, the court may decide the case without hearing from you, and you

could be held in default and lose the case. After you fill out the necessary documents, you need to electronically file (e-file) them with the court. To e-file, you must create an account with an e-filing service provider. For more information, go to ilcourts.info/efiling. If you cannot e-file, you can get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. You may be charged filing fees, but if you cannot pay them, you can file an Application for Waiver of Court Fees. It is possible that the court will allow you to attend the first court date in this case in-person or remotely by video or phone. Contact the Circuit Court Clerk's office or visit the Court's website to find out whether this is possible and, if so, how to do this. Need help? Call or text Illinois Court Help at 833-411-1121 or go to ilcourthelp.gov for information about going to court, including how to fill out and file documents. You can also get free legal information and legal referrals at illinoislegalaid.org. All documents referred to in this Notice can be found at ilcourts.info/forms. Other documents may be available from your local Circuit Court Clerk's office or website. Necesita ayuda? Llame o envíe un mensaje de texto a Illinois Court Help al 833-411- 1121, o visite ilcourthelp.gov para obtener información sobre los casos de la corte y cómo completar y presentar formularios.

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
1 N. Dearborn St. Suite 1200
Chicago, IL 60602
Ph. (312) 346-9088
File No. 24-18154IL-1057857
13246209
Published in the Boone County Journal 06/20, 27, July 4, 2024

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

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
In The Interest of: IZEL RIVERA-TORRES, minor
No. 24-JA-6
Luis Aristud, All unknown fathers, and All whom it may concern
ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Take notice that on May 2nd, 2024, a petition was filed under the JUVENILE COURT ACT by Atty. Tricia Smith, State's Attorney, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, in the Circuit Court of Boone County entitled "In the Interest of Izel Rivera-Torres, minor; and that in the County Courthouse in Belvidere, Illinois, at 1:30 P.M. central daylight time on 08/15/24; or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared to be a ward of the Court under that Act. THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS PROCEEDING TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS, AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH THE POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD. Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

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

Dated: June 4, 2024 Pamela Coduto, CIRCUIT CLERK
Published in *The Boone County Journal*: 6/13, 6/20, 6/27- C

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

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
In The Interest of: JOHANNELYS LEANNA CORTES, minor
No. 24-JA-9
All unknown fathers and All whom it may concern
ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Take notice that on May 7th, 2024, a petition was filed under the JUVENILE COURT ACT by Atty. Tricia Smith, State's Attorney, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, in the Circuit Court of Boone County entitled "In the Interest of Johannelys Leanna Cortes, minor; and that in the County Courthouse in Belvidere, Illinois, at 1:30 P.M. central daylight time on 07/18/2024 and 08/01/24; or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared to be a ward of the Court under that Act. THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS PROCEEDING TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS, AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH THE POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD. Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

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

Dated: June 4, 2024 Pamela Coduto, CIRCUIT CLERK
Published in *The Boone County Journal*: 6/13, 6/20, 6/27- C

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

In the Matter of the Estate of SHIRLEY A. JACOBSON, Deceased. No. 2024-PR-17
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION WITHOUT WILL AND CLAIMS

NOTICE is given of the death of Shirley A. Jacobson. Letters of Office were issued March 15, 2024 on to Rochelle Jacobson, Belvidere, Illinois who is the legal representative of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Attorney Charles T. Sewell, 215 South State Street, Belvidere, Illinois.

Claims against the estate may be filed on or before December 19, 2024, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by 755 ILCS 5/18-3, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk--Probate Division at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, or with the estate legal representative, or both.

Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office--Probate Division, must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to his attorney within ten days after it has been filed.

Dated: June 12, 2024
Rochelle Jacobson, Independent Administrator

Charles T. Sewell, L.L.C.
Attorney at Law
215 South State Street
Belvidere, IL 61008
Phone: 815-544-3118
Email: charlests1@aol.com
Published in *The Boone County Journal* June 13, 20, 27

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Boone County Board will receive bids marked BCG-2024-07 for the purpose of updating the jailis recording system along with replacing at least 32 analog cameras to digital cameras. The Boone County Correctional Facility is located at 615 North Main Street, Belvidere, IL 61008.

Bid documents will be available on or after June 21, 2024. Those interested may visit the Boone County Website at https://www.boone-countyil.gov/businesses/bids_rfp_s.php for further details. Copies of the Bid Documents will be available for viewing in the Boone County Clerks Office located at 1212 Logan Avenue, Suite 103, Belvidere, IL 61008. Bids will be accepted at the Boone County Clerks Office until Monday, July 15th, 2024 at 12:00 P.M. Bids will be opened at 12 P.M. the same day in the Boone County Board Room located at 1212 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois 61008.

Boone County Government reserves the right to accept or reject all bids.
Published in *The Boone County Journal* June 27, 2024

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
BOONE COUNTY

Date For Request Of Name Change (Adult): Gina Lee Bye
Case No. 2024-MR-11
There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from: GINA LEE BYE to the new name of GINA LEE GLASER. The court date will be held on 08/13/2024 at 9:15 a.m. at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008 in Courtroom #3
Published in the Boone County Journal - 06/27, 07/04, 07/11 (P)

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-03
ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS OF THE BOONE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #2

BOONE, COUNTY, ILLINOIS, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING MAY 1, 2024, AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2025
WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Boone County Fire Protection District #2, Boone County, Illinois, caused to be prepared in tentative form a Budget and the Secretary of this Board has made the same conveniently available for public inspection for at least thirty (30) days prior to final action thereon; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held as to such Budget on the 19th day of June, 2024, and Notice of said hearing was given at least thirty (30) days prior thereto as required by law, and the Board having met all other applicable legal requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Trustees of the Boone County Fire Protection District #2, Boone County, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1: That the fiscal year of this Fire Protection District is hereby fixed to begin on May 1, 2024, and end on April 30, 2025.

Section 2: That the following Budget containing an estimate of the revenues available and expenditures and the appropriations contained therein be and the same is hereby adopted as the Budget and Appropriations for this fire protection district for this fiscal year; and the following sums of money, or as much thereof as may be authorized by law, is hereby appropriated to defray the necessary expenses and liabilities of the Boone County Fire Protection District #2, for its fiscal year beginning May 1, 2024, and ending April 30, 2025, for the respective objects and purposes, as hereinafter set forth namely:

Continued on Page 7

ASSUMED NAMES

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE COUNTY
ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION
No. DBA4199 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a GRAPHIC DESIGN business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of IN THEORY CREATIVE that its location is or will be 427 STONE HOLLOW DRIVE, in Poplar Grove, 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: 970-581-5324
Elizabeth Anne Lewis, 427 Stone Hollow Drive, Poplar Grove, Illinois 61065

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: June 25, 2024

Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder
Published in Boone County Journal 6/27, 7/4, 7/11/24 - P

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

No. DBA4197 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a EXCAVATING CONSTRUCTION business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of T-REX EXCAVATING INC. that its location is or will be 1217 AMERICAN HOUSE DRIVE, 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: 815-319-2846
Francisco Sanchez Pasillas, 1217 American House Drive, Belvidere, Illinois 61008

Manuela Vidales Pasillas, 1217 American House Drive, 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: June 7, 2024

Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder
Published in Boone County Journal 6/13, 6/20, 6/27/24 - P

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

No. DBA4200 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a FARM STAND business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of THE FARM STAND that its location is or will be 9845 U.S. Highway 20, in Garden Prairie, in the County of Boone County, State of Illinois, and that the true or real name(s) of the person(s) owning, conducting, or transacting the same with the post office address or address of said person(s) is shown below.
Phone Number: 815-378-9183

Thomas J Berry, 9845 U.S. Highway 20, Garden Prairie, Illinois 61038
Randall J. Anderson, 5028 Walnut Grove Dr., Poplar Grove, Illinois 61065

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: June 26, 2024

Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder
Published in Boone County Journal 6/27, 07/04, 11 P.

continued

from page 6

PART I – CORPORATE FUND

Estimated Corporate Fund Revenues	
Item 1: Balance and Reserve on hand as of April 30, 2024	\$1,007,475.85
Item 2: Property taxes to be received in FY 2024-2025	\$1,147,900.00
Item 3: Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax	\$45,000.00
Item 4: Foreign Fire Insurance	\$25,000.00
Item 5: Interest	\$11,000.00
Item 6: Miscellaneous Income/Donations	\$67,530.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED AMOUNT AVAILABLE	\$2,303,905.85

Estimated Corporate Fund Expenditures and Appropriations

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Appropriated</u>
A. Operating		
6010 Contingency	\$8,500.00	\$10,200.00
6030 Gas & Oil	\$30,000.00	\$36,000.00
6070 Station Property & Repairs	\$136,050.00	\$163,260.00
6078 Vehicle Repairs & Maintenance	\$116,000.00	\$293,200.00
6080 Office Operations	\$50,850.00	\$61,020.00
6100 Training	\$32,500.00	\$39,000.00
6120 Utilities	\$15,650.00	\$18,780.00
TOTAL OPERATIONS	\$389,550.00	\$621,460.00
B. Equipment		
6050 Firefighters Equipment	\$75,500.00	\$90,600.00
6052 Other New Equipment Purchases	\$89,200.00	\$107,040.00
6074 Equipment Repairs & Maintenance	\$30,500.00	\$36,600.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	\$195,200.00	\$234,240.00
C. Other Funds		
6040 Insurance	\$90,000.00	\$108,000.00
6060 Professional Fees	\$11,200.00	\$13,440.00
6110 Trustee Compensation	\$2,000.00	\$2,400.00
6560 Payroll Expenses	\$545,000.00	\$654,000.00
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS	\$648,200.00	\$777,840.00
D. Capital Improvement Fund		
6150 Command Vehicle	\$68,000.00	\$81,600.00
TOTAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	\$68,000.00	\$81,600.00
TOTAL CORPORATE FUND ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES & APPROPRIATIONS	\$1,300,950.00	\$1,715,140.00
ESTIMATED CORPORATE FUND BALANCE AS OF APRIL 30, 2025	\$1,002,955.85	

PART II – AMBULANCE FUND

Estimated Ambulance Fund Revenues	
Item 1: Balance and Reserve on hand as of April 30, 2024	\$0.00
Item 2: Property taxes to be received in FY 2024-2025	\$1,900,000.00
Item 3: Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax	\$0.00
Item 4: Ambulance Billing	\$310,000.00
Item 5: Interest	\$20,000.00
Item 6: Miscellaneous Income/Donations	\$0.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED AMOUNT AVAILABLE	\$2,230,000.00

Estimated Ambulance Fund Expenditures and Appropriations

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Appropriated</u>
A. Operating		
6010 Contingency	\$8,500.00	\$10,200.00
6030 Gas & Oil	\$15,000.00	\$18,000.00
6070 Station Property & Repairs	\$39,100.00	\$46,920.00
6078 Vehicle Repairs & Maintenance	\$500.00	\$600.00
6080 Office Operations	\$49,600.00	\$59,520.00
6100 Training	\$23,000.00	\$27,600.00
6120 Utilities	\$15,650.00	\$18,780.00
TOTAL OPERATIONS	\$151,350.00	\$181,620.00
B. Equipment		
6050 Firefighters Equipment	\$39,500.00	\$47,400.00
6052 Other New Equipment Purchases	\$105,000.00	\$126,000.00
6074 Equipment Repairs & Maintenance	\$8,000.00	\$9,600.00
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	\$152,500.00	\$183,000.00
C. Other Funds		
6040 Insurance	\$86,000.00	\$103,200.00
6060 Professional Fees	\$11,200.00	\$13,440.00
6110 Trustee Compensation	\$2,000.00	\$2,400.00
6560 Payroll Expenses	\$1,826,000.00	\$2,191,200.00
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS	\$1,925,200.00	\$2,310,240.00
D. Capital Improvement Fund		
6150 Command Vehicle	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL AMBULANCE FUND ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES & APPROPRIATIONS	\$2,229,050.00	\$2,674,860.00
ESTIMATED CORPORATE FUND BALANCE AS OF APRIL 30, 2025	\$950.00	

TOTAL CORPORATE FUND APPROPRIATIONS	\$1,715,140.00
TOTAL AMBULANCE FUND APPROPRIATIONS	\$2,674,860.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED APPROPRIATIONS:	\$4,390,000.00

Section 3: That all unexpended balances of any item or items of any general appropriation in this Ordinance be expended in making up any insufficiency in any other item or items in the same general appropriation and for the same general purpose of any like appropriation made by this Ordinance.

Section 4: That the invalidity of any item or Section of this Ordinance shall not affect the validity of the whole or any other part thereof.

Section 5: That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

ADOPTED and APPROVED this 19th day of June, 2024, pursuant to a roll call vote as follows:

AYES: 2
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 1

President, Board of Trustees Boone County Fire Protection District #2
Secretary, Board of Trustees Boone County Fire Protection District #2
STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF BOONE)

SECRETARYS CERTIFICATE

I, James Dooley, Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Boone County Fire Protection District in the County of Boone and State of Illinois, do hereby certify that attached hereto is a true and correct copy of that certain Ordinance now on file in my office entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-03

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

Which ordinance was duly adopted and approved by the Board of Trustees of the Boone County Fire Protection District #2 at a meeting held on the 19th of June, 2024. I do certify that a quorum of said Board of Trustees was present at said meeting, and that the Board complied with all requirements of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. I do further certify that the Ordinance of which the foregoing is a true and correct copy, is entrusted to my care for safekeeping, and that I am the lawful keeper of the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Boone County Fire Protection District #2 this 19th day of June, 2024.

Secretary, Board of Trustees Boone County Fire Protection District #2
STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF BOONE)

BOONE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #2
ESTIMATE OF REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR
BEGINNING MAY 1, 2024 AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2025

I, Mark Huntington, do hereby certify that I am the Treasurer of the Boone County Fire Protection District #2, Boone County, State of Illinois, and I further certify that the following is an estimate of the revenues, by source, anticipated to be received by the District during Fiscal year beginning May 1, 2024 and ending April 30, 2024.

Estimated Corporate Fund Revenues	
Item 1: Balance and Reserve on hand as of April 30, 2024	\$1,007,475.85
Item 2: Property taxes to be received in FY 2024-2025	\$1,147,900.00
Item 3: Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax	\$45,000.00

Item 4: Foreign Fire Insurance	\$25,000.00
Item 5: Interest	\$11,000.00
Item 6: Miscellaneous Income/Donations	\$67,530.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED AMOUNT AVAILABLE	\$2,303,905.85

Estimated Ambulance Fund Revenues	
Item 1: Balance and Reserve on hand as of April 30, 2024	\$0.00
Item 2: Property taxes to be received in FY 2024-2025	\$1,900,000.00
Item 3: Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax	\$0.00
Item 4: Ambulance Billing	\$310,000.00
Item 5: Interest	\$20,000.00
Item 6: Miscellaneous Income/Donations	\$0.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED AMOUNT AVAILABLE	\$2,230,000.00

SUMMARY

ESTIMATED CORPORATE FUND REVENUES	\$2,303,905.85
ESTIMATED AMBULANCE FUND REVENUES	\$2,230,000.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES ANTICIPATED TO BE AVAILABLE IN FSICAL YEAR 2024-2025:	\$4,533,905.85

I do further certify that the above estimate of revenues, by source, anticipated to be received in the following fiscal year was made in full compliance with the provisions of 35 ILCS 200/18-45.

Given under my hand this 19th day of June, 2024.

Treasurer
Boone County Fire Protection District # 2
Published in *The Boone County Journal* June 27, 2024

Tax Credit

from page 5

The child tax credit equates to 20 percent of the state’s EITC, which allows Illinois taxpayers a credit equal to 20 percent of the federal EITC.

Starting in tax year 2025, the state’s child tax credit will double to 40 percent of the state EITC, meaning that it will max out at a bit over \$600 for families with three children. Because the federal tax credit that determines its size is tied to inflation, the actual size of future years’ child tax credits is yet to be determined.

In its first year, the program is expected to cost the state \$50 million, with a cost of about \$100 million in subsequent years.

The idea of a permanent child tax credit in Illinois has been floated for several years, with various proposals being put forward by legislators in the General Assembly as well as advocacy groups and think tanks.

Gov. JB Pritzker pitched a child tax credit in his proposed budget earlier this year that was smaller than the version that passed in the final budget. It would have applied to children under three years old and cost about \$12 million.

Proponents of the idea say that in addition to helping low-income families, programs like this help local economies.

“Every dollar we invest in the child tax credit is immediately spent locally,” Erion Malasi, the policy director for Economic Security for Illinois, told Capitol News Illinois.

Researchers at the Illinois Economic Policy Institute, a labor movement-affiliated think tank, found in a January report that child tax credits have a higher economic impact than cuts to corporate income taxes or to capital gains taxes.

That report also cited several research teams that found the temporary expansion to the federal child tax credit between 2021 and 2023 reduced child poverty in the U.S. by between 25 and 36 percent. That credit provided an additional \$1,000 per child on top of an existing \$2,000 credit, with increases for younger children.

State Sen. Omar Aquino, D-Chicago, sponsored legislation that would have created a \$300 million child tax credit program that was more expansive than the version that passed.

Aquino told Capitol News Illinois he will be watching the rollout of the child tax credit to see if there is room for an “expansion” in future budget years or if there is a route for the credit to be automatically applied for qualifying taxpayers.

The Illinois Department of Revenue is working on guidance for next year’s filing season and will provide information about how to claim the child tax credit on its website.

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Prisons

from page 5

the capacity at Pontiac Correctional Center (which was built in 1871), and relocating women in custody from Logan.

Stateville and Logan were among five facilities categorized as “Does Not Meet” operational standards, meaning they are “not conducive to a rehabilitative environment.”

IDOC acting director Latoya Hughes said Tuesday that the Pritzker administration’s decision to demolish the facilities was spurred by ongoing litigation that seeks to declare Stateville’s conditions inhospitable and the state’s continued operation of it unconstitutional.

That echoed Pritzker’s April comments, when he said closing the facilities was “not an optional issue.”

“This should have been done, frankly, many years ago and it’s been put off because of the lack of resources,” Pritzker said. “Now we have the resources to do it, but we shouldn’t have waited even this long.”

While Pritzker laid out a plan in April to rebuild Logan – one of only two women’s prisons in Illinois – on the grounds of Stateville, some lawmakers on Tuesday questioned Hughes on if there is a real intention to rebuild Stateville or simply close two

dilapidated prisons.

“We are certainly committed to rebuilding Stateville Correctional Center because it is extremely important for the ecosystem of the Department of Corrections,” Hughes said, without going into further specifics of the plan other than what is already publicly available.

While the governor’s office has not announced an explicit plan for Logan’s rebuild, it has noted it plans to keep the current facility open until a new one is built on the grounds at the Stateville site. It plans to raze Stateville and rebuild the prison on the same ground, though little information has been provided on if the new center would include a geriatric, psychiatric or re-entry unit.

Opposition to razing

Much of the criticism of the Pritzker announcement has focused on a lack of communication and detail with the plan.

Rep. C.D. Davidsmeyer, R-Jacksonville, who is co-chair of COGFA, said there are still unanswered questions about where individuals in custody and employees would be able to transfer to during the transition or if they’d have any say in the matter.

“I think we’re all looking for the same clarity. We all want to know what’s going on and what the plan is,” Davidsmeyer said. “I think we all have the same feeling that the plan either doesn’t exist or it’s just being held close by the department or the administration.”

Hughes told the commission that contingency plans for employees at Stateville have not been made yet.

“We have not begun those conversations fully because we are still engaging in the COGFA process,” Hughes said. “I think it’s important to also understand that the word ‘layoff’ does not necessarily mean without a job. It’s our process of how we move and transfer employees to other facilities.”

At a news conference prior to the Tuesday hearing, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union that represents Stateville employees argued the governor’s plan would “threaten the layoff of hundreds of employees, and undermine safety, education, health care, rehabilitative programming and visitation in the prison system.”

Pritzker, in May, urged local officials “to not rely upon a state-run facility that’s a prison” for economic development when asked about resistance to his plan for Logan Correctional Center.

Prison reform advocates, meanwhile, raised concerns about how the transfer might be handled, including the ability to rehouse women and effectively communicate plans to family members of those in prison.

Susan Lucci, an Oak Park resident, described how the decision will have the most impact for people inside prisons, not those who rely on employment from one.

“A significant voice is missing,” Lucci said. “I’d like to remind us of the purpose and mission of IDOC, it’s not an employer, right. It is in the business of taking care of folks impacted by our justice system, so where are their voices being heard?”

Without giving specifics, the governor’s office has said transition plans are in the works for the roughly 1,500 people inside Logan and Stateville, and Pritzker has noted similar closures have taken place in the past.

“People have said, ‘Well, how on earth could you possibly do that?’” the governor said in March. “Well, you may know that we have about 10,000 fewer prisoners in our correction system today than we did five years ago. There is the ability for us to move people to other facilities. How that will take place? Obviously, there’s some complexity to it.”

Others oppose the governor’s plan to demolish

Stateville without considering its historical context. The Historical Preservation Society of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party argues some of the prison should be preserved for public record.

“I don’t think it’s unreasonable for them to preserve the parts of that prison that we can all use, not just Black people, our society,” Leila Wills, a journalist and Illinois chapter Historical Preservation Society executive director, said in an interview. “This overcrowding, the conditions, how they’ve been cut off from the community, this is going on all the way until now.”

She said the organization wants the condemned F-house, one of the last remaining panopticon roundhouses in the U.S. – a design that has been deemed inhumane by countries across the world – to remain as a historical testament to “modern day atrocities.” She also said announcing plans to raze the prison without first consulting those affected and historical experts shouldn’t have happened.

“You can’t justify the tear down without showing how it got to that point in the first place, as is the case with Stateville prison. [It] is a living example of Black torture in this country,” Wills said.

‘Lipstick on a pig’

Benard McKinley, who served more than 22 years in IDOC facilities before being released in January, said – aside from the F-House – nothing should be kept of the nearly 100-year-old facility.

“I don’t believe Stateville can be salvaged,” McKinley said. “It’s beyond repair.”

He chose to stay in Stateville for an additional four years following a decision shortening his sentence from the Illinois Appellate Court in order to finish his bachelor’s degree with the Northwestern Prison Education Program. He became the first individual in Illinois to take the LSAT while incarcerated.

He said the other prison he was in, the downstate Menard Correctional Center south of St. Louis, was in better condition than Stateville despite being an older facility by nearly 50 years.

“That’s like their breadwinner for that county. Then they’re going to make sure they manage something that’s their lifeline much better than how Stateville does. They managed to try to keep Menard up to code,” McKinley said.

Soto, who spent 4 decades wrongly incarcerated, told COGFA at Tuesday’s hearing that he recently discovered the drinking water at Stateville contaminated his blood with lead, causing him to be prediabetic.

He and his cousin, David Ayala, each spent more than 40 years in IDOC custody before they were exonerated of a double murder in December 2023 by a Cook County judge who found they both received improper legal defense in the early 1980s.

They are the two exonerees with the longest time wrongfully served in the history of a state that is home to the most exonerations in the country.

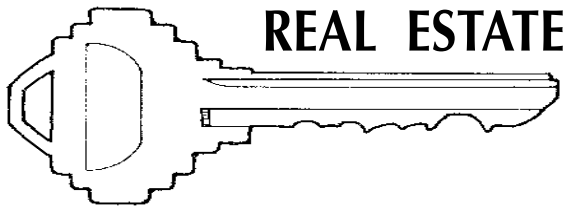
Soto said decades inside prison walls gave him time to study them up and down, fractures and all.

“There are cracks in the walls and when it rains or there’s a plumbing issue high above you, the water trickles down and then accumulates,” Soto said. The water then turns into a “white, chalky mold to then a green mold and then it turns to black mold.”

McKinley said the decision to use almost \$1 billion of taxpayer money to rebuild prisons won’t help lower crime or recidivism. He said funding “could be allocated to more productive programs that can actually help individuals from having to experience incarceration.”

Though, he stressed there is a need for clean water in every IDOC facility.

“At the end of the day, all you’re doing is putting lipstick on a pig,” McKinley said. “That’s exactly what’s going on.”



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

GITSIT SOLUTIONS LLC, Plaintiff,
-v.- 23 FC 68

UNKNOWN HEIRS OF SHARON C. HAMPTON A/K/A SHARON COLLEEN HAMPTON, ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, J.F. HECKINGER, P.C. A/K/A J.F. HECKINGER, LLC, TIME INVESTMENT COMPANY, INC., STEVEN HAMPTON, SHERRI PRUITT A/K/A SHERRILL PRUITT A/K/A SHERRI HAMPTON, STEPHANIE FOLEY A/K/A STEPHANIE HAMPTON, TIM MILLER AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

510 WEST 10TH STREET BELVIDERE, IL 61008
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 4/23/2024, an agent of Auction.com LLC will at 12:00 PM on 7/25/2024 located at 601 N Main Street, Belvidere, IL 61008, sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate.

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Property Index No. 05-35-478-003

The real estate is improved with a Single Family Residence.

The judgment amount was \$197,850.53

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