

To be notified of new issues online, register at www.boonecountyjournal.com

Alderman Snow Calls For Discussion on City Garbage Service

By David Larson

In the July 8th Belvidere City Council Committee-of-the-Whole, Alderman Dan Snow, Ward 2, requested Mayor Clint Morris to put on the agenda for the July 22nd Committee-of-the-Whole, a discussion of the current condition of the new citywide garbage collection service. The Mayor responded, "How so?" to which Snow repeated his request.

In speaking to Alderman Snow, Morris said, "If there is something you want to do, put it on the agenda. We will make it short and sweet ... I want to have this out tonight. I don't know what you are trying to accomplish."

Since the new garbage collection service began on May 1st, aldermen have reported to the council that they have been receiving complaints. Several individuals have used the opportunity to address the City Council directly in the public forum provided at the beginning of every meeting to register their complaints.

Lloyd Roberts, a local businessman who has appeared before on this issue, rose to explain how the citywide service has impinged upon his opportunity to have a home-based business repairing vacuum cleaners.

Mr. Roberts is restricted from having a dumpster under the new citywide service. He explained he needs one because he often has to dispose of vacuum cleaners. He has always had a dumpster, and has not had complaints from his neighbors.

Roberts also explained that his neighbor is an over-the-road truck driver who is gone 12 out of 14 days year-round. The truck driver does not generate household garbage, but is now required to pay for garbage collection.

Alderman John Albertini, Ward 1, addressed the council by reading an email from a resident in his ward. The resident lives away from Belvidere 3 months of the summer and wanted to discontinue service while gone. Rock River Disposal told her she could not. The alderman investigated with the help of the City Clerk Sarah Turnipseed. Rock River Disposal was corrected after an effort was made to enforce the contract. Albertini wanted to make it a matter of record that people who leave town for extended periods can suspend service.

The Mayor spoke for 21 minutes on what he thought were the virtues of a citywide service particularly for seniors. Morris stated that garbage costs had gone up 100 percent in the last 3 to 4 years. Noting that the rate of inflation over this period exceeded 20 percent, he stated that this puts a cap on garbage service costs for the next 5 years. He repeatedly expressed that he supported the contract for the good of the whole city. The Mayor broke a tie when approving the contract. The new rate for garbage collection is \$25.35 per home per month, with a \$3.00 discount for seniors.

Mayor Morris said he looked at what other communities in the area have done and worked from

Continued on page 2



Decoration Day Parade looping back to the north at South State Street and Logan Avenue

Transit Heads Again Ask State for Funding Help, Reject Proposals For Oversight Reform

Despite some recovery since COVID, agencies face 'fiscal cliff' as pandemic funding runs dry

By Andrew Adams *Capitol News Illinois*

It was standing room only in a downtown Chicago committee hearing Tuesday as activists, transit experts and lobbyists hung on the words of the region's transit agency chiefs.

Public transit has become an increasingly contentious issue in Chicagoland as the Regional Transportation Authority – the funding body which oversees Pace suburban bus routes, Metra regional rail lines and the Chicago Transit Authority – has reported a looming "fiscal cliff" in 2026.

While the agencies are currently buoyed by pandemic-era funding and temporary allowances in state law, the agencies will face a cumulative annual budget gap of \$730 million in operating costs beginning in 2026, according to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.

"The preliminary analysis from our consultant shows that the fiscal cliff scenario, without state funding assistance, could wipe out 30 to 40 percent of the service in northwest Illinois," RTA Board Chair Kirk Dillard, a former state senator, said in Tuesday's hearing.

Under that worst-case projection, the fiscal cliff would cause a \$2.4 billion drop in regional GDP in the first year and impact up to 25,000 jobs. But Dillard painted a much rosier picture if the state increases its annual support for the transit agencies: \$2.5 billion annual growth in GDP and the addition of 27,000 new jobs.

"You've got a choice to make," he told

Continued on page 4

When Decoration Day Was Celebrated in Belvidere

By David Larson

The accompanying photo shows a Decoration Day parade in Belvidere. While the year is uncertain, it appears to be from approximately 1895-1905 because of the lack of automobiles and the existence of a streetcar. Perhaps a little later, but Belvidere was an automobile manufacturing town in those days, and increasingly likely that an automobile would have been in the picture.

The streetscape was new. Older citizens could remember when there were no buildings and the land was a farm. The street was dirt, but paving was about to begin at the State and Logan intersection. Today Logan Avenue is new and the buildings are a shadow of their former message of prosperity and hope.

Since World War I, a tradition on Decoration Day/Memorial Day of selling silk poppies by the American Legion was common in Belvidere until the end of the 20th Century. The money collected was given to soldiers still suffering from battle injuries.

Memorial Day endures as a holiday because it marks the unofficial beginning of summer, which many businesses observe because they find it useful to market their products. Labor Day, the unofficial end of summer, is recognized in a similar way.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) advocated returning to the original date, May 30. The VFW stated in 2002 that changing the date merely to create three-day weekends has undermined the very meaning of the day.

No doubt, this has contributed a lot to the general public's nonchalant observance of Memorial Day.

Garbage

from page 1

their contracts to shape the contract for Belvidere. He felt that multiple garbage trucks were wearing out city streets and, by reducing traffic to a single hauler, taxpayers would save on street repairs.

Morris went on to explain that it is illegal for people to pickup others' garbage. A common complaint aldermen have been receiving is that elderly parents who only generate a bag a week are being serviced by family members and combining garbage or they have in the past purchased a \$3.00 sticker that attached to the bag and the former haulers would take it away.

Midway in his lecture, Morris turned to Alderman Snow and said, "I don't know what your goal is here, but." Snow responded, "At this point it is to allow for an opt-out clause.... We need to have a way for people who do not need the service to opt out....if (Rock River Disposal) they are amiable to doing this...I would like to have a discussion in an open forum."

Alderman Freeman, Ward 5, argued that when there was a choice, the multiple exceptions to one-size-fits-all was not a problem and, she seemed favorable to an opt-out option.

Alderman Albertini suggested that aldermen redirect their calls to the Mayor since he doesn't seem to hear from people who have complaints. The Mayor then went on to berate the alderman because he lives in a mobile home park and doesn't understand the situation in the rest of his Ward. Albertini rejected the Mayor's comments and stated he had wanted an open hearing on the subject from the beginning to avoid all of the current confusion.



OBITUARIES

Loreen Burton, 86, Belvidere, July 3
Michele Dobrowolski, 50, Belvidere, July 5
Leroy Honea, 88, Belvidere, June 30
Clarice "Claire" Hunter, 95, Marengo, June 29
Kenneth Smith, 86, Belvidere, July 4
Virginia "Ginny" Tice, 94, Belvidere, July 3



REAL JOURNALISM FOR A REAL DEMOCRACY

Publisher/Editor David C. Larson
Senior Writer/Editorial Charles Herbst
Photography Susan Moran

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

THE BOONE COUNTY JOURNAL

419 S. STATE ST • BELVIDERE, IL 61008
PHONE: (815) 544-4430 FAX: 544-4330
WWW.BOONECOUNTYJOURNAL.COM
NEWS@BOONECOUNTYJOURNAL.COM

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

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

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

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

Pritzker 'All In' For Biden Following Visit To White House Last Week

Governor says he will speak as surrogate in Indiana, Ohio later this week

By Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

Gov. JB Pritzker said Tuesday he is "all in" for President Joe Biden after visiting the White House last week with other Democratic governors.

He headed to Washington, D.C., to meet with the president and members of the Democratic Governors Association last Wednesday on the heels of Biden's performance during the first of two scheduled debates with former President Donald Trump, which raised concerns about the president's mental acuity.

The governors were seeking reassurances of Biden's viability as a candidate following the June 27 debate performance.

On Tuesday, Pritzker said the exchange between Biden and the Democratic governors was "a robust discussion" – and he's "all in" for Biden.

"Listen: Joe Biden is our nominee. I am for Joe Biden. I've been campaigning for Joe Biden. I think you've seen I've got dates scheduled to go to Indiana, to Ohio for Joe Biden," he said at an unrelated event Tuesday.

Pritzker, who is frequently named as a potential Biden replacement should the campaign reach that point, will speak at the Indiana Democratic Party's Hoosier Hospitality Dinner in Indianapolis on Friday before heading at the Ohio Democratic Party's Family Reunion in Columbus on Saturday.

And he said he wouldn't engage in "hypotheticals" when asked if he'd be interested in replacing Biden should he drop out of the race.

"What we're doing is talking about why it's important to reelect Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, and why it's important to defeat Donald Trump, who's trying to take away your freedoms, who's trying to send jobs overseas, and frankly, would be bad for the economy and bad for working families," Pritzker said.

Pritzker said "it's not unreasonable" for opinions to differ on the president's performance and political chances following the debate.

"There were questions of the president. He answered those questions. You know, some people came away with different impressions, maybe," Pritzker said of Biden's meeting with the governors.

But despite some members of Congress calling for Biden to step aside – including U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley of Chicago – Pritzker said he believes Democrats are united in their efforts to defeat Trump.

He added that his advice to Biden was to "go out there and answer all the questions," and to "show people that he is the leader of the free world."

"I think that, obviously, the president had a bad performance at a debate – that doesn't help anybody. He knows that," Pritzker said. "And what you have to do is stand up, say 'I didn't do it well,' which I think he's said, and prove people wrong about what they want to say about him. And he's doing that."

It was a similar comment to one he made in a CNN interview last week in which he suggested Biden do more public

appearances to turn the tide following the debate.

The Democratic National Convention is scheduled for Aug. 19-22 in Chicago, but Democrats plan to nominate Biden prior to that date virtually – a move that is needed to ensure he can appear on the Ohio ballot.

When asked about the possibility of the DNC convention being "brokered" for another candidate, Pritzker said: "I don't expect that to happen. We're going to have an orderly convention."

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

AUCTION: COMMERCIAL BUILDING & 32 AC FARM
TUE, AUG 20, 2024 12:00 PM Address: 48W811 Melms Rd, Hampshire, IL 60410
IN-PERSON & LIVE ONLINE BIDDING
 Offered as Two Individual Tracts.
 (1) 8200 SqFt Shop/Office Building w/4 Outbuildings on 8 Acres
 (2) 32 Acres of Farmland corner of Melms Rd & Walker Rd
 Sellers: EVLA PROPERTIES LLC
 Auction conducted by Richard A. Olson & Assoc. Morris, IL - 815-942-4266

 See website for Flyer, Terms, Maps and more info.
www.richardaolson.com

Hunt Tree Service
 Complete Tree Service, Firewood
 815-547-5496


 Milos Dental Care
 Dr. Jamie Lynn Milos
 129 S. Phelps Ave. Suite 307, Rockford, IL 61108
 (815) 315-4200
 Call now for an appointment!!
www.milosdentalcare.com

ACKERSON DOOR
ads SALES
 "We give your garage closure"
 • Sales • Doors • Openers • Replacement Sections
 • Service • Cables • Installations • Springs

 Visit Our Showroom 
 2255 Rt. 173   815-623-2616
 Caledonia, IL 61011 815-765-1551
 Fax: 815-765-0333

ROCKFORD BUSINESS SYSTEMS
 • Digital Color & Black & White
 • Multi Functional
 * Copy * Print * Fax * Scan
 * Service * Supplies * Toner
 Sharp ~ Canon ~ Toshiba ~
 Lexmark ~ HP ~ Xerox ~ Ricoh
 Sales Service
 815-608-1173 815-282-4002

June report noted that while state finances have improved in recent years, Illinois' economy continues to lag the U.S. as a whole.

"Illinois' poor economic performance has many contributing factors. The State has earned a reputation for poor fiscal health over decades," COGFA chief economist Benjamin Varner wrote in the monthly briefing.

He mentioned the budget impasse, Illinois' "relatively high business taxes," and stagnant or declining population growth as contributing factors.

"Despite these challenges, the situation has

Continued on page 4

FY 2024 General Funds Actuals vs. Most Recent Official Estimates of CGFA and GOMB (\$ millions)					
Revenue Sources	FY 2024 ACTUALS	FY 2024 CGFA Revised March '24	Difference from Actuals	FY 2024 GOMB Revised May '24	Difference from Actuals
Personal Income Taxes [Net]	\$25,605	\$25,711	\$106	\$25,541	(\$64)
Corporate Income Taxes [Net]	\$5,226	\$5,383	\$157	\$5,169	(\$57)
Sales Tax [Net]	\$10,465	\$10,487	\$22	\$10,516	\$51
All Other State Sources	\$3,968	\$3,912	(\$56)	\$3,986	\$18
Transfers In	\$2,550	\$2,542	(\$8)	\$2,517	(\$33)
Federal Sources [Base]	\$3,893	\$3,675	(\$218)	\$3,855	(\$38)
General Funds Subtotal [Base]	\$51,708	\$51,709	\$1	\$51,585	(\$123)
Transfer of Excess P.A. 102-700 Funds to GRF	\$248	\$248	\$0	\$248	\$0
Prior Year Federal Matching Funds	\$633	\$633	\$0	\$633	\$0
Total General Funds Revenues	\$52,589	\$52,590	\$1	\$52,466	(\$123)

Note: Some totals may not equal, due to rounding.

State Ends Fiscal Year With Nearly \$5B Cash On Hand

Leaders say record balances drive investment revenue, ensure vendors are paid on time

By Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

Illinois entered a new fiscal year Monday with a bit of a financial cushion as the prior year's revenues exceeded final projections by about \$123 million.

The state ended fiscal year 2024 with about \$4.7 billion cash on hand, or about 9 percent of the allocated spending for fiscal year 2025, which began July 1. That included a record high \$2.1 billion in the state's budget stabilization, or "rainy day" fund, which has seen its balance grow steadily over the past five years.

Comptroller Susana Mendoza noted the high cash balance helped Illinois generate over \$558 million in interest income in FY24, a 53 percent increase from the previous year. She said in a news release she plans to exercise new authority granted to her office in the budgeting process this year to pre-pay required monthly pension payments while funds are available.

"This will enable the (pension) systems to plan accordingly and keep more of the pension funds in their investment portfolios," Mendoza said in a statement.

Gov. JB Pritzker's office said the year-end balance represents "part of a pattern of fiscally responsible policies." He mentioned the nine credit upgrades Illinois has received from the nation's three major credit rating agencies since

he took office.

"Nine credit rating upgrades, bill backlogs eliminated, six balanced budgets, and now the state's highest ever General Funds balance — this is the result of disciplined, responsible fiscal management that prioritizes serving taxpayers and helping working families," Pritzker said in a statement.

The \$52.6 billion in revenue collected in FY24 was about 4 percent more than the \$50.6 billion anticipated when lawmakers approved the budget last May. But lawmakers largely allocated those unforeseen revenues in a supplemental spending plan approved this May, so the cash on hand represents more of a cushion for the upcoming fiscal year than a license to approve more spending.

The cash on hand is also not the same as a surplus, as it includes dollars that may have been appropriated but not yet spent.

The year-end revenues were published by the legislature's fiscal forecasting agency, the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability. Eric Noggle, COGFA's revenue manager, noted revenues matched the agency's March forecast almost exactly — a rarity in a fiscal landscape that has been difficult to project since COVID-19 first upended state finances.

Both Pritzker and Mendoza celebrated the fact that Illinois no longer has a backlog of unpaid bills.

In the wake of a two-year state budget impasse between Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner and Democrats in the General Assembly in 2016 and 2017, the backlog had risen to about \$16 billion. Now, all bills are paid within 30 days of reaching the comptroller's desk, Mendoza said.

"I'm committed to giving our state providers and vendors the stability and predictability that they should expect from state government," Mendoza said in a statement. "Having received countless hardship calls from these providers and vendors during the state's budget impasse, I believe it is the responsible approach we must continue to take." Still, COGFA's

Foster Introduces Legislation to Make It Easier For Patients To Access Medical Records

Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL) introduced the Medical Records Access Fairness Act, which would require health care providers to give patients access to their medical records at no cost at least once per year.

Medical records fees that doctor's offices charge patients can often be a financial burden. If a patient is unable to afford to pay for copies of their own medical records, it can delay or prevent care. According to a 2018 study from the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office, patients who have long medical histories can incur costs of thousands of dollars on medical record copies, which are often charged per page and per recipient. The study also describes a situation in which one patient was charged over \$100 for an electronic copy.

"Quality health care hinges on doctors having all of the necessary information about their patient's case, but costly medical records can make this impossible," said Rep. Foster. "Too often, the fees charged to access these records amount to thousands of dollars, which is especially burdensome for patients with chronic diseases and complex medical histories. This bill would give patients easier access to their medical records, removing an unreasonable financial burden and improving the health and well-being of many Americans."

The Medical Records Access Fairness Act is supported by the Chronic Disease Coalition, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the National Organization for Rare Diseases, and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Charles Herbst

Attorney At Law

Practice Areas:

- Wills and Trusts
- Tax Strategy
- IRS Representation
- Real Estate
- Wealth Planning
- LLCs and Corporate



Education:

- LL.M. (Masters in Tax Law) New York University
- B.S. Business, J.D. Law (cum laude) Indiana University

Experience:

- International Tax Associates, Director of Federal Tax Research
- Ernst and Young LLP, Manager; Writer, Washington National Tax Writing Center
- Private Practice in the local area for over 13 years
- Former chairman of the written publications committee of the Indiana State Bar Association.

Over 25 years of experience
With a comprehensive approach to tax management.

Licensed to practice before the Internal Revenue Service nationally and in state courts in Illinois.

345 Bienterra Trail, Suite 3, Rockford, IL 61107

815 484 9482

ROOM FOR RENT: Belvidere: Nice furnished room w/ fridge, near downtown, bus stop, Aldi, Drug & Dollar Stores. No Sec. Deposit. \$102/wk. or \$430/mo. Call (815) 544-4466

Pro Tree Care & Landscaping

Linda Johns owner

Over 30 years of service • 24 hr emergency service

General and Safety Pruning

Hedge and Shrub trimming • Tree and stump Removal
Spring and Fall cleanup • Firewood pickup and delivery



815-547-3345

jackoftrade81@mchsi.com

State from page 3

been improving in recent years,” Varner added. “The State’s budget has been more balanced over the past five years, thanks to federal government aid, a strengthening economy, and improved budgetary discipline. This has led to a much more stable financial situation.”

That’s partially due to the state eliminating the bill backlog, building its fund reserves and allocating money to tax incentive programs that have lured businesses to move or expand here, he wrote.

“Although the Census Bureau still estimates that Illinois is losing population, the rate of annual declines has slowed,” Varner wrote.

Pritzker has also frequently noted that the state has lowered the corporate franchise tax paid by businesses in Illinois, exempting the first \$10,000 in liability under the tax beginning in 2025. In 2019, the governor signed a plan to fully phase out that tax, but he ultimately reversed that decision amid the COVID-19 pandemic. He and lawmakers have since increased the exemption from \$30 in 2020 to \$10,000 in 2025 – a doubling from the previous year.

As for the fiscal year 2024 revenues, Illinois’ main funding source remains the personal income tax. Noggle noted the state collected \$30.1 billion in personal income tax revenue in FY24 along with \$6.5 billion in corporate income tax revenue, which collectively performed better than the previous year.

For the new fiscal year that began Monday, lawmakers approved \$53.1 billion in spending, or roughly 1 percent more than FY24’s final revenues.

But Noggle also noted the last fiscal year included about \$881 million in one-time revenues from sources that won’t repeat in FY25 – so base revenues will have to grow by over 2 percent to meet spending demand.

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

Transit from page 1

lawmakers Tuesday.

But some lawmakers in the General Assembly are unwilling to give carte blanche to the transit agencies, which have been criticized for service cuts, safety issues and poor workforce development since the early days of the pandemic.

Sen. Ram Villivalam, D-Chicago, the chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, called Tuesday’s hearing – the first in what will be a series meant to investigate possible improvements to public transit in Illinois.

He said there will be “no votes for funding” unless the general assembly and transit board first address service issues and governance reforms.

Earlier this year, Villivalam proposed legislation that would consolidate the four agencies into one organization.

This was in line with recommendations that the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, or CMAP, pitched to Villivalam and other lawmakers late last year. These recommendations were given further credence in April when the Civic Federation, an influential Chicago think tank, proposed similar reforms.

Both proposals provided options for either combining the four agencies or giving the RTA, or a new oversight agency, more authority to control regional transit policy.

But the heads of the Chicagoland agencies balked at the idea of major reforms on Tuesday.

“We all want to do the best job we can,” Pace Executive Director Melinda Metzger told the committee. “I do not believe that combining us into one organization will make us better.”

Metzger said each agency has a board that includes local representation and that she believed “the needs of suburban areas will not be met as well as they’re met right now” if governed by a single agency.

CTA President Dorval Carter also defended the current system.

“The model that’s been set up for governance today didn’t come by accident,” Carter said. “It was a really hardly negotiated compromise between the need for accountability and the need for local control.”

Metra CEO James Derwinski also noted that many of the improvements that transit advocates seek are a funding issue, not an oversight one.

“If we adequately fund the system, the operators can do the right things,” he said.

Representatives of business groups spoke to lawmakers about transit’s economic impact, but they also mostly discussed the need for reform.

Jack Lavin, head of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, echoed Villivalam’s call to improve service and governance before providing agencies with new revenues. He urged caution around potentially increasing taxes and called sales tax increases and congestion taxes “job and growth killers.”

Sen. Don DeWitte, R-St. Charles, the committee’s Republican spokesperson and former RTA board member, said he agreed with Lavin’s

comments around taxes.

“I think we need to be very careful about putting additional burdens on taxpayers or riders within the RTA system,” DeWitte said.

But DeWitte also noted he hopes to further explore the idea of increasing state or federal funding, noting that the state contributes 17 percent of RTA’s revenues, while other states contribute significantly more to large transit systems. Philadelphia’s transit system gets half



During a Senate Transportation Committee hearing Tuesday, Regional Transportation Authority Board Chair Kirk Dillard looks at the heads of Chicagoland’s transit agencies: Metra CEO James Derwinski, Chicago Transit Authority President Dorval Carter and Pace Executive Director Melinda Metzger. (Capitol News Illinois photo by Andrew Adams)

of its funding from the state of Pennsylvania, according to a CMAP analysis cited by DeWitte during discussion.

“That’s an area that I think we are woefully shy on,” DeWitte said.

Transit advocates also spoke to the need for governance reform. Micheál Podgers, a policy lead with the transit advocacy organization Better Streets Chicago, said he wasn’t surprised by the agency heads’ lack of enthusiasm for reform.

“I will say, though, I was heartened to hear that, overall, it seems they’re in favor of increasing investment in transit, even though certainly some of the more conservative speakers and conservative members of the Senate were a little bit tentative on increasing taxes,” Podgers said.

Tuesday’s hearing will be followed up with five additional hearings around Chicagoland and in Springfield in the coming weeks. The hearings, according to Villivalam, will inform some kind of proposal by lawmakers’ spring session next year.

“We definitely need to take action, I think, at least 9 to 12 months before the fiscal cliff of early 2026,” he told Capitol News Illinois.

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

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

Be the first to
Read the Journal
The Boone County Journal is available
Online at no cost
at boonecountyjournal.com

Leave your email and you
will receive a notice whenever
a new issue is posted on the website.

INTERNATIONAL LAMP SHOW & SALE
JULY 26-27, 2024
Friday 2:00 – 5:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
**100 CONFERENCE CENTER DR,
EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS**
ADMISSION \$5.00
For more information contact:
785 379-9537 or 630 851-4504
bjcarlson1979@gmail.com or
jsantiques@aol.com

BOONE COUNTY JOURNAL
1996
real journalism for a real democracy

U.S. Supreme Court Won't Hear Challenge To Illinois' Assault Weapons Ban, For Now

One justice says he hopes high court will hear the matter once lower courts issue decisions

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

The U.S. Supreme Court announced Tuesday it will not immediately review Illinois' assault weapons ban, leaving the law in place at least until challenges to the law have been fully heard in lower courts.

The announcement came just two days before the two-year anniversary of a mass shooting at an Independence Day parade in Highland Park that left seven people dead and dozens more injured or traumatized.

That shooting served as the impetus for state lawmakers to pass the Protect Illinois Communities Act, which bans the sale and possession of a long list of semi-automatic rifles and handguns as well as various kinds of attachments and large-capacity magazines.

"I applaud the U.S. Supreme Court for allowing Illinois' common-sense gun reform to continue," state Rep. Bob Morgan, D-Deerfield, the law's chief sponsor in the House, said in a statement. "Every day that assault weapons and high capacity magazines are banned in Illinois represents fewer gun deaths and reduced gun violence."

The court's announcement came in a batch of orders issued Tuesday morning, one day after the court released the final opinions from its 2023-2024 session. Most of the orders dealt with petitions for cases to be heard when the court's next session begins in October.

Usually, the court issues only a one-sentence order either granting or denying a petition to review a case, known as a writ of certiorari. Occasionally, though, one or more of the justices will attach a statement explaining their reason for the decision.

Justice Clarence Thomas, one of the court's most conservative justices, issued such a statement, noting the court is often "wary" about taking up "interlocutory" appeals – that is, appeals of decisions made during the course of a proceeding, before a final verdict is reached.

"These cases arise from a preliminary injunction, and the Seventh Circuit stressed that its merits analysis was merely 'a preliminary look at the subject,'" Thomas wrote, referring to a November decision by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. "But if the Seventh Circuit ultimately allows Illinois to ban America's most common civilian rifle, we can – and should – review that decision once the cases reach a final judgement."

State lawmakers passed the ban during a lame duck session in January 2023. Gov. JB Pritzker signed it into law just hours after its final passage in the House, making Illinois the ninth state at that time, along with Washington, D.C., to enact such

a ban. The state of Washington passed a similar law a few months later.

The legal challenges to Illinois' law moved swiftly through federal courts, putting those cases in a position to be taken up by the Supreme Court ahead of challenges in some other states.

In April, a judge in the Southern District of Illinois granted a preliminary injunction to block enforcement of the law while it was being challenged, saying it would likely be found unconstitutional. But in separate cases in the Northern District of Illinois, two other judges came to the opposite conclusion and declined to grant injunctions.

Those cases were eventually consolidated in an appeal to the Seventh Circuit, which lifted the Southern District injunction and allowed the law to remain pending a final resolution.

But the movement in Illinois and other states to ban the types of weapons used in numerous mass shootings came around the same time the new conservative majority on the Supreme Court was developing new legal standards for judging gun control measures.

In 2008, the court ruled in District of Columbia v. Heller that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to possess ordinary types of weapons that are commonly used for lawful purposes. But it also noted there is a "historical tradition of prohibiting the carrying of dangerous and unusual weapons."

Then in June 2022, less than two weeks before the Highland Park mass shooting, the court ruled in New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen that to justify restrictions on someone's right to keep and bear arms, the government must demonstrate the regulations are "consistent with the Nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation."

That opinion, written by Thomas, has been criticized as unworkable because of its reliance on practices that were in place at the time of the Constitution's founding, long before the invention of many weapons in use today.

In his statement Tuesday, Thomas acknowledged that the court so far has provided little guidance about which weapons are protected by the Second Amendment and which ones are not. But he also accused the Seventh Circuit of being "nonsensical" in concluding that the weapons banned under the Illinois law were "militaristic" in nature and therefore not protected by the Second Amendment.

"The Seventh Circuit's contrived 'non-militaristic' limitation on the Arms protected by the Second Amendment seems unmoored from both text and history," he wrote.

Hannah Hill, executive director of the National Association for Gun Rights, a lead plaintiff in one of the Illinois cases and in cases in other states, said she was confident the bans will eventually be overturned.

"This is not a loss, it's simply a procedural setback," she said. "And we have every confidence that the Supreme Court is going to strike down an assault weapons ban, as soon as the right vehicle gets brought to them."

But Yolanda Androzzo, executive director of One Aim Illinois, a leading gun control advocacy group, said in a separate interview that the battle is far from over.

"The decision indicates that the battle over this legislation will continue in lower courts," she said. "One Aim Illinois remains committed to supporting this legislation and will continue to advocate for its upholding in district courts."

A spokesman for Pritzker, meanwhile, defended the law, saying in a statement that it makes Illinois a safer place.

The Boone County Journal July 11, 2024 5

"Despite those who value weapons of war more than the safety of their constituents, this law remains in effect and will continue to protect Illinoisans from the constant fear of being gunned down in a place of worship, at a parade, or on a street corner," spokesperson Alex Gough said.

Attorney General Kwame Raoul said in a statement his office would continue to defend the law's constitutionality when the cases are returned to lower courts.

"Assault weapons were designed for military use, and Illinois residents can be assured the Protect Illinois Communities Act will help prevent these weapons of war from being used to cause devastation in our schools, places of worship and recreation spaces," he said. "The law is an important part of what must be a multifaceted approach to addressing gun violence, and I am pleased it remains in effect in Illinois."

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

Pritzker Signs Election Bill to Increase Party Power in Primary Elections

Measures also include reforms to electoral college electors and voter registration data

By Andrew Adams Capitol News Illinois

Changes to primary election fundraising, the electoral college and the state's voter registration database are now law after Gov. JB Pritzker signed a wide-ranging bill on Monday.

The legislation, containing several unrelated election measures, passed near the end of the legislature's spring session on a vote of 68-38 in the House and 51-3 in the Senate.

A measure loosening restrictions on political parties' spending during primary campaigns sparked pushback from some House Republicans during debate of the bill.

Under the new law, parties will be allowed to transfer an unlimited amount of funds to candidates during primary elections. In previous elections, parties were limited in the amount of money they could give candidates based on the office they sought. That provision was put in place in 2009 as part of a reform campaign by then-Gov. Pat Quinn, who took office after his predecessor, Rod Blagojevich, was removed from office following a corruption scandal.

The measure comes after several primary elections earlier this year where House Speaker Chris Welch sided with challengers over incumbents of his own party. In the Senate, a party-backed candidate also lost their primary election. Appointed Sen. Natalie Toro, D-Chicago, lost to progressive challenger Graciela Guzman.

Critics, including campaign finance advocacy group Reform for Illinois, said the measure could lead to legislative leaders' centralizing their power over lawmakers while also making elections more expensive.

Another provision in the bill would change

Continued on Page 6

Get instant cash for your GOLD



WE PAY HIGHEST PRICES

Belvidere Collectible Coins

880 Belvidere Rd.
Belvidere, IL
815-547-7111

Additional 10% off Jewelry with this ad
Mon-Fri 10am - 5pm
Sat 10am - 2pm

Visit us Online at www.goldsilverjewelrycoin.com

LEGAL NOTICES

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)

CHANGE IN CERTIFICATE OF OWNERSHIP OF BUSINESS PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on JUNE 28th A.D. 2024, a
certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Boone County,
Illinois, concerning the business known as BLISS HAIR 1 STUDIO,
located at 207 NORTH STATE ST., BELVIDERE, IL 61008, which
certificate sets forth the following changes in the operation thereof:
Business has been dissolved in Boone County, IL as of the above date,

Dated this 28th day of June, A.D. 2024

Julie A. Bliss
Boone County Clerk
Published in the Boone County Journal 7/4, 7/11, 7/18/2024 (P)

Pursuant to the Illinois Self-Service Storage Facility Act, notice
is hereby given that the storage facility listed below will sell at public
auction the personal property in the below listed occupants' leased
spaces to satisfy the owner's lien. The personal property stored therein
by the following occupants may include but is not limited to general
household, office and personal items, furniture, boxes, clothes, and
appliances. The unit will be sold at public auction through online
auction services of <https://www.storageauctions.com> with bids opening
at 10:00 AM on 07/10/2024 and closing at 10:00 AM on 07/19/2024.
Strovo Management LLC d/b/a Belvidere Storage, 810 W. Locust Street,
Belvidere, IL. 61008 Phone (815) 337-7398

Unit # 80 Favian Bennett,

Unit # 101 Megan Smith,

Published in The Boone County Journal July 4 and July 11, 2024

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

PNC BANK, NATIONAL Plaintiff,
vs.
24 FC 18

**BARBARA M. MARCANTEL, AS TRUSTEE OF THE
BARBARA M. MARCANTEL REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST
DATED SEPTEMBER 10, 2014; BARBARA M.
MARCANTEL; UNKNOWN BENEFICIARIES OF THE
BARBARA M. MARCANTEL REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST
DATED SEPTEMBER 10, 2014; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND
NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants,**
NOTICE OF SALE

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

COMMENCING AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE WESTERLY
LINE OF GOODRICH STREET AS NOW LOCATED WITH THE
SOUTHERLY LINE OF LOT ONE (1) OF BRISTOL'S SECOND ADDI-
TION TO THE CITY OF BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS, AND RUNNING
THENCE NORTHERLY ALONG THE WESTERLY LINE OF GO-
DRICH STREET THREE (3) RODS, THENCE WESTERLY PARAL-
LEL WITH THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF HURLBUT AVENUE FOUR
(4) RODS, THENCE SOUTHERLY AT RIGHT ANGLES PARALLEL
WITH THE WESTERLY LINE OF GOODRICH STREET, THIRTY ONE
AND SIXTY-EIGHT ONE HUNDREDTHS (31.68) INCHES, THENCE
AT RIGHT ANGLES WESTERLY PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTHERLY
LINE OF HURLBUT AVENUE TWO (2) RODS; THENCE SOUTH-
ERLY AT RIGHT ANGLES PARALLEL WITH THE WESTERLY LINE
OF GOODRICH STREET FORTY-SIX (46) FEET, TEN AND THIRTY-
TWO ONE HUNDREDTHS (10.32) INCHES TO THE SOUTHERLY
LINE OF LOT THREE (3) OF SAID BRISTOL'S SECOND ADDITION,
THENCE AT RIGHT ANGLES EASTERLY PARALLEL WITH THE
SOUTHERLY LINE OF HURLBUT AVENUE ALONG THE SOUTH-
ERLY LINE OF LOTS THREE (3), TWO (2), AND ONE (1) OF SAID
BRISTOL'S SECOND ADDITION TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING;
SITUATED IN THE CITY OF BELVIDERE, COUNTY OF BOONE
AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 214 Goodrich St., Belvidere, IL 61008.
P.I.N. 05-26-451-018.

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

Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by
certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call The Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Diaz
Anselmo & Associates P.A., 1771 West Diehl Road, Naperville, Illinois
60563. (630) 453-6960. 6746-199625 ADC

INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
intercountyjudicialsales.com
13247575

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Jul 11, 18, 25, 2024

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

In the Matter of: TAM HUYNH Decedent.

2024PR24 NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION-WILL AND CLAIMS

NOTICE is given of the death of Tam Huynh on April 8, 2024. Let-
ters of Office were issued on May 7, 2024, to Hillary Nguyen, who is the
legal representative of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Attorney
Charles G. Popp, P.C., 215 South State Street, Belvidere, Illinois.

Claims against the estate may be filed on or before January 12, 2025,
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 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, or with the estate legal
representative, or both.

Published in *The Boone County Journal* July 11, 18, 25, 2024

The following amount must be paid no later than 5p.m., July 19,
2024. FULL payment of CASH or MONEY ORDER, accepted by AP-
POINTMENT at: Belvidere Boone Self Storage, 6276 Logan Ave., Bel-
videre, IL 61008 or the contents of the below units, located at 6252 Logan
Ave, Belvidere, IL will be sold at auction or otherwise disposed of on
or any day after July 20, 2024: Paul Soltow - Unit 49 - Amount due
\$1,160.00 plus advertising. Published in *The Boone County Journal* July
11, 2024, and July 18, 2024.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, 601 NORTH MAIN STREET, BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS ESTATE OF Rose Uyeda, DECEASED. 24 PR 26

Notice is given to creditors of the death of the above named decedent.
Letters of office were issued to Lifecare Guardianship, Inc., d/b/a Arosa
Guardianship, 8330 South Madison street, Suite 90, Burr Ridge, Illinois
60527, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Timoth-
y J. Ritchey, Peck Ritchey, LLC, 321 South Plymouth Court, 6th Floor,
Chicago, Illinois 60604.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless un-
der section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act Ill. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755,
par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration
at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the clerk or with the rep-
resentative, or both, on or before January 11, 2025, or, if mailing or de-
livery of a notice from the representative is required by section 5/18-3
of the Probate Act, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on
or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must
be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the
attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

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 addition-
al help or have trouble e-filing, visit [http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/](http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp)
gethelp.asp.

Timothy J. Ritchey
Peck Ritchey, LLC (6333206)
321 South Plymouth Court, 6th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 201-0900
13247719

Published in *The Boone County Journal* July 11, 18, 25, 2024

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. 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.

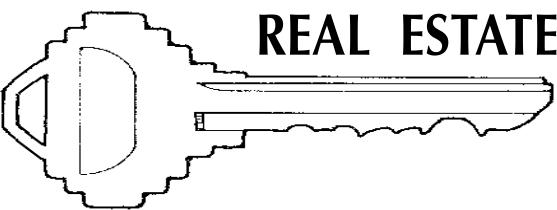
Phone Number: 815-378-9183

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.



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

PNC BANK, NATIONAL Plaintiff,
vs.
24 FC 18

**BARBARA M. MARCANTEL, AS TRUSTEE OF THE
BARBARA M. MARCANTEL REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST
DATED SEPTEMBER 10, 2014; BARBARA M.
MARCANTEL; UNKNOWN BENEFICIARIES OF THE
BARBARA M. MARCANTEL REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST
DATED SEPTEMBER 10, 2014; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND
NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants,**
NOTICE OF SALE

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

Commonly known as 214 Goodrich St., Belvidere, IL 61008.
P.I.N. 05-26-451-018.

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

Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by
certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call The Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Diaz
Anselmo & Associates P.A., 1771 West Diehl Road, Naperville, Illinois
60563. (630) 453-6960. 6746-199625 ADC

INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
intercountyjudicialsales.com
13247575

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Jul 11, 18, 25, 2024

Governor

from page 5

how the state handles the electors it sends to the
electoral college during presidential elections.
Under the new law, electors – those who actually
cast Illinois' votes for president – would be
required to vote for the presidential candidate that
won the state's presidential election.

Previously, electors were not legally bound to
vote for the winner of the popular vote and could
instead act as a "faithless elector," casting their
vote for another candidate.

While unprecedented in Illinois, several
electors elsewhere have voted against their state's
winner in recent elections. In 2016, seven of
the 538 electors successfully voted against their
state's winner. Three others also voted faithlessly,
although their votes were invalidated.

Illinois law will require electors to sign a
pledge to vote faithfully and, if they don't, they
would be immediately replaced with an alternate
who also signed a pledge to vote in accordance
with the popular vote.

The measure was based on model legislation
that has been adopted in 12 other states. Illinois
is now the 34th state that bars faithless electors.
While some states impose a penalty while still
counting the vote, Illinois will not count faithless
electoral college votes.

The newly signed law also contains a provision
crafted in response to a situation where voters'
home addresses and birthdays were published on
a network of conservative websites.

Local Government Information Services, a
company backed by conservative operatives
Dan Proft and Brian Timpone, published voter
information earlier this year and was quickly
sued by Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul's
office.

The law now explicitly says that voter
registration data cannot be used for "any personal,
private, or commercial purpose, including, but not
limited to, the intimidation, threat, or deception of
any person or the advertising, solicitation, sale, or
marketing of products or services."

Proft was recently the subject of a Democratic
Party complaint alleging he and his political
action committee illegally coordinated with
then-candidate for governor Darren Bailey. That
complaint, the first such challenge to be considered
by the Illinois State Board of Elections, was
ultimately dismissed.

Medical debt relief, other newly signed laws

Pritzker has signed more than 50 bills this
week, including a pair aimed at reducing the
harmful effects of medical debt.

One measure establishes a program first outlined
in the governor's annual budget address to spend
\$10 million of state funds to purchase Illinoisans'
delinquent medical debt. The governor's office
said the program will forgive approximately \$1
billion in personally held debt.

Medical debt holders in Illinois are eligible
for the program if they have a household income
less than four times the federal poverty limit or
have medical debt greater than five percent of
their total household income. The program will
be administered by the Department of Healthcare
and Family Services, which must launch the
program by Jan. 1, 2025.

Department staff will then work with hospitals
and other medical providers to identify eligible
residents and, after wiping their debt, notify them
that their debt has been erased.

Another measure prohibits credit reporting
companies from factoring in negative information
about medical debt in credit reports. This provision

Continued on Page 7

Governor

from page 6

went into effect immediately when it was signed.

“These two pieces of legislation work to ensure that medical debt is not a lifetime sentence of poverty, and that Illinoisans who are struggling under current debts have an opportunity to get back on a strong financial path as they heal,” Pritzker said in a Tuesday afternoon news release.

The governor also signed bills this week that will:

- Add the state’s Office of Pretrial Services, which already exists, into statute.
- Require schools to put in place plans to handle cardiac emergencies like heart attacks.
- Allow the Department of Transportation to start a program aimed at reducing noise pollution near highways.
- Require insurance companies to cover continuous glucose monitors, a medical device commonly used by those with diabetes, without cost sharing or a requirement for prior authorization.
- Require auto insurers to disclose how they determine a vehicle is a total loss during the claims process.
- Lower the minimum shotgun gauge size for hunting wild turkeys from 20 gauge to .410 bore.

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

Former GOP State Lawmaker, Candidate For Governor Sentenced To 42 Months In Prison

Sam McCann abruptly ended February trial in guilty plea for stealing campaign funds

By Hannah Meisel Capitol News Illinois

Former Republican State Sen. Sam McCann on Tuesday was sentenced to 42 months in federal prison for stealing nearly \$700,000 in campaign funds and attempting to conceal his theft with false reports to state election authorities.

In February, McCann pleaded guilty to seven counts of wire fraud and one count each of money laundering and tax evasion – but only after prosecutors had spent nearly three days presenting evidence against him at trial.

U.S. District Judge Colleen Lawless hearkened back to that moment as she was handing down her sentence Tuesday afternoon, saying McCann’s refusal to “accept responsibility” until the last possible moment factored into her calculation for prison time. She also told McCann she was bothered that he “continued to steal” all while “holding yourself out (to be) a God-fearing public servant.”

“That may have been part of your stump speech and your public persona,” Lawless said. “But just because you said it over and over does not make it true.”

McCann appeared in Lawless’ courtroom clad in the gray-and-black striped uniform of the Macon County Jail, where he’s been held since

shortly before his trial began in February. The judge had ordered him detained when he disobeyed her directives after his sudden unexplained hospitalization on the eve of trial further delayed court proceedings, and she declined to release him on home confinement after his guilty plea to await sentencing.

But in addressing Lawless on Tuesday, McCann said he was “thankful” for his time in jail because of the relationships he was developing with other detainees and correctional officers.

He also said he was coming to understand how some of the votes he took during his eight years in the General Assembly translated to real-world policy that contributed to his fellow detainees’ involvement with the criminal justice system.

“I’d trust these men more than some of my colleagues in Illinois government,” McCann said of his fellow detainees.

A ‘brazen...fraud’

McCann was elected to the Illinois Senate in 2010, and then twice more in 2012 and 2016. During his eight years in office, McCann represented a rural district spanning from Springfield westward to the Missouri border, sometimes breaking from his own party to vote in the interest of organized labor – a key constituency for Democrats.

McCann’s disagreements with GOP leadership ultimately led to him leaving the Republican Party and forming his own “Conservative Party.” In 2018, McCann ran on his new third-party ticket for governor, garnering \$3 million from the International Union of Operating Engineers – a funding move seen as a strategic way to draw votes away from then GOP Gov. Bruce Rauner, who was deeply unpopular with organized labor.

Though prosecutors alleged McCann’s illegal campaign spending dated back to 2015, it ramped up in 2018, coinciding with McCann’s run for governor and accompanying infusion of cash.

The government’s evidence included checks and bank statements showing McCann used campaign money to pay two mortgages and delinquent loans in addition to helping finance multiple vehicles and vacations. McCann also fraudulently cut himself checks for work not performed and double-dipped on reimbursement for miles driven.

During the summer of 2018, federal agents approached McCann about his campaign spending, but he denied any wrongdoing. In several hours of FBI recordings of the meetings played during trial, McCann stumbled over his explanations about why his campaign was paying to lease RVs and properties McCann personally owned, while the agents warned him that lying to them could land him in hot water.

Even so, Assistant U.S. Attorney Tim Bass reminded Judge Lawless on Tuesday, McCann kept spending the campaign money all the way up through mid-2020, including buying another RV and cutting himself regular checks from the basically defunct Conservative Party of Illinois long after losing his bid for governor.

Bass said the continuation of illegal campaign



Former Republican state Sen. Sam McCann speaks to reporters outside the federal courthouse in Springfield on Monday, Nov. 27, 2023. (Capitol News Illinois photo by Hannah Meisel)

fund spending even after multiple interviews with federal agents was McCann’s “most brazen” act of “fraud.”

“This wasn’t a one-off. This wasn’t an anomaly,” Bass said. “He continued to use campaign funds for his personal expenses up to the point where there was nothing left.”

McCann was indicted in early 2021, two years after he left public office after his failed third-party run for governor. He spent the next three years after charges were filed against him maintaining his innocence, refusing multiple plea agreements and eventually electing to represent himself at trial after burning through multiple court-appointed attorneys. Ultimately, however, McCann accepted legal representation after his sudden hospitalization on the eve of his already-delayed trial in February.

On Tuesday, attorney Jason Vincent asked Lawless for 12 months in prison – way below the sentencing guidelines that suggested an imprisonment of between 37 and 46 months. Bass had asked Lawless to give McCann the maximum 46 months.

Vincent argued that McCann had already “been disgraced through his own actions” and pointed to the number of pre-sentencing letters of support he’d received from McCann’s family, friends and even former constituents.

While Lawless said the show of support from McCann’s family was encouraging, the judge said she ultimately viewed his actions in the larger context of other public corruption cases.

“Greed coupled with the abuse of power has become expected of public servants,” she said.

In addition to his prison sentence, McCann was also ordered to pay \$683,816.61 in restitution, which will be split between Local 150 and the Illinois Education Association, which gave to McCann for his campaigns prior to 2018.

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

ROOM FOR RENT: Belvidere: Nice furnished room w/ fridge, near downtown, bus stop, Aldi, Drug & Dollar Stores. No Sec. Deposit. \$102/wk. or \$430/mo.
Call (815) 544-4466

BOONE COUNTY LICENSE & TITLE

What WE Can Do For YOU!

Illinois License Plates & Stickers for

- Cars • Trucks • Motorcycles •
- Trailers • Boat Trailers •
- Notary Public • Map Books •

**Notary
Public**



*Ask us for details about
our over the counter
Plates and Sticker service.*

- License & Title Services
- Plates, Stickers & Renewals
(Get sticker same day)
- Flat Fee for Services
- No Long Lines
- Friendly Helpful Staff
- Fast Convenient Service

*Open 6 Days a Week
Monday thru Friday*

*9 am to 5 pm
Saturday
9 am to 1 pm*

*Located on State Street
at the **Journal***

*419 S. State Street
Belvidere, IL 61008*

(815) 544-2075