

DOUGLAS COUNTY COURTHOUSE NEWS

(Editor's note: The following is a report of the traffic tickets, criminal charges, and law and divorce cases filed within the past week at the office of the Douglas County Circuit Clerk in the Courthouse, Tuscola.

Tickets and cases covered were issued to or filed against residents of Douglas, Moultrie, and Piatt counties and towns within the circulation area of this newspaper.

Real estate transactions listed below were filed in the office of the Douglas County Clerk during the same weekly period.)

Traffic Tickets

Jose M. Colunga, 20, of Newman was ticketed January 25 for possession of cannabis not more than 10 grams. Ticket was filed January 29.

Erick W. Anderson, 22, of Tilton was ticketed February 2 for possession of cannabis not more than 10 grams and possession of drug paraphernalia on U.S. 36 at County Road 2350 East. Tickets were filed February 4.

Eric W. Anderson, 22, of Tilton was ticketed February 2 for having no driver's license on person or failure to display driver's license on U.S. 36 at Broadway in Newman. Ticket was filed February 4.

Larry F. Boen, 68, of Danville was ticketed February 2 for improper use of electronic communications device (cellphone) westbound on U.S.36 at Brushy Fork River in Newman. Ticket was filed February 4.

Kali Erin Martin, 32, of Arcola was ticketed February 2 for speeding 75 mph in a 55-mph zone northbound on U.S. 45 at County Road 1275 North in Tuscola Township. Ticket was filed February 4.

Erika N. Reedy, 46, of Rockville, Indiana, was ticketed February 2 for speeding 60 mph in a 45-mph zone west-

bound on U.S. 36 at Hopkins in Newman. Ticket was filed February 4.

Erin Paige Walker, 23, of Tuscola was ticketed January 28 for driving too fast for conditions or failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident northbound on I-57 at Mile Post 214 in Tuscola Township. Ticket was filed February 4.

Danyel L. Riggleman, 36, of Tuscola was ticketed February 4 for speeding 72 mph in a 55-mph zone eastbound on U.S. 36 at County Road 560 East. Ticket was filed February 6.

Lesa Allen, 59, of Arthur was ticketed February 2 for operating an uninsured motor vehicle at 435 East County Road 200 North in Bourbon Township. Ticket was filed February 4.

Jerald Wayne Bonds III, 26, of Arthur was ticketed February 2 for operating a motor vehicle with no valid driver's license or permit (expired under one year) and driving too fast for conditions or failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident eastbound on U.S. 36 east of County Road 800 East. Tickets were filed February 5.

Victoria Michael McCord, 28, of Decatur was ticketed February 1 for driving while license is suspended and illegal transportation or possession of open alcohol by driver on U.S. 36 at Washington Street in Tuscola. Tickets were filed February 5.

Adam K. Bratten, 20, of Tuscola was ticketed February 4 for operating an uninsured motor vehicle eastbound on Northline Road at Carico Street in Tuscola. Ticket was filed February 5.

Sarah G. Parton, 44, of Oakland was ticketed February 3 for driving while license is suspended, driving while registration is suspended for no insurance, and operating an uninsured motor vehicle east-

bound on U.S. 36 at Progress Street in Tuscola. Tickets were filed February 5.

Aaron G. Warren, 16, of Tuscola was ticketed February 2 for operating an uninsured motor vehicle on Egyptian Trail at Southland Drive North in Tuscola. Ticket was filed February 5.

Ina L. Titus, 45, of Greenup was ticketed February 4 for speeding 73 mph in a 55-mph zone and operating an uninsured motor vehicle at the intersection of U.S. 36 and County Road 1440 East in Tuscola Township. Tickets were filed February 6.

Criminal Petitions
Paul D. Harshbarger, 53, of Arcola has been charged with battery, a Class A misdemeanor. Harshbarger is accused of knowingly making contact of insulting or provoking nature with a minor on or about January 12 by grabbing the person in the neck and shoulder area and pushing the person. Charge was filed January 28.

Charles P. Eisenmenger, 60, of Pesotum has been charged with aggravated driving under the influence, a Class 2 felony. Eisenmenger, a person with at least two previous violations of this section or similar, is accused of driving a motor vehicle on January 4 at a time when he was under the influence of alcohol. Charge

was filed January 25.

Itzel V. Mireles, 30, of Berwyn, Illinois, has been charged with defacing identification mark of firearms, a Class 3 felony carrying a possible two- to five-year prison sentence and fine up to \$25,000; unlawful use of weapons, a Class 4 felony carrying a possible one- to three-year prison sentence and fine up to \$25,000; unlawful possession of a controlled substance, a Class 4 felony carrying a possible one- to three-year prison sentence and fine up to \$25,000; and obstructing justice, a Class 4 felony carrying a possible one- to three-year prison sentence and fine up to \$25,000.

Mireles is accused of possessing on January 23 an ROHM revolver upon which the importer's or manufacturer's serial number had been removed; carrying in a vehicle on January 23 a Smith and Wesson .32 revolver that was uncased, loaded, and immediately accessible at the time without having been issued a currently valid Firearm Owner's Identification Card; possessing on January 23 less than 15 grams of a substance containing cocaine; and obstructing the prosecution of herself on January 23 by altering physical evidence by swallowing a substance suspected to be cocaine, a controlled

substance. Charges were filed January 24.

Marriage Licenses

A marriage license was issued January 31 to Noel Garcia Jr. and Dielsy Zendeja, both of Arcola.

Real Estate

Robert P. Pratte and Sarah Pratte granted Bharat B. Patel a warranty deed for a parcel in Greenbriar Court Condominiums (Unit 309-2 East Newkirk Street, Tuscola).

Bernard R. Johnson granted Goldman Properties LLC a quitclaim deed for Lots 18 and 19 in Block 14 of the Original Town, Newman.

Derrick Roy granted Illinois National Bank a mortgage for a parcel in SE SW 12-16-8 (1200 East County Road 1350 North, Tuscola).

Brian Frick and USAA Federal Savings Bank granted Ocwen Loan Servicing LLC assignment of mortgage for Lots 4 and 5 in Block 2 of Johnston's Second Addition, Villa Grove (212 South Spruce Street, Villa Grove).

Justin Hutchison, Longview Bank, and JP Morgan Chase Bank granted Lakeview Loan Servicing LLC assignment of mortgage for Lot 7 in Block 3 of Hessler and Erwin's Third Addition, Villa Grove (513 1/2 North Street, Villa Grove).

Harold P. Brown and Mary Jeanne Brown, trustees of The

Brown Trust dated August 23, 2011, granted Kirk W. Rogers and Theresa E. Rogers a corrective trustee's deed for a parcel in NW 36-16-9 (1770 East County Road 1000 North, Camargo).

SOSPEN LLC granted Seth Jeffers and Heather Jeffers a warranty deed for Lot 4 of Hillcrest Subdivision, Tuscola (4 Hillcrest, Tuscola).

Busey Bank granted Danny Price Sr. and Tina Price a release for Lot 4 in Block 2 of Richman's Third Addition, Villa Grove (208 South Richman, Villa Grove).

State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources granted Verrel Lee Miller and Wilma Fern Miller a quitclaim deed for a parcel in NE 35-15-7.

State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources granted Gerald Dale Shoemaker a quitclaim deed for a parcel in NE 8-14-7.

State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources granted John V. Fishel and Loretta L. Fishel a quitclaim deed for a parcel in 4-14-8.

State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources granted Travis Dale Drake and Tiffany Jane Drake a quitclaim deed for a parcel in NE NE 6-14-8.

State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources granted Homer L. Miller and Sovilla A. Miller a quitclaim deed for

Cont. pg. 8

First Bill Proposed to Legalize Pot 'More In Line With How We Treat Alcohol'

By Rebecca Anzel and Peter Hancock

Capitol News Illinois
SPRINGFIELD — Attention at the Statehouse is expected to begin focusing on one of Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker's top priorities — legalizing recreational marijuana — with the deadline for lawmakers to introduce new bills on Friday.

Two key Chicago Democratic lawmakers, Sen. Heather Steans and Rep. Kelly Cassidy, have met with interested groups around Illinois and are expected to introduce legislation soon.

Meanwhile, though, Rep. Carol Ammons, a Democrat from Urbana, has already introduced a bill that is drawing attention. It would open the door to a much more expansive legal pot industry than most others have envisioned.

Ammons' bill, the "Cannabis Legalization Equity Act," would allow anyone 21 or older with valid identification to purchase or sell marijuana. Driving under the influence of the drug would still be illegal, and the legislation makes specific a that only "legitimate, taxpaying business people" would be permitted to sell cannabis.

Illinoisans, under the measure, could possess as many as 224 grams, or roughly half a pound, of marijuana at a time. It would also allow individuals to grow as many as 24 plants in their own homes for personal consumption, and it would provide for the licensing of cultivation facilities and retail dispensaries.

Ammons did not respond to requests for comment Monday. Her measure includes language, though, indicating its purpose would be to allow "law enforcement to focus on violent and property crimes, generating revenue for education and other public purposes, and individual freedom."

"We like it. We think that that's more in line with how we treat alcohol," said Dan Linn, who lobbies for the Illinois chapter of NORML — the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. "We also think it would be good for consumers to be able to cultivate their own cannabis, as well as to have a cap

on the licensing fees for the new businesses that would be created by that legislation."

Also in the bill is a requirement that at least 51 percent of the licenses for cultivating facilities and retail cannabis stores be issued, "in communities disproportionately harmed by the war on drugs," which the bill defines as census tracts in which more than half the population is African-American, Native American, Hispanic or Latino.

The bill also would authorize medical researchers to use cannabis in studies, as long as the participants are at least 21 years old.

Revenue for the state would be generated by a 10 percent excise tax on the sale or transfer of marijuana from a cultivating facility to a retail store. Half of that money would be paid into the state's main checking account, while 30 percent would go to the Common School Fund.

Smaller percentages of the revenue would be distributed to various state retirement systems; the Department of Human Services to fund treatment programs for tobacco, alcohol and cannabis abuse; and to the Department of State police for hiring and training drug recognition efforts.

Linn said NORML will have a lobbying day at the Statehouse on Wednesday, Feb. 20, the same day Pritzker is scheduled to give his budget address to the legislature. And with Pritzker's backing of legalization, Linn said he thinks there is a good chance something will pass this year.

"I think there's a strong push to make it happen as quickly as possible so that we can create these jobs and bring in this needed revenue," he said.

Still, any effort toward legalization is certain to meet resistance. The Illinois Catholic Conference recently announced its opposition to legalization. Law enforcement groups including the Chicago Crime Commission and the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police have also said they will oppose such a measure, as has the Drug Free America Foundation.

The legislation is House Bill 902.

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