

## County Officials Due For Substantial Raises

by MJ Langner

Several county officials could be seeing a significant raise in the coming year. Marshall County Board members discussed the possibility at their latest meeting held on April 9th.

With the coming election this fall, the board is required, by ordinance, to set salaries for certain elected and appointed officials. At this time, the board is looking at setting salaries for the County Clerk & Recorder, County Treasurer, Circuit Clerk and Supervisor of Assessments. These salaries would be for fiscal year 2027, 2028, 2029 and 2030.

Board chairman Travis McGlasson began the discussion by stating that for a significant period of time these positions went without raises, while staff members in those offices did receive raises. He added that the compounded loss of percentage salary increases each year was significant.

McGlasson also mentioned the

possibility that the increase could be out of their hands, as a bill has been proposed at the state level that would require counties to pay officials at least 80% of the county's state's attorney's salary.

While that bill has stalled at this point, McGlasson stated that either way, the officials could be looking at a "fairly decent increase" in their salaries.

Solid numbers were not given at this time and the board entertained the idea of holding on voting on this until May, with hopes that they would have a better idea on the state's position. This would also allow more time to gather further information.

The vote on this was then officially tabled until the next meeting as McGlasson gathers further information including possible comparisons from nearby counties.

Ron Schoof, TIF administrator for the City of Lacon, also spoke to the board regarding Lacon's TIF

1 which is set to expire in 2028. The city is attempting to renew the district.

Schoof told the board that this would be a second renewal for the district and the city is offering the county an increase in what they could collect from the TIF district. Currently the county receives approximately \$31,000. The new agreement would see that increased to \$50,000.

The board did approve the renewal from their end, with all board members voting yes, except for Justin Meierkord who abstained. Meierkord stated while he does not have any current projects that would be eligible to benefit from the renewal, he does own property in TIF district 1.

The Poor Farm Cemetery sign was also briefly touched on at this meeting once again. Sparked by Han Soon during public comment, McGlasson did comment on the installation of a sign at the location.

Soon questioned action taken by the county's highway department to install the sign, when he was under the impression that the county would not be taking any action. He also questioned the highway department's involvement as this was not specifically a roadway sign.

McGlasson stated that he agreed that there was a lot of confusion by many entities on what was approved and who approved what, leading to what he called an unfortunate comedy of errors, that was nothing more than miscommunication, with people providing approvals without fully knowing what was being approved.

According to McGlasson, the Steuben Township supervisor and road commissioner did approve a sign and as often happens with

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## Midland Middle School Recognizes The Students Of The Month For March



Pictured above from left to right: Micah Kelly, Aubree Stokes, Karu Deffenbaugh and Clara Keinath.

## Illinois House Pushes Through Bill Restricting ICE Detention Centers In State

By Sean Reed | The Center Square

After heavy debate and Republican opposition, the Illinois House passed a bill that would all but ban detention centers from operating in numerous towns and cities across the state.

HB 5024 would restrict federal immigration detention centers across the state. If passed by the senate, it would impact operations of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Illinois.

Republican legislators have previously criticized the bill, saying it would bring legal disputes against the state.

Sponsor of the bill, Speaker of the House Chris Welch, D-Westchester, defended the purpose of the bill on the floor.

"The detention center in Broadview sits in the middle of a neighborhood where there are homes nearby, children nearby, families nearby, and a church nearby,"

Welch said. "It is extremely disruptive to the regular everyday business of the local community."

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## Acclaimed Author To Lead Fable Workshop For Midland 7th Graders

On Tuesday, April 28, Mrs. Tower's 7th grade classes will welcome Brian Fox Ellis, an internationally acclaimed author and storyteller, for a special fable-writing experience. Ellis will guide students through the art of storytelling, helping them create their own original fables.

A prolific author and performer, Ellis has published more than 30 books, 100 magazine articles, and hosted two PBS series. This program is made possible in part by a grant from the Sun Foundation and the Illinois Arts Council.

## Marina Clean-Up Day Sunday, April 18

Noon - 2:30 p.m.

Please join us on Sunday, April 18 from noon to 2:00 p.m. at the Lacon Marina for a volunteer cleanup of the marina and Weber Park. We will be cleaning up debris, raking, weeding, etc. If you have gardening gloves, tools or rakes, feel free to bring those as well.



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# TRIVIA NIGHT

Cash Prizes, 50/50, Raffle, Bake Sale, and MORE!

**Saturday, April 25**

Doors open: 4:30pm

Shandy's Pub & Grub  
1106 Western Ave,  
Henry, IL

Check out the Facebook event page for raffle announcements, & registration

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