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Pulse

May 12, 2008 State Sen. **A.J. Wilhelmi** enjoyed [Recommend \(2\)](#)
some glory for his role in the local fight to keep Stateville Correctional Center open. But fame is fleeting.

The Joliet Democrat posed for pictures near the front gate of Stateville Correctional Center last week after he and other legislators announced their success in persuading the governor to give the prison a reprieve.

Some correctional officers stopped by to thank the Joliet Democrat for saving 400 jobs. One, however, didn't recognize him. He pulled up in a Department of Corrections van and told tell Wilhelmi to get off of prison property. I-55 travails

The Bridge Street Town Centre slated for the crossroads of Interstates 55 and 80 could draw customers from as far away as Bloomington and the Quad Cities, City Planner **Don Fisher** has said. But getting there from the southwest side of Chicago might be a little tough at times.

Discussion of the future "super-regional" mall was delayed at the city council's workshop meeting a week ago because **Drew Barkett**, who is lining up retailers for Bridge Street, was stuck in traffic on his way from Midway Airport.

"I just spoke with Drew Barkett," Fisher told the council. "I-55 is stopped. He won't be here for awhile."

Everyone seemed to understand.

Freedom of the press

Some JJC board members were apparently not amused by Pulse's suggestion last Monday that the college partner with a casino and run an over/under on its November referendum results.

Trustee **Jeff May**, who says the referendum will lose by a 3-to-1 margin, was the inspiration for that suggestion.

"Keep your opinions out of Monday's paper," Trustee **Andrew Mihelich** told May at last week's meeting.

"We were elected by the voters and we're entitled to speak our opinion," said Trustee **Susan Block**, who also is against the referendum. "If it happens to be in the paper, so be it."

Turning the tables

Congressional candidate **Marty Ozinga III** , who has been busy hitting the fundraising circuit himself, recently gave a sizeable contribution to the Lincoln-Way High School Foundation for Educational Excellence.

His company, Ozinga Bros., recently joined the foundation's almost year-old partner program by giving at the foundation's highest level. (Sadly, the foundation won't say how much.)

Just in time for campaign season, the news release includes a snazzy grip-and-grin photo showing Ozinga clutching a large plaque standing amongst three foundation officials. The Ozinga plant in Mokena towers in the background. (You didn't think we were actually going to show you the photo, did you?)

At least, the money is going to a good cause. And the partner program signifies an annual commitment, so Ozinga is going to give whether he wins or not.

A big move

The city of Joliet has given its first Historic Preservation Award to **Jeff Bussean** , owner of the Patrick C. Haley Mansion banquet facility. The award recognizes Bussean for saving the John D'Arcy house, a circa 1901 mansion that was moved instead of demolished last September when Bussean needed more parking for his successful business operation. The house was moved to the other side of Center Street, which was quite a feat. The D'Arcy house is a 7,700-square-foot structure and weighted in at 240 tons at the time of the moving, which was an all-day event.

Pulse contributors included Patrick Ferrell, Mike Schmidt and Brian Stanley. Comment on this story at www.heraldnews.com.

[Stateville "fight" helps Will, hurts state](#)

From CHICAGO ARGUS

[Tax Foundation Cigarette Tax Op-Ed in Wall Street Journal](#)

From Long-Term Solution Needed For AMT Reform

The views expressed in these blog posts are those of the author and not of the Sun-Times

News Group.

berg1 wrote:

Thanks to Jeff Bussean for providing an excellent example of caring about the history of our community. The move of the John D'Arcy house was an expensive, carefully planned operation that was a marvel to see. Jeff's business motto could easily be "success breeds success"; a business model that other Joliet business owners may want to follow.

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