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Bessie Coleman: Aiming High

By Charles Herbst

If you have driven into O'Hare Airport, you've seen the signs for the exit to Bessie Coleman Drive. You may have wondered, "Who is Bessie Coleman?" Perhaps a political operative in the Chicago Department of Aviation?

Bessie Coleman Drive is a road on the east side of the airport that connects the International Terminal, the Rental Car Center, and much of the long-term parking at O'Hare. Other than the entrance off the Kennedy Expressway, this road serves as the central artery that connects the airport together. Prior to 1990, it was known as "Old Mannheim Road."

The Chicago City Council, at the request of Mayor Richard M. Daley, renamed the street Bessie Coleman Drive.

So who is this honoree, Bessie Coleman? And why such an important throughfare at O'Hare?

Bessie Coleman was the first African-American woman and first Native American to hold a pilot's license. She was also the first Black person to hold an international pilot's license.

The runway that led to Coleman becoming a pilot was anything but direct or well-delineated.

Bessie Coleman was born in Texas in 1892, to a family of sharecroppers. She worked in cotton fields while attending a one-room, segregated school, where she established herself as an outstanding math student. She was 11 when the Wright Brothers made their famous first flight. At 18, she used some meagre savings to enroll for

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Tensions Grow Between City, State and Federal Government Over Influx of Migrants

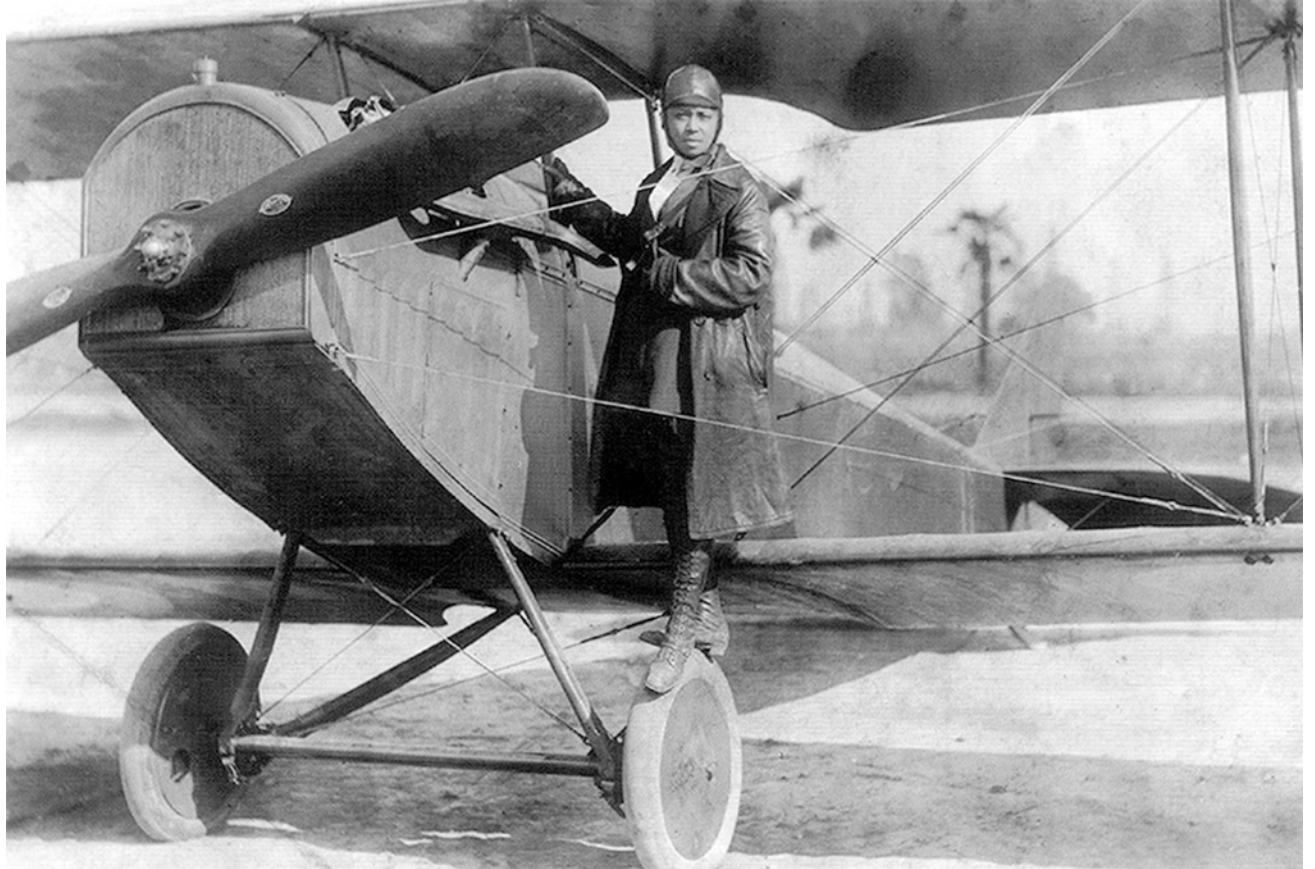
*Lawmakers begin offering proposals
to address recent arrivals*

By Andrew Adams Capitol News Illinois

Tensions rose again this week between Gov. JB Pritzker's office and Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson over how to handle the tens of thousands of people who have arrived in the state since August 2022 via buses or planes sent from Texas.

The most recent back-and-forth between the two came in response to the city's recent shift in its migrant strategy: away from building new shelters or even increasing capacity of existing shelters, instead focusing on getting migrants out of shelters and into other forms of housing.

The state had previously committed \$65 million to building a shelter in Chicago in November – an effort that has still not come to fruition.



Bessie Colman at her airplane in 1922

Photo Wikimedia Commons

"I'm deeply concerned," Pritzker said Monday. "We do not have enough shelter as it is in the city of Chicago. The city has not told the state where they would like us to put our resources. We can't help if they don't identify those locations."

Johnson's administration is gearing up to enforce the city's 60-day eviction policy at Chicago's shelters. Enforcement of that policy was initially delayed due to dangerously cold weather but is set to go into effect next week.

At a news conference on Wednesday, Johnson suggested that the state build shelters outside of his city.

"The state of Illinois can build a shelter anywhere in the state of Illinois, the state does not have to build a shelter in Chicago," Johnson said.

Johnson also said Wednesday that he did not think his administration was at odds with Pritzker.

Read more: Patchwork aid system and uncertain funding leave thousands of migrants in limbo

Within city government, Chicago's shelter policies have drawn criticism. Thursday, a group of 16 city aldermen penned a letter asking the mayor to walk back the eviction policy.

"To stand by the decision to impose 60-day limits on shelters without addressing these systemic issues leaves new arrivals without options for housing or shelter," the aldermen wrote. "This situation simply should not be acceptable."

Beyond Chicago, Pritzker joined eight other Democratic governors earlier this week in a letter to President Joe Biden and congressional leadership asking for more federal coordination of resources to help migrants.

"While political motivations continue to delay the negotiations, our economy, states and localities are bearing the brunt of the shortcomings of the

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State Partners with Google to Launch New Portal for Children's Mental Health Resources

*Platform scheduled for summer start;
aimed at both parents and providers*

By Dilpreet Raju Capitol News Illinois

For years, parents and providers have criticized what they see as a disorganized system for finding children mental health care in Illinois. State leaders are hoping a new partnership will change that.

The Illinois Department of Human Services is partnering with Google to launch a new centralized portal for children's mental health care, state officials announced Monday.

Gov. JB Pritzker, executives from Google Public Sector and state legislators gathered at Google's Fulton Market office in Chicago to announce that the portal, called BEACON, is slated to launch this summer. The governor said a centralized hub will make finding behavioral health resources much easier for parents and providers.

"If you've ever had to search for these resources, it's difficult," Pritzker said.

Beyond a central location to see what state agencies provide care, parents can "upload documents to avoid repetition when applying for all these services," he said.

The platform will be accessible to parents, relevant health care providers and educators to monitor what services children may be eligible for from the state.

BEACON is the latest major project following

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Tony Walker

Tony Martin Walker, 75, of Roscoe passed away peacefully at his home on Thursday, January 18, 2024. Tony was born September 2, 1948, son of Wanda (nee Rednour) and Ira Walker. He gradu-

ated from Belvidere High School in 1966 and attended Rock Valley College with studies focused on Art and English. Tony was a proud lifetime member of the Plumbers and Pipefitters U.A. Local #23, having completed his 50th year of membership in 2019. Perhaps most notably among his numerous jobs as a pipefitter, he spent a significant amount of time working at the Byron Nuclear Plant. Tony approached creative endeavors with an unmatched passion, which led him to excel in music, art, storytelling, and writing. Many remember him from bands such as Red Bud Thunder, The Continentals, and The Double Decker Bus.

After a stroke in the summer of 1998 impacted Tony's right (dominant) hand, he persevered and learned to function with the full use of only one hand. His passion for creating was ceaseless and could not be stopped by this physical limitation, so he taught himself how to create music and art while only using his left hand. Tony was a font of positivity and humor, capable of bringing laughter and joy to those open to it, whether they were physically with him or reading his musings through the internet; whether they had known him for years or mere minutes. His sense of wonder and joy was shared freely and has left a lasting impact, as his numerous long friendships and strong relationships can attest to. He routinely helped to keep things interesting for others, while also encouraging them to be themselves.

Tony built a multitude of exceptionally close connections, which frequently transcended traditional blood relations, as he favored merit over obligation. He is survived by his partner Brenda Brockman and beloved family members, including six children and seven grandchildren. Tony was predeceased by his daughters, MaLocka Gille and Michelle Barnett, and father, Ira Walker.

Tony will be cremated, as per his wish. A celebration of life will be held by the family at a date yet to be decided. We urge you to do as Tony suggested: "Keep music in your life, life in your music."

If approved, the Poplar Grove tax rate would be put into effect. Manchester's rate on our last tax bill was \$.10032 per hundred dollars assessed valuation. Poplar Grove FPD estimates the consolidated district's new tax rate, if the referendum is approved, to be \$.5140. This would equate to an increase in annual taxes of about \$206 for a \$150,000 home in the Manchester Fire District.

If approved, all funds in the Manchester Fire accounts, including reserves, will be turned over to Poplar Grove FPD to be used at their discretion. This currently is about \$330,000.

If approved, this referendum will NOT change the Capron Rescue taxing district for EMS/ambulance services although they would no longer be the primary service provider---their tax rate (\$.11781 or about \$59 annually for a \$150,000 home) will continue along with the new Poplar Grove FPD levy.

Poplar Grove staffs one ambulance 24/7 and a second ambulance half- time. Poplar Grove would become the primary for emergency medical services if the referendum is approved. As in the past, both fire and ambulance would work with mutual aid of neighboring districts as needed, and as determined by the nature of the emergency and the availability of needed equipment and personnel.

Since Capron Rescue would no longer be the primary EMS provider, it has been asked how taxpayers in Poplar Grove's District could be removed from Capron Rescue taxing. A separate referendum at a later point in time would be needed. It would be a complicated issue because Capron Rescue services other areas besides Manchester and Poplar Grove; a sustainable option for Capron and Leroy township would be necessary.

Questions have come up regarding Harlem Roscoe's EMS service to the Manchester #5 area. A few years ago, Harlem Roscoe responded to ambulance (EMS) calls if Manchester residents called their firehouse directly. With centralization of 911 dispatch, this option is no longer available and actually could delay dispatch as a call is rerouted to the current EMS provider, Capron Resue Squad. Harlem Roscoe currently responds if called upon by Capron Rescue.

I encourage everyone to give this thought and contact your Fire Protection and EMS officials if you have questions.

**Thanks for your time,
Kathy Hall**

OBITUARIES

- Bill Hetland, 80, Kenosha/Belvidere, Jan 29
- Thomas Follis, 69, Belvidere, January 26
- Ronald Johnson, 75, Belvidere, January 25
- Jerry Karr, 82, Harvard, January 20
- Corrine "Corky" Koltz, 96, Harvard, January 20
- Vanessa "Pixie" Kraus, 66, Marengo, January 26
- Marshall Sergeant Jr., 78, Harvard, January 26
- Frank Stankiewicz, 77, Belvidere, January 21
- Rose Uyeda, 92, Belvidere, January 25
- Maynard Vaupel, 80, Belvidere, January 23
- Dennis Williamson, 74, Belvidere, January 24
- Vicki Wilson, 74, Belvidere, January 16
- Janice Winterroth, 88, Harvard, January 20

REAL JOURNALISM FOR A REAL DEMOCRACY

Publisher/Editor Senior Writer/Editorial Photography	David C. Larson Charles Herbst Susan Moran
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David Grimm April 1938 - Dec. 2000
Richelle Kingsbury Aug. 1955 - June 2013

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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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

A letter to the Editor and the residents of Manchester District 5 Fire Protection District (Boone Co Fire PD #5)

RE: UPCOMING REFERENDUM TO DISSOLVE MANCHESTER FIRE DISTRICT

On the March 19 ballot, there will be a question for voters in Northern Manchester Township Fire District #5. The ballot will read as follows:

SHALL BOONE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #5 DISSOLVE AND BE CONSOLIDATED INTO NORTH BOONE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT 3

In talking to some neighbors, there has been some confusion. I hope there will be adequate information so everyone can make an informed decision for voting. The facts I have been able to verify are as follows:

For many years, Manchester FPD #5 has had agreements with Harlem Roscoe and Poplar Grove for fire protection services. If the referendum is approved, these agreements will be dissolved. Poplar Grove FPD (District #3) would directly manage fire services and EMS services.

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Bessie Colman

from page 1

one term at the Oklahoma Colored Agricultural and Normal University in Langston, Oklahoma. Coleman lacked the funds to pursue her education further.

In 1915, when she was 23, she came to Chicago and became a manicurist at a local barber shop. While there, she heard the stories of returning World War I pilots. Inspired by their stories, Coleman took a second job at a restaurant to save money for flight school. Coleman's quest was complicated by the fact that American flight schools did not admit Black people or women.

While there may not have been federal student aid programs or a "Go Fund Me," Coleman's goal came to the notice of Robert S. Abbott, a prominent Black lawyer and publisher of the *Chicago Defender*. Abbott encouraged her to study abroad. He publicized Coleman's story in the *Defender*, which attracted the attention of banker Jessie Binga. Binga and the *Defender* financially sponsored her education.

Before traveling to Paris in 1920, Coleman took a French immersion class at the Berlitz Language School.

While in France, she learned to fly on a Nieuport 564 biplane. In June 1921, she earned her pilot's license and an international aviation license from the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale. She spent the rest of the summer taking additional lessons from a pilot before returning to the United States by ship.

Bessie Coleman was now a pilot in a world that did not yet include scheduled passenger air service. There was no Pan American, Trans World, or United Airlines yet. What was to become Midway Airport opened two years later as Chicago Air Park in 1923 with a single cinder runway. O'Hare and its surrounding infrastructure did not exist. The site of what would one day become one of the world's busiest airports was still a farming community called Orchard Place.

Coleman's career options as a civilian pilot were thus very limited. One of her few options was to become a barnstorming, stunt flyer for paying audiences.

After still more training in Europe, she joined the air show circuit and became a well-known, popular performer with both White and Black audiences. Beyond performing daredevil stunts, Coleman spoke to audiences across the country about aviation and African American participation. She made it a point to refuse to participate in any activity that prohibited the attendance of African Americans.

Befriended by a couple in Orlando, she moved in with them and opened a beauty shop in the neighborhood in order to earn extra money to purchase her own plane. Through some of her contacts, she was offered a role in the movie *Shadow and Sunshine*. She initially accepted, believing that it would enhance her career and provide her with money for another dream of hers—establishing her own flying school for African-American aviators. She walked off the set when she learned that she would have to appear in tattered clothes with a walking stick and a pack on her back.

In April 1926, Cole-

man purchased a Curtiss JN-4 (Jenny) in Dallas. This was a popular model of aircraft that had been used in World War I and became a mainstay of general civil aviation. It is the same type of plane recently constructed by the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 1414 and locally hangered at the Poplar Grove Airport.

The plane Coleman purchased had been very poorly maintained and was barely airworthy. Her mechanic and publicist, William Wills, flew the plane from Texas to Florida. The aircraft developed mechanical troubles several times during that flight.

In preparation for an airshow the next day in Jacksonville, despite being warned that the plane was likely unsafe, Coleman and Wills took off in the aircraft. Coleman planned to parachute from the aircraft at the airshow and wanted to see the terrain from the air.

At 3,000 feet above the ground, the plane unexpectedly dove and went into a spin. Coleman was thrown from the plane at 2,000 feet and died when she hit the ground. Wills could not regain control of the plane and was killed when it plummeted to the ground. It was later discovered that a wrench used to service the aircraft's engine had jammed the controls.

Coleman was 34 years old and Wills was 24.

News of Coleman's death was widely covered by the African American press, including the *Chicago Defender*. Neither the *Chicago Tribune* nor The *New York Times* published an obituary. Activist and journalist Ida B. Wells led Coleman's funeral ceremonies in Chicago, accompanied by 10,000 mourners.

Especially in recent years, Coleman's memory has been widely honored. Beyond O'Hare, many airports worldwide have named facilities in her honor. The US Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp in 1995. The US Mint honored her with a commemorative quarter in 2023. Many other tributes have been made, including establishing a permanent exhibition in 2021 located in O'Hare's Terminal 2. (This exhibit is located inside the secure area and generally only available to passengers on United and American.) In December 2019, The *New York Times* finally published her obituary in its Overlooked section.

While Coleman's aeronautical career was brief and may not have

been as storied as others, the multiple roadblocks she overcame to become a pilot, her pioneering example, and opening of doors for other Black and female aviators is what distinguishes her as an aviator.

Bessie Coleman is buried in Lincoln Cemetery in Blue Island. It is a tradition for African American pilots to overfly her grave and drop flowers.



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Migrants

from page 1

existing immigration system,” the governors wrote. “Therefore, as you return to Washington to resume work on critical federal funding measures, we strongly urge Congress and the Administration to quickly negotiate an agreement on a border security legislative package.”

In addition to Pritzker, the letter was signed by the governors of New York, Arizona, California, Colorado, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New Mexico.

Conflict between the states and the federal government is also coming from the other side of the political aisle. Earlier this week, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered Texas officials to allow federal agents to access the state’s border with Mexico. Texas sued the federal government last fall after border patrol agents cut razor wire the state had put up, but the court upheld previous decisions that give the federal government sole responsibility for border security.

On Wednesday, Republican Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, who has directed the busing program that has brought roughly 35,000 migrants to Illinois, invoked the U.S. Constitution by declaring that the number of migrants at the southern border constitutes an “invasion” of the country and referencing states’ “sovereign interest in protecting their borders.”

“That authority is the supreme law of the land and supersedes any federal statutes to the contrary,” Abbott said in a statement. “The Texas National Guard, the Texas Department of Public Safety, and other Texas personnel are acting on that authority, as well as state law, to secure the Texas border.”

Read more: State opens migrant shelter, Pritzker talks supplemental spending plan

This week also saw several state lawmakers offer possible responses to the influx of migrants.

Rep. Kam Buckner, D-Chicago, penned an op-ed proposing that city and state policymakers use the fact that Chicago is set to host the Democratic National Convention as leverage to force federal action on immigration.

“If the federal government cannot adequately deal with the housing issue for tenured Chicagoans and our new arrivals, then Chicago and Illinois should be prepared to rescind the offer to host the DNC,” Buckner wrote in a piece for the Chicago Tribune.

But backing out of hosting the DNC is unlikely, as contacts with vendors have already been signed and federal law enforcement agencies are already setting out their plans for the event.

“The Democratic National Convention provides an unparalleled opportunity to invest in communities across Chicago,” Natalie Edelstein, a spokesperson for the host committee said in a statement responding to Buckner’s proposal.

Edelstein also noted that the host committee is working with city, state and local partners to “ensure a safe and successful event.”

Buckner is a member of the House of Representatives “New Arrivals Working Group,” an informal group of lawmakers recently convened by House Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch, D-Hillside. That group will likely be an important part of potential funding discussions for the state’s migrant response this spring. While the governor’s office is anticipating a \$1.4 billion surplus in the current year which ends June 30, next fiscal year is facing a projected deficit of \$891 million.

The state has so far spent or allocated more than \$600 million on programs relating to the recently arrived migrants, according to the governor’s office, including a \$160 million package through

the state’s Department of Human Services announced in November.

Earlier this month, Pritzker said he brought up a potential supplemental spending plan to legislative leaders in Springfield, but those conversations have so far yielded no proposals.

Read more: Pritzker urges ‘careful’ approach as current-year surplus could be followed by deficit

Some Republican lawmakers, meanwhile, have asked Welch to hold public hearings on the migrant situation.

The Illinois Freedom Caucus, a group of conservative Republican state representatives, said they attempted to tour shelters in Chicago but were turned away.

While the Monday letter to Welch from Freedom Caucus members characterized the influx of migrants as an “ongoing illegal immigration crisis,” many of the people bused to the state from Texas are seeking asylum which generally means they can legally stay in the U.S.

Rep. Adam Niemerg, R-Dieterich, a member of the Freedom Caucus, said he and his colleagues hope to engage downstate Illinoisans on the issue.

“Transparency in government at any level is important,” Niemerg said.

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Google

from page 1

last year’s Blueprint for Transformation, an executive report on children’s mental health care commissioned by Gov. Pritzker’s Children’s Behavioral Health Transformation Initiative.

That report highlighted five solutions for improving child mental health care:

- Adjust capacity of services
- Streamline processes of services
- Intervene earlier
- Increase accountability so there is transparency in services
- Develop agility to increase system responsiveness

Dana Weiner, lead author of the report and Chief Officer for the initiative, highlighted BEACON as a “state of the art tool” that will ease the logistical and emotional burden associated with seeking mental health care.

“Families that previously had to navigate multiple paths telling the story of their youth’s challenges dozens of times in the hope that a door

to services would open now will have an option for a single centralized place to go for help,” Weiner said.

The initiative was launched in 2022 amid concern about the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Illinois youth, a sentiment Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton echoed on Monday.

“The last few years have been harder than anything that I’ve seen in my lifetime. The pandemic ripped away normalcy,” she said. “Understandably, we’ve seen a surge of mental health struggles in our youngest community members.”

IDHS’ Division of Mental Health contracted with Google Public Sector — a division within the tech giant that partners with governments and universities — to develop BEACON. Officials said the portal will be able to connect caregivers with the myriad health resources offered by an array of state agencies including, but not limited to, the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Human Services, and the Department of Healthcare and Family Services.

“In this age of technology, we have enormous power at our fingertips, and we are using it to nurture our children and create a healing-centered Illinois,” Stratton said. “The BEACON portal will centralize and simplify the process of securing mental and behavioral health intervention. It will ease the burden on our care providers.”

State Rep. Lindsey LaPointe (D-Chicago), a former social worker and chair of the House Mental Health and Addiction committee, said BEACON is a sign of progress in the state’s mental health system.

“If you’ve lived it, like many of us have, you know that nothing about the mental health care system is easy to navigate,” she said. “Things have gotten a whole lot better. We still have lots of hill to climb when it comes to children’s behavioral health access.”

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Board of Elections Allows Trump's Name To Stay on Ballot

Hearing officer says constitutional challenges should be decided by courts

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

Former President Donald Trump's name will remain on the Illinois Republican primary ballot, at least for the time being.

The Illinois State Board of Elections voted 8-0 on Tuesday to dismiss an objection to his candidacy based on the 14th Amendment's insurrection clause. That clause bars former public officials who take part in an insurrection or rebellion against the United States from holding public office again.

A hearing officer in the case agreed that Trump did engage in an insurrection for his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, riots at the U.S. Capitol and should be disqualified. But he said constitutional questions must be decided by courts, not the Board of Elections.

The U.S. Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments on Feb. 8 in a similar case out of Colorado.

Panel of Experts Suggest Legislative Measures to Reverse Journalism Decline

Potential solutions include tax breaks for subscribers, advertisers

By Alex Abbeduto Capitol News Illinois

A bipartisan task force of legislators and journalism industry leaders has filed a report to the General Assembly detailing the decline of local journalism in Illinois and exploring ways the legislature can help revive it.

The Local Journalism Task Force, created in January 2022, found that about one-third of Illinois counties have either no source of local news or a single source, citing research by the Northwestern University Medill School of Journalism.

Sen. Steve Stadelman, D-Rockford, said he plans to introduce a bill this session including some of the task force's suggestions.

The policies recommended by the task force are a mix of strategies intended to increase funding, mitigate high operational costs and keep newsrooms local. Many of the recommendations have been implemented or introduced in other states.

The findings

The task force heard testimony and examined data and research from other experts and organizations around the state to create a final report detailing their findings and policy suggestions. Among its most startling discoveries is that one-third of Illinois' newspapers have closed since 2005, creating an 86 percent decline in newspaper jobs over that span.

The report noted that as people consume more news online and local businesses are replaced by chains, subscription and advertising revenue decrease while operating costs – like buying paper and postage – continue to increase. The report said that means “people have taken the hit,” sometimes in the form of lay-offs to help outlets lower expenses.

Rural areas are most affected, but the report noted that news outlets in urban areas like

Chicago are also affected. The Chicago Tribune's staff decreased by 82 percent from 2006 to 2022, according to research by historian Jon Lauck. The task force also found broadcast outlets and outlets covering minority communities in urban areas are also struggling.

As a result of declining coverage, the task force said people in these underserved areas are missing out on crucial information.

“In too many towns, no one is covering local city council meetings,” Stadelman told reporters at a news conference. “No one is covering local school board meetings. So, how can residents know what's going on?”

The report noted that with about 8,500 units of local government in the state, some offices might not comply with appropriate rules and regulations. The task force said journalists can help expose those situations and hold leaders accountable.

The task force cited a story about how The Harvey World Herald, “caught Harvey officials violating the open meetings act and prompted reform in that area.”

Recommendations

The task force suggested a series of tax credits that could give money back to people who subscribe to local outlets, small businesses that spend money advertising in local news, and outlets that pay journalists at least \$50,000 a year.

The task force also suggested a tax exemption that would allow local outlets to not pay business and occupation taxes. A similar exemption was passed in Washington and took effect Jan. 1. Washington's Office of Financial Management estimates the exemption will lower state revenue by \$1.2 million when implemented for a full fiscal year, according to the report.

An “advertising set-aside” policy requiring a certain percentage of government advertising money be spent on advertising space in local media was also suggested by the task force. According to the report, \$9.9 million of government advertising money was spent across 220 local outlets last year in New York City, which instituted a similar policy in 2019.

Other suggestions in the report include giving grant and fellowship programs state funding to help pay for journalist training and employment. Four states have implemented these strategies.

New Jersey's grant consortium program, which funds a variety of local news programs, operates with \$4 million in funding, of which \$3 million comes from the state. California, New Mexico and Washington each work with local universities to place fellows in local newsrooms. California's program is potentially the largest and most expensive of these, according to the report, with \$25 million allocated to it with a goal of placing 120 fellows over the course of three years.

Other solutions proposed by the task force include incentives for large media companies to share their ad revenue with local media and incentives to donate closing news outlets to community organizations before they are purchased by larger national corporations.

Next steps

Task force member Sen. Donald DeWitte, R-St. Charles, shared concerns about mixing state-sponsored support and independent journalism. He said that legislators need to carefully consider any next steps to avoid infringing on free speech, influencing coverage and regulating the definition of journalism.

“I just want to be sure, particularly as we head into another election season here in Illinois ... any decisions we make may have an effect on our constitutional liberties, and that they are being made for all the right reasons,” DeWitte said.

But Stadelman, who was previously a broadcast journalist in Rockford, said state involvement in news distribution is common, citing state public broadcasting subsidies and Europe's support of its local news.

“I spent most of my life and career in news. I was skeptical of government involvement in news,” he said. “I think we're at a point where there are ways that this can be done carefully and thoughtfully.”

Editor's note: Two members of the Local Journalism Task Force – Sam Fisher and Jason Piscia – are also members of the Illinois Press Foundation board. The Press Foundation operates Capitol News Illinois and provides it funding.

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.

Capitol Briefs: Lawmakers Look to Ban Food Additives; State Announces DCFS Investment

Secretary of state backs push to ban chemicals already prohibited in Europe

By Cole Longcor & Alex Abbeduto Capitol News Illinois

A bill in the Illinois General Assembly would ban five food additives in the state by 2027.

Senate Bill 2637, sponsored by Chicago Democrat Willie Preston, would ban companies from using certain products in food, including brominated vegetable oil, potassium bromate, propylparaben, and Red Dye 3. Preston said titanium dioxide, a food coloring agent, will be added to the ban in a future amendment.

California passed a similar ban last year which will take effect in 2027. The European Union has already banned these additives. In 2021 the European Food Safety Authority cited concerns that ingesting titanium dioxide could potentially have damaging effects on a person's DNA. The International Agency for Research on Cancer, a part of the World Health Organization, categorizes potassium bromate and titanium dioxide as possibly carcinogenic to humans.

“We in the state of Illinois will not allow these food additives that are putting ... our children at stake to remain in the food supply,” Preston said

Continued on Page 7

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

BOONE COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Boone County Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Board Room, 1212 Logan Ave, Belvidere, IL 61008 upon the following petitions:

- Amending Chapter 4 Design Criteria for Specific Uses of the Boone County Zoning Ordinance, revising 4.2 Temporary Uses and Special Events.

All persons interested may appear at the hearing and be heard at the stated time and place.

Craig Hale, Chair, Boone County Zoning Board of Appeals
Published in the Boone County Journal on Thursday February 1, 2024.

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

ROCK ROAD COMPANIES, INC., a Wisconsin business corporation, Plaintiff,

v.
MNC GROUP, LLC, an Illinois limited liability company, NORTHWEST BANK OF ROCKFORD, an Illinois State Bank, CMN EXPRESS, INC, an Illinois corporation; ALL OTHER UNKNOWN OWNERS, LIENHOLDERS, AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, MIDWEST DIRT, LLC, an Illinois limited liability company, and NATHAN J. WALTON, individually, Defendants.

Case Number: 2024CH1

NOTICE TO UNKNOWN OWNERS and Lienholders AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS FOR PUBLICATION

The requisite Affidavit having been duly filed in my office, NOTICE is hereby given you, UNKNOWN OWNERS and LIENHOLDERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants in the above-entitled suit, that the said suit has been commenced in the Circuit Court of Boone County, by the said Plaintiff, against you and other Defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain mechanics lien concerning the premises described as follows, to-wit:

LOT SEVENTEEN (17) AS DESIGNATED UPON THE PLAT OF BELFORD INDUSTRIAL PARK, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE EAST HALF (1/2) OF SECTION 32 AND THE WEST HALF (1/2) OF SECTION 33, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, THE PLAT OF WHICH SUBDIVISION IS RECORDED IN BOOK 12 OF PLATS ON PAGES 30 AND 31 AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 74-738 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Common Address: 6853 Indy Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008
P.I.N.: 05-33-100-023

And for other relief; that Summons was duly issued out of the said Court against you as provided by law, and that the suit is now pending.

NOW, THEREFORE, unless you, the said above-named Defendants, file your Answer to the Complaint of said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Boone County, Boone County Courthouse in the City of Belvidere, Illinois, on or before the 1st day of March 2024, default may be entered in accordance with the prayer of said Complaint.

Pamela Coduto, Clerk of the Circuit Court, 17th Judicial Circuit, Boone County, Illinois

PREPARED BY:
Matthew M. Hevrin ARDC 6256083
mhevrin@aghlaw.com
Allen Galluzzo Hevrin Leake, LLC
839 N. Perryville Rd., Suite 200
Rockford, IL 61107
815-265-6464

Published in The Boone County Journal Feb 1, 8, 15, 2024 PNN

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

SUMMIT FUNDING, INC. Plaintiff,
-v.- 2023 FC 45
LILA DEANNA LAFFERTY et al Defendant
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on November 14, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on February 16, 2024, at the NLT Title L.L.C, 530 S. State, Suite 201 (Logan Avenue entrance), Belvidere, IL, 61008, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

LOT THIRTY-SIX (36) IN CANDLEWICK LAKE, UNIT NO. 6, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PORTIONS OF SECTION 22, 26 AND 27, TOWNSHIP 45 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NO. 72-2060 AND REVISED IN DOCUMENT NO. 73-4912 IN THE RECORDERS OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS. Commonly known as 1131 CANDLEWICK DR NW, POPLAR GROVE, IL 61065

Property Index No. 03-22-301-021

The real estate is improved with a residence.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. 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)(1) 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.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100,

BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100
BURR RIDGE IL, 60527
630-794-5300

E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com
Attorney File No. 14-23-02756
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002

Case Number: 2023 FC 45
TJSC#: 43-4273

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.

Case # 2023 FC 45
I3236581

Published in The Boone County Journal Jan 18, 25; Feb 1, 2024 PNN

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 9:00 AM on 02/05/2024 and closing at 10:00 AM on 02/18/2024. Strovo Management LLC d/b/a Belvidere Storage, 810 W. Locust Street, Belvidere, IL. 61008 Phone (815) 337-7398

Unit # 85 Peter M Ferraro 464
Published in The Boone County Journal Feb 1, 8,

ASSUMED NAMES

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

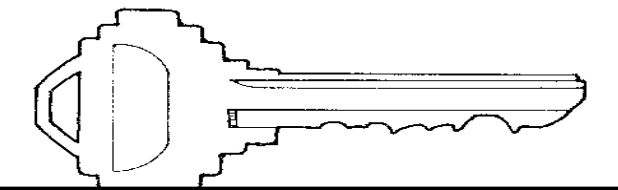
No. DBA4182 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL PAINTING business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of WALKER PAINTING that its location is or will be 590 Beloit Road, in Belvidere, in the County of Boone County, State of Illinois, and that 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: 815-543-4731

Jamie Isaac, 590 Beloit Road, 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: December 11, 2023

Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder
Published in Boone County Journal 1/25, 2/01, 2/08 - P



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

SUMMIT FUNDING, INC. Plaintiff,
-v.- 2023 FC 45
LILA DEANNA LAFFERTY et al Defendant
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Property Index No. 03-22-301-021

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For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876

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E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com
Attorney File No. 14-23-02756
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002

Case Number: 2023 FC 45

TJSC#: 43-4273

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Case # 2023 FC 45

I3236581

Published in The Boone County Journal Jan 18, 25; Feb 1, 2024 PNN

Capitol Briefs: State Reports COVID-19 Outbreak At Veterans Home, Gets Mixed Review For Tobacco Policies

Virus activity trending downward after holiday spike; Lung Association says Illinois failing in two areas

By Jennifer Fuller & Cole Longcor

Health experts warn respiratory illnesses are still circulating, even as numbers trend down after a brief post-holiday surge.

Outbreaks of COVID-19, Flu, and RSV have been reported in state facilities in the Bellwood, Champaign, Marion, Metro East, Peoria, Rockford and West Chicago regions in January. Those numbers are trending down as the month nears its close.

The Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs reported Wednesday that 13 residents and 12 staff members at the Illinois Veterans' Home at LaSalle tested positive for COVID-19 in recent days. All were experiencing mild symptoms and had been offered antiviral treatments. No one had been hospitalized as of Wednesday.

"Illinois' five Veterans' Homes continue to closely monitor its staff and residents for symptoms of COVID-19 and all infectious diseases," IDVA Director Terry Prince said in a news release.

The LaSalle facility has curtailed events and activities that bring residents and staff together in groups – including dining. Visitations are continuing, and families have been notified of the outbreak, IDVA reported.

The state's overall current illness activity is rated as "low," according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Meanwhile, the CDC reported Monday influenza is the virus prompting the most emergency department visits nationwide.

Illinois receives mixed grades in tobacco report

Illinois received two "A" grades and two failing marks in a recent review of state tobacco policies conducted by the American Lung Association.

The 2024 State of Tobacco Control Report gave Illinois an "A" in the smokefree air category due to its 2008 passage of the Smoke Free Illinois Act that banned smoking indoors.

Illinois received an "A" for cessation services as services and medications are available through Medicaid and to state employees. Illinois also has a private insurance mandate with no surcharge limit which encourages people to quit. The state received a "C" grade for taxation policies, a grade based on whether taxes are high enough to serve as a deterrent for tobacco use.

The state received an "F" grade for its lack of prevention funding. Illinois allocated around \$14 million in fiscal year 2024 for prevention programs, only 10 percent of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommended amount.

Illinois also received an "F" because it has not banned flavored tobacco products. This follows Attorney General Kwame Raoul's letter to the

Continued on Page 7

Briefs

from page 6

Biden Administration with 20 other attorneys general to advocate for a federal ban on menthol flavored tobacco products.

“I am asking the FDA to ban menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars because even though cigarette use has decreased over the years, menthol-flavored cigarettes continue to attract and addict new smokers – particularly youth and minority smokers,” Raoul said in a news release last week.

budget proposal, it would take another \$2.5 billion in EBF to reach that goal.

In addition to the increase in Evidence Based Funding, which districts use to enhance their general operating budgets, ISBE’s request includes about \$300 million in new or increased funding for several specific categories of school expenses.

The largest of those is a proposed \$112 million increase, or nearly 26 percent, for a program that reimburses school districts for the cost of providing transportation to students with disabilities. That would be enough to cover about 84 percent of the total cost for that category of transportation funding, which is roughly the same percentage the state was paying before the COVID-19 pandemic.

The package also calls for a \$75 million increase in early childhood education funding to continue Gov. JB Pritzker’s Smart Start Illinois initiative, a multi-year program that seeks to eliminate early childhood and preschool “deserts” for 3- and 4-year-old children by 2027.

That money would enable state-funded preschools to reach an additional 5,000 children next year. State officials estimate that total enrollment in those preschools will grow to nearly 114,000 in 2025, an increase of more than 17,000 since 2023.

ISBE’s budget plan also calls for addressing the pressures some districts are facing due to the large number of international migrants arriving in Illinois.

Over the last two years, state officials estimate the number of “newcomers” in Illinois has grown nearly 85 percent, to about 36,200. Since August 2022, more than 34,000 migrants have been bused or flown to Illinois by order of Texas Gov. Greg Abbott after crossing that state’s southern border.

Newcomers are defined as students age 3 through 21 who were born outside the United States and who have been attending one or more schools in the U.S. for less than three full academic years.

The proposal calls for \$35 million in new funding for a line item called “supporting newcomers.” That money would be available for such expenses as hiring bilingual teachers, paraprofessionals and other staff; buying materials written in the students’ native languages; providing additional before- and after-school programming; and providing other supports for children and families.

Funding for ISBE is just one part of the state’s overall annual budget, but it is one of the largest categories of state General Revenue Fund spending. It was unclear Wednesday whether Gov. JB Pritzker was endorsing the request.

The Governor’s Office of Management and Budget issued a report in November projecting the state could face a budget deficit next year of \$891 million, assuming revenue trends remain stable and the state continues making all of its required payments into its rainy day fund and pension funds.

Pritzker is scheduled to deliver his budget proposal to the General Assembly on Wednesday, Feb. 21.

Meanwhile, Advance Illinois issued a statement Wednesday that noted school districts will face their own budget pressures next year when federal pandemic-related relief programs come to an end.

“ISBE’s proposal serves as a solid road map for investments Illinois must undertake to meet the comprehensive needs of every child and student in the state generally, and in the ongoing aftermath of COVID disruptions,” the organization said.

Briefs

from page 5

during the news conference at the Health Lifestyle Hub in Chicago.

Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias also backed the bill. He said some of the health concerns stemming from ingestion of the substances include hyperactivity, nervous system damage, reproductive and hormonal issues, and an elevated risk of cancer.

“I can tell you with certainty what this bill does not do: It does not ban any products or brands. It does not take food off shelves,” Giannoulias said on Tuesday. “It will, however, encourage food manufacturers to update recipes using safer alternative ingredients that are already widely available and consumed in other places around the world.”

DCFS to fund new transitional housing facility for women

The Department of Children and Family Services announced Tuesday it will invest \$3 million annually to help fund a transitional housing facility for young women in suburban Blue Island.

The UP House, short for Unlimited Potential, officially opened its transitional housing residence, “Logan’s Place,” on Tuesday. Young women between the ages of 17 ½ and 23 years old can apply for residence at UP House. Those who are admitted go through 24 months of residential programming designed to help transition into adulthood.

Once the 20 initial beds at Logan’s Place are filled, DCFS will give UP House \$3 million annually to support the programming and housing it provides for its participants, Gov. JB Pritzker announced during a grand opening news conference.

Founder Tangela Thornton said she has been sheltering young women for several years in any open room she can find, whether it was in a family member’s house or her own. After purchasing the Mother of Sorrows Convent in Blue Island, “a seed sown in 2016” turned into a “149,000 square foot campus,” Thornton said.

Newcomers to the UP House will start in Logan’s Place and have access to recreation, theater and art rooms, educational resources through partnerships with local community colleges and a personal mentor, Pritzker said.

Thornton said the facility would like to expand its other unit, known as “Kumari’s Place,” which offers dorm-style living, further educational support and job readiness programs.

State Education Board to Seek \$653M Increase In Upcoming Budget Year

Request includes \$35M for ‘newcomers,’ comes amid projected state budget deficit

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

The Illinois State Board of Education endorsed a budget request Wednesday that includes a \$653 million increase in funding for PreK-12 public schools.

It’s a request that lawmakers may find hard to accommodate in a year when the state faces a projected \$891 million budget deficit.

PreK-12 education spending currently makes up about one-fifth of the state’s entire General Revenue Fund budget. The proposed increase, if approved, would bring the state’s total GRF spending on public education to just over \$11 billion.

“We were pleased to hear that the board, even in a tight budget year, continues to prioritize necessary investments for districts and students across the state,” Gerson Ramirez, a lobbyist for the advocacy group Advance Illinois, said during the meeting.

The proposed budget includes a \$350 million increase in Evidence-Based Funding, the minimum increase required under a 2018 law that calls for gradually increasing the state’s share of the cost of public education while focusing new money on the state’s most poorly funded districts. That includes \$300 million for direct funding for the qualifying districts and \$50 million that is distributed in the form of property tax relief grants.

That law calls for continuing to increase funding each year until all districts are funded at 90 percent or more of their target “adequacy” level.


When the law first went into effect, nearly one in five school districts were being funded at or below 60 percent of their adequacy level. Today, no districts are being funded below the 60 percent level, but the state still has a long way to go before reaching the goal of having all districts at or above 90 percent of adequacy.

According to a report that accompanied the

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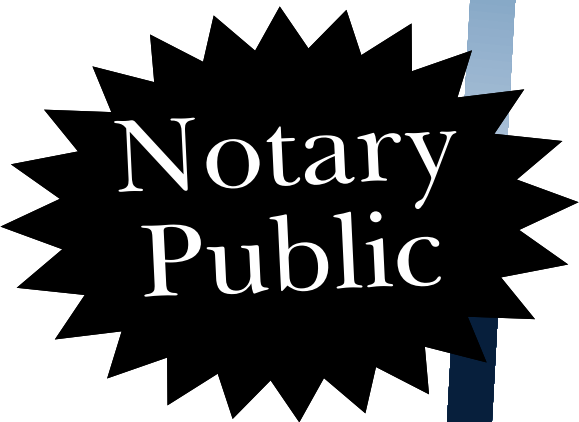



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