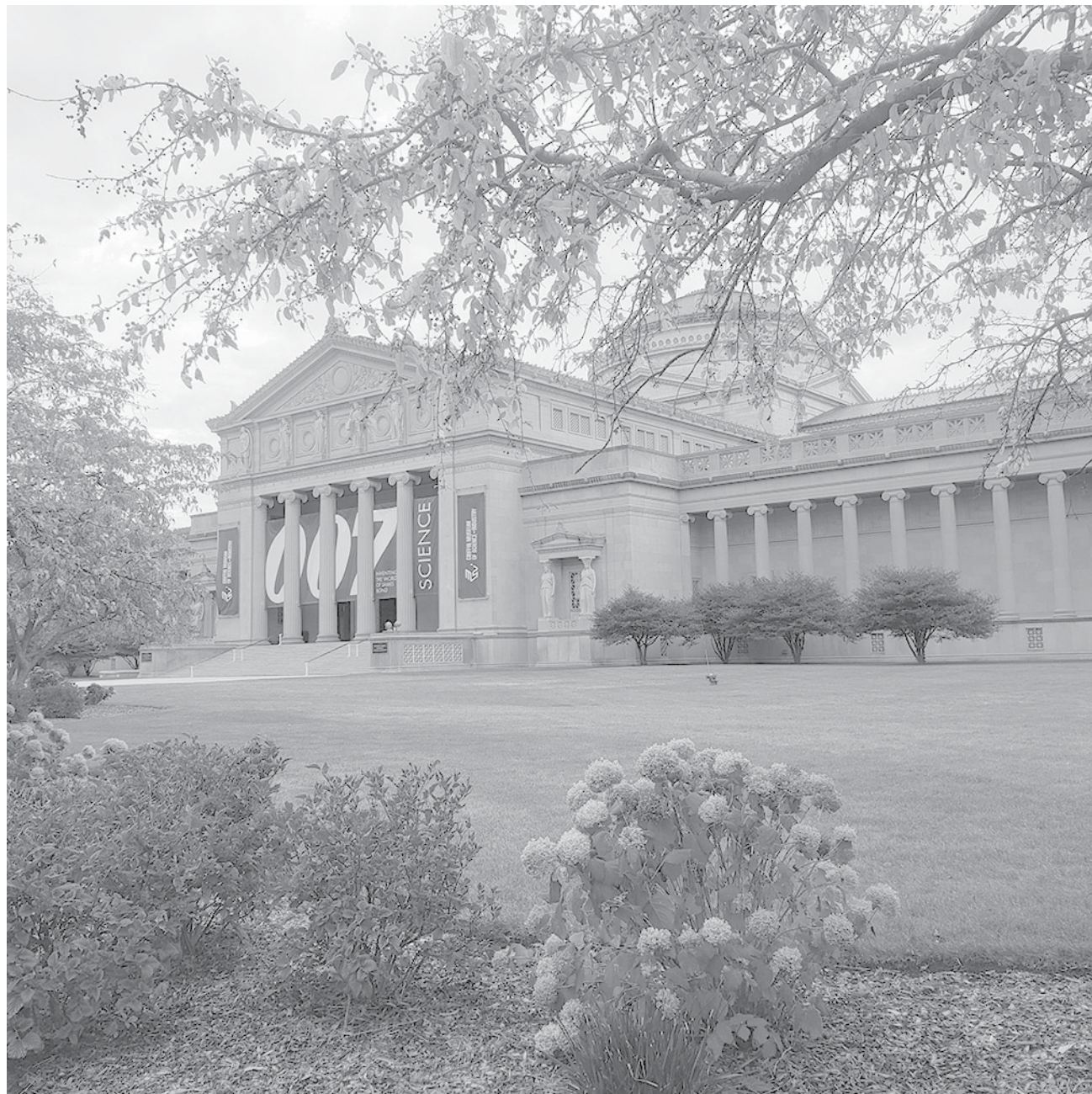


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*Exterior of the Griffin Museum of Science and Industry*

## Daytripping Griffin Museum of Science and Industry

By Charles Herbst

The Griffin Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago's Jackson Park has changed a lot since your school field trip 30 years ago. This year, celebrating its 90th anniversary, the museum was renamed for wealthy financier Ken Griffin in honor of his \$125 million donation. It is the largest science museum in the Western Hemisphere and is housed in what was the Palace of Fine Arts at the 1893 World's Columbian Exhibition.

The Museum of Science and Industry was founded by Julius Rosenwald in 1933 as the first truly interactive museum in North America. The museum was inspired by the Deutsches Museum in Munich, Germany, which features buttons, levers, and pulleys that guests can operate to learn how things work.

You'll find the Chicago museum to be an interesting mixture of old and new. While many old favorites are still there—the Illinois coal mine, the captured U-505 German submarine, the Foucault Pendulum, fairy castle, model railroad, whispering gallery, and Yesterday's Main Street—you'll find a radically changed building with many new exhibits.

The Henry Crown Space Center features several spacecraft, including a SpaceX Dragon Capsule and the Apollo 8 Command Module. The space exhibit also offers advice on pursuing an aerospace career. The Blue Paradox discusses the oceans' plastic crisis. Notes to Neurons illustrates the power of music in our lives. You can stand in the vortex of a 40-foot tornado in the Science Storms exhibit. Walking through the maze of mirrors is a fun, if dizzying diversion from serious science. You can also run in a human-sized hamster wheel!

Much in the museum chronicles past scientific progress, but it also explores the future. The museum, at its best, makes learning about science and technology entertaining and fun. There is plenty for children to explore and absorb, but adults will remain interested as well. You will be tired before you run out of interesting things to see, and you can easily spend the day.

One of the most notable changes is the building. The museum has an underground parking garage and a new entrance. You now enter the museum one level below the old basement. The garage is connected to the museum entrance. If you are arriving at the museum by bus, taxi, or on foot, there is a ground-level entrance in front of the north façade which connects to the lobby. The new subterranean lobby houses one of the first diesel-powered stainless-steel passenger trains,



*Former Stellantis Chairman Carlos Tavares  
Stellantis photo*

## Stellantis CEO Resigns

Last Sunday, December 1, Stellantis CEO Carlos Tavares resigned, effective immediately, and the Board of Directors accepted his resignation.

Although the four-year old company was initially profitable, sales and profits have plunged for the automaker during 2024, particularly in the North American market. Stellantis elected to skip 2024 appearances at US Auto Shows, including the Chicago Auto Show, to save money.

The company has been under fire for delaying the restart of production at the Belvidere Assembly Plant, as well as the construction of a local parts depot and battery plant.

In October, a rally was held at the UAW Local 1268 headquarters in Belvidere. Both UAW President Shawn Fain and Senator Bernie Sanders were highly critical of Tavares and his performance. Shawn Fain also criticized Tavares by name at the Democratic National Convention in August, and threatened legal action against the company for breach of its labor contract.

Stellantis was formed in 2021 by the merger of PSA Peugeot and Fiat Chrysler. Prior to the merger, Tavares had been head of Peugeot and was CEO of the merged company since its inception. Tavares had been scheduled to retire in 2026.

sporting the historic Burlington Railroad livery. The lobby contains a large gift shop and the ticketing area for the museum.

The Christmas season is a particularly good time to visit the museum. Since 1942, the museum has featured its traditional Christmas Around the World, symbolized by over 50 decorated Christmas trees decorated by volunteers. Each tree represents the celebration of Christmas or other Holidays of Light in a different country. Along with the Christmas trees, half-hourly scientific demonstrations of snow allow visitors to experience the magic of snowfall amid the Christmas trees.

Christmas Around the World runs through Monday, January 6.

*Continued on page 4*



# Understanding Our Shared Water Supply


By Dan Kane, PG  
Water Resource Specialist, Boone County

The State of Illinois and Boone County are funding a project to study the geology of Boone County to better understand how the different layers and structures below the land surface allow water to move within it. This gives the county new tools and technology to safeguard our precious water supply. In my first article, the reader learned something about Boone County’s water supply (<https://www.naturalland.org/geologic-study-boosts-groundwater-understanding/>).

When you cut out a wedge from a layer cake you can easily see the different layers in a 3D view for that part of the cake. Depending on how the cake was made, other slices may show different layers or features that were hidden from the first view. Boone County has a very complex geology. The subsurface contains hidden features like the buried Troy Bedrock Valley! An important geologic feature that cuts diagonally

## OBITUARIES

- Charles Andrews, 82, Marengo, Nov. 23  
Robert Borth, 82, Harvard, Nov. 30  
Priscila Chavez, 24, Belvidere, Nov. 26  
Mary Cunningham, 76, Harvard, Nov. 30  
Gloria Davis, 64, Belvidere, Nov. 21  
Robert “Bob” Erickson, 79, Belvidere, Nov. 26  
Kenneth Ferg, 88, Marengo, Nov. 28  
Billy Launius, 91, Belvidere, Nov. 23  
Ronald Maxey, 67, Poplar Grove, Nov. 29  
Wayne Mikus, 75, Harvard, Nov. 28  
Frank Nickels, 94, Marengo, Nov. 25  
Melvin Papka, 87, Marengo, Nov. 25  
Suzanne Parker, 85, Cherry Valley, Nov. 27  
Larry Shernaman, 78, Belvidere, Nov. 25  
Glen Williams Sr., 66, Harvard, Dec. 1



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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.

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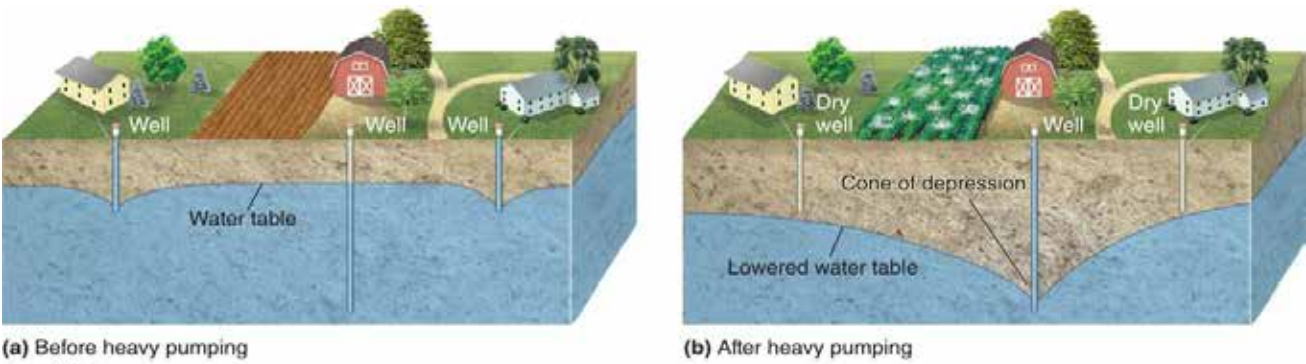


Figure 26-5a-b  
Friedland, Environmental Science for AP®, 2e, © 2015 W.H. Freeman and Company

Figure 1: Depiction of how a well or wells form a “cone of depression.”

across the county from the northeast toward the southwest. The new geologic mapping will reveal a very detailed, three-dimensional (3D) view of what lays below the ground surface to a depth of nearly 1,000 feet. Including a significantly detailed understanding of that Troy Bedrock Valley and the sedimentary layers that fill it!

Sediment is normally laid down in horizontal layers. Different types of sediment like gravel, sand, silt, and clay form these layers. Sand and gravel are sediments that are often deposited by moving water like a fast-flowing stream or river. In the not too distant past, Boone County has experienced tremendous rivers of water melting off glaciers. These meltwater streams and rivers carried volumes of sediment and left behind thick layers of sand and gravel. A layer of sand and gravel can form an aquifer, which is a layer that allows water to easily move into and through the spaces between the grains of sand and gravel. These aquifers are usually close to the land surface and are often considered shallow groundwater sources.

Glaciers left other deposits with mixtures of all types of sediment – such as glacial tills that also have been compacted by the weight and force of the moving ice. Visualize a mile thick mass of ice! As glaciers move, they gouge the land beneath and pick up a lot of debris. That debris can get ground up and/or smeared onto the land below it. When the ice melts away one of the common glacial deposits left behind is the material that was being dragged and smeared into the new land surface called till. Tills create denser horizons of material. These denser layers can form barriers which restrict the downward flow of water and thus affect groundwater recharge. Different types of glacial deposits are found in Boone County and the surrounding area. Glacial deposits are exceptionally complex as glaciers did not simply advance and melt away. Instead, each glacial episode has numerous periods where the ice sheet advanced and then partially melted away. Each time it could scrape away previous deposits and place new deposits over the top. Leaving behind a very complicated landscape and subsurface geology!

In addition, our local system of groundwater sources goes deeper - into the bedrock. Many

Boone County residents live in one of the local towns or the City of Belvidere. These communities often draw their water supply from deeper wells drilled into sandstones in the bedrock. The deeper sandstones and bedrock water sources are regional in scale and extend across most of northern Illinois and into other midwestern states including Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota. These same groundwater sources are used by many communities and despite the vast extent and size of these water sources; some places have, over time, pumped enough water out, that they have emptied their groundwater tank so to speak.

Those communities have had to face serious challenges to their water supply. Part of the reason that these communities emptied their deep sandstone water source is the fact that the geology there has layers of rock above the sandstones that restrict downward movement of water and effectively prevent local groundwater recharge from happening.

Figure 1 shows how a well creates a “cone of depression” around it when pumping water out. This effect can be amplified if there are many wells pulling water out of a groundwater source (aquifer). As wells continue to pump water out and there is one or more restricting layers that do not allow water to be replaced or recharged, the cone of depression will deepen and encompass a larger and larger area around them. Instead of local rainfall replenishing the groundwater source, water is pulled from an ever-greater distance within the same layer as the water seeks to refill the emptied spaces.

In the northern half of Illinois, a number of communities have been pumping water out of the deeper sandstones for many years. The amount of water being pumped out has been exceeding the amount of water that can recharge those sandstone groundwater sources. This has created a very large cone of depression.

Figure 2 shows the extent of that cone of depression. The center of the cone is located near Joliet, Illinois where the water levels in the sandstone aquifers have been lowered more than 800 feet since the original pre-settlement level. Each line forming a ring around that central location represents the level of drawdown in 100-feet of depth increments. Boone County, located on the northwest edge of this cone of depression, has experienced a drawdown of approximately 100 feet in the sandstones below it. Water moves at the ever-constant pull of gravity. The nature of this human made cone of depression, created by many wells across this region all drawing their water from the same source, will continue expanding as time moves forward. We need to be mindful that Boone County residents are using water from these sandstone aquifers too, and are likely contributing to the formation of this cone of depression.

This brings us back to conducting the 3D geologic mapping project. Boone County is not short of water now. Completing this study

Continued on page 3

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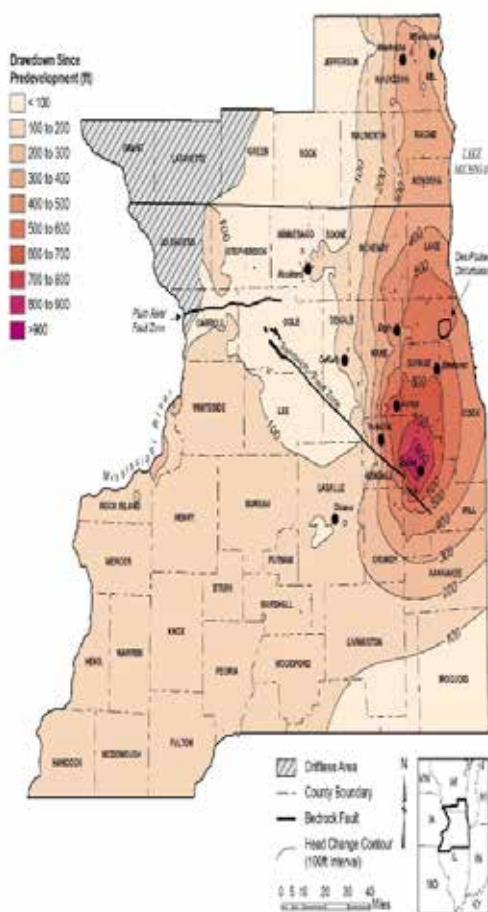


# Water

**from page 2**

will significantly improve our understanding of the geology that holds our supply of water. Providing details about how the shallow groundwater sources connect with the deeper bedrock groundwater sources. Your Boone County officials and staff will be utilizing this information and its new technology to help ensure our water supply remains robust! Kisa Mwakanyamale-Gilke, Geophysicist with the Illinois State Geological Survey and team member working on the Boone County 3D geologic mapping project states “Hydrologically, the geophysical data we are collecting will have crucial information on how the ground beneath our feet is organized to hold the water we rely on and how much water there is, with implications for irrigation, domestic water use, and economic growth for Boone County.”

As previously noted, there is a public information and media day event being planned to answer questions about this study and how the work will be completed. That event will take place in late February or early March. More articles about this important work will be submitted between now and the public event.



*Figure 2. (Source: Abrams et al., 2015, Changing Groundwater Levels in the Sandstone Aquifers of Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin: Impacts on Available Water Supply, Illinois State Water Survey Contract Report 2015-02.) Changes in water levels prior to settlement to the 2014 water levels in the deep sandstone aquifers show a growing cone of depression. Darker shading within each line encircling the dark center shows the depth that water levels have dropped because of the removal by pumping. Most of this change has occurred in the last 40 or so years. Note that Boone County is on the edge of this cone of depression.*



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# The Next School Reform Push in Illinois: Testing and Accountability

## Local officials say grading systems need fresh overhaul

*By Peter Hancock   Capitol News Illinois*

Education officials from five statewide organizations are pushing for fundamental changes in the way student achievement is measured each year and how schools are held accountable for meeting the state's academic standards.

In a new report entitled Vision 2030, organizations representing local school boards, superintendents, principals, district business officers, and regional superintendents argue that in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, the entire landscape of public education has been dramatically altered, presenting new challenges and heightened scrutiny of public schools.

The report is similar to one the same groups released about a decade ago, Vision 20/20, that pushed for reform of the state's school funding system, eventually leading to the adoption of the Evidence-Based Funding formula that is used today to steer state funding to the neediest school districts.

The new report makes recommendations on several aspects of public education, such as improving schools' focus on college and career readiness, enhancing student safety and well-

*Continued on page 4*

# State Board Of Elections Certifies Election Results Showing Decline In Turnout

### ***Results certified Monday solidified a nearly 11-point victory in Illinois for Harris***

*By Ben Szalinski   Capitol News Illinois*

Vice President Kamala Harris won Illinois by nearly 11 points as turnout dipped in 2024, according to official election results certified by the State Board of Elections.

The board met Monday to certify the results of the 2024 election and released final vote totals for races around the state, including locking in several close legislative races. The results also reflected shifts in turnout and voting

behavior.

Illinois saw turnout dip in 2024 compared to recent presidential contests. About 5.7 million people participated in this year's election, representing 70.42% of the state's 8.1 million registered voters. That's a decline from 2020 when 72.92% of voters participated in the largest turnout for a presidential election in Illinois since 1992, according to the board.

This year's turnout was the fourth lowest of the last 40 years, according to the board. Turnout was slightly below President-elect Donald Trump's first victory in 2016, but higher than former President Barack Obama's victory in 2012. Chicago Board of Election officials reported last month the city saw the second lowest turnout in a presidential race in 80 years.

The lower turnout in the November election also followed low turnout in the March primary, which featured uncontested presidential primaries in Illinois after challengers dropped out of the race by the time it was Illinois' turn to vote.

Voting by mail also remained a popular option for many voters, with more than 1 million people casting their ballot in the mail. That's down from more than 2 million people in 2020, but it represents the third consecutive statewide election in which more than 15% of voters used a mail-in ballot.

A greater portion of the electorate cast early in-person ballots this year than ever before, however. Board of Elections data shows 34.65% of votes were cast in-person before Election Day this year, surpassing 2020's record of 32.89%.

This year's election was the second time most voters did not vote on Election Day. Data shows 46.69% of ballots were cast on Election Day itself, compared to about two-thirds in recent years. Most voters during the pandemic election in 2020 also participated early, either in person or by mail, rather than on Election Day.

In the presidential race, Harris received 3,062,863 votes in Illinois, or 54.37% of the vote, to receive Illinois' 19 electoral votes. That's 409,052 fewer votes than President Joe Biden received in 2020.

Though Harris won Illinois' electoral votes by nearly 11 points this year, Trump narrowed his margin of defeat in Illinois after losing the state in both 2016 and 2020 by about 17 points. Harris' 10.9-point victory was the smallest margin of victory for a Democratic presidential candidate

*Continued on page 5*

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- *Tax Preparation*
- *Tax Planning*
- *Nonprofits*

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- *LLCs, Real Estate*

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Views in the airplane section in the Griffin Museum of Science and Industry. On the left are real World War II planes. On the right is a real passenger airliner.

Museum

from page 1

The Griffin Museum of Science and Industry is located at 5700 South Lake Shore Drive. It is open daily from 9:30AM to 4PM. The website is at msichicago.org.

From North and West of Chicago, while there are several possible routes, taking public transit involves an inconvenient transfer in Downtown Chicago. We have found the route with the least walking is to take the CTA Green Line to Garfield Boulevard, and the eastbound Route 55 CTA bus from there to the museum entrance. The Green Line El can be boarded at Clinton and Lake Streets, 2 blocks north of the Ogilvie Transportation Center.

We suspect most visitors will find driving to the museum more convenient, and, for families, more economical. The best way to reach the museum by car is to take Interstate 90 to North Interstate 55 (the Stevenson Expressway) and exit at DuSable Lake Shore Drive South. Proceed South to 57th Street to the garage entrance.

The museum is a bit pricey to visit, particularly if you are on a budget. General admission for adults is \$26. Several attractions, including timed tickets to the U-505 submarine (\$12) and the coal mine (\$9) are extra. Parking in the garage is \$22. There are several ways to reduce the general admission charge, which include free museum admission for Illinois residents on select dates. For those of modest means who hold an EBT card, museum admission is free. Food service is available, or you are welcome to bring a picnic lunch.



Standing in the vortex of a tornado

Education

from page 3

being, and attracting and retaining a diverse educator workforce – all subjects that are routinely at the center of most discussions about education policy.

But the groups also argue in the new report that it's time to take a new look at the whole system of outcomes-based accountability for schools, something that has been a central focus of public education since the 1990s.

They say the current system of grading schools based largely on standardized test scores fails to give an accurate picture of how well students are doing or what schools need to do to improve.

"This might seem counter intuitive, but educators do welcome accountability," Jason Leahy, executive director of the Illinois Principals Association, said during a media briefing about the report. "But we just want to make sure that the accountability really talks about the comprehensive work that educators do, much more than just test scores."

State Assessments

In the 1990s, Illinois, along with most other states, began moving to an outcomes-based education model in which teachers, schools, and districts were graded based on how well their students were learning. That was measured by how students performed on standardized tests that were tied to the state's official learning standards for each subject and grade level.

Such systems became a federal mandate in 2002 with passage of the No Child Left Behind Act – later replaced by the 2015 Every Student Succeeds Act – which required standardized testing as a condition of receiving federal education funding. NCLB also required states to adopt systems of holding schools and districts accountable – through things like focused remedial programs or administrative sanctions - for making continuous improvement toward the goal of having all students meet or exceed the state's academic standards.

Today in Illinois, students are tested in English language arts and math in grades 3-8 by taking the Illinois Assessment of Readiness. And starting this year, high school students will be tested using the ACT set of exams, which are replacing the SAT exams that have been used in previous years.

Schools also administer the Illinois Science Assessment in grades 5 and 8.

The scores that students earn on those tests are divided into five categories, indicating they either exceeded, met, approached, partially met, or did not meet the state's standards for proficiency in a particular subject.

Those test scores, in turn, make up a large part of the overall "designations" schools are given each year. The designations are based on test scores and other data for the student body overall and for student subgroups based on race, ethnicity, gender, disabilities, poverty status and other factors.

The top two designations, "exemplary" and "commendable," are those with the highest overall scores who also have no student subgroups that are significantly underperforming. Exemplary schools are those with overall scores in the top 10% of all schools.

State officials give the bottom three designations to schools that are placed on four-year improvement plans while being given "targeted," "comprehensive," or "intensive" supports to address problem areas.

Schools designated for comprehensive or intensive support and oversight represent those with overall scores in the bottom 5% of all schools.

But state and local school officials in Illinois have argued for years that those systems are flawed.

First, they argue, the dividing line between meeting and not meeting state standards – what is often referred to as the "cut score" – is set unreasonably high in Illinois, giving the false impression that Illinois students are significantly less accomplished than their peers in other states.

Gary Tipsord, executive director of the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools, said it's like setting different qualifying times in a track meet.

"If Indiana students are having to run the mile in in seven minutes, and the kids in Illinois are having to run at six, that's not an equitable comparison. We don't have parity there," he said in an interview. "And as it stands, in Illinois today, our cut scores are higher than other states, and then we're trying to compare what Illinois students are doing to the students in other states, which creates an unfair comparison."

Officials also argue those designations do not accurately describe how well students are performing academically.

Continued on page 5

Education from page 4

In 2021, for example, only about one-third of high school juniors taking the SAT met or exceeded state standards in English language arts, and slightly fewer did so in math. And yet, after those same students graduated the following year, nearly two-thirds enrolled in college within 12 months of graduation.

The Vision 2030 report also questions the validity of the performance designation for schools, noting the categories are based largely on how schools compare with each other, rather than how they measure up to an objective standard.

“Inevitably, you’re going to have a top 10%. You’re going to have a bottom 5%. Inevitably, you’re going to have that in the way it is structured currently,” Tipsord said. “What you don’t then get is a good system of communicating to communities around the state of Illinois about how their districts are actually performing. ... Those designations don’t necessarily inform how your school districts are performing relative to grade-level equivalency, or relative to growth and improvement.”

Recommendations

The Vision 2030 report calls for making several changes to the state’s testing system, including recalibrating the benchmarks that define “proficiency” in a given subject. Those benchmarks, they argue, should be aligned to a national standard such as the one used for the National Assessment of Educational Progress, or NAEP exam, which shows Illinois students rank about average nationally across most subjects and grade levels.

The report also recommends the Illinois State Board of Education work with its State Assessment Review Committee to develop a new test that not only measures students’ proficiency at a particular grade level but also tracks their growth over time.

In addition, the report recommends releasing unofficial test results earlier, “in near real time,” so teachers can use the information to adapt their teaching methods. Currently, tests are given in the spring, but results are not reported until the following fall, long after instruction for the next set of students is already underway.

The authors also recommend overhauling the state’s system of ranking schools for accountability purposes so schools are measured against a fixed, objective standard, rather than comparing them to one another.

It also recommends using a scoring system that takes into account both the proficiency rate among students as well as the “growth” rate for students who are below proficiency.

“Proficient students should meet or exceed expectations, while students below proficiency should accelerate rates of growth to achieve proficiency over time,” the report states. “Therefore, within the broader accountability scoring system, student growth should be given more weight for students below proficiency and less weight for proficient students.”

Results from page 3

since John Kerry won Illinois in 2004 by about 11 points.

Trump improved his margin in Illinois on his way to an Electoral College and national popular vote victory for the first time. He received 2,158 more votes in 2024 compared to 2020. Despite Trump’s loss in the state, Republicans said they still believe the election results show a mandate in Illinois for their policies.

“I think the people of Illinois, and moreover, the people of this country, have seen what the Democrats have done, especially over the last several years and how woke it has become,” Rep. Adam Niemerg, R-Dieterich, said at a news conference in November. “This is a clear mandate to that ridiculousness that has been going on the last four years.”

Further down the ballot, results certified Monday finalized many close races in the Illinois House. The chamber’s balance is unchanged by the election and Democrats will hold a 78-member supermajority when lawmakers are sworn in on Jan. 8.

“Democrats won every seat in the General Assembly that it already had, and we won in races that I think people didn’t expect — county board races, taking control of the McLean County Board, for example, coroner races,” Gov. JB Pritzker said last month reacting to the election results. “People clearly bifurcated and made decisions different down the ballot than they did at the top of the ballot, so I’m proud of that. I think that’s a result of the policies Democrats have had in Illinois.”

Rep. Martin McLaughlin, R-Barrington Hills, officially eked out a 47-vote victory in the 52nd House District in the Northwest Suburbs of Chicago in a race House Democrats spent millions hoping to flip. Rep. Amy Grant, R-Wheaton, won a fourth term in the 47th House District in DuPage County by 292 votes. And Rep. Brandon Schweizer, R-Danville, was reelected by 269 votes in the 104th House District in Champaign and Vermillion counties.

U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen, D-Moline, defeated former Winnebago County Republican judge Joe McGraw by 8.86 points in the 17th Congressional District, which was considered to be the state’s most competitive federal race.

A majority of voters also supported three statewide advisory questions which asked about potential penalties for interfering with an election judge, a tax on millionaires to cover property tax relief and requiring insurance coverage for in vitro fertilization.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

How RFK Jr.’s Proposals Could Affect Illinois

The federal health department nominee has a history of spreading false information, but he could find a partner in Illinois on food regulations

By Ben Szalinski Capitol News Illinois

Every new presidential administration comes with policy changes, but the incoming second administration of President-elect Donald Trump and his proposed secretary of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., could dramatically reshape the public health landscape.

Kennedy, a former political rival of Trump, became a close ally of Trump over the final months of the 2024 campaign and was named to the HHS post shortly after the election. The department houses the National Institutes of Health, Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Kennedy’s views on health and his stated policy initiatives could have far reaching effects on public health, including on policies in Illinois. Kennedy has often encouraged healthier food consumption for Americans — a goal Illinois Democrats could support.

But Kennedy holds other views at odds with science. In a 2023 FOX News interview he said he believes a debunked theory that vaccines cause autism. He has also proposed discouraging fluoridating public water — a public health measure that supports dental health, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Kennedy is not receiving a warm reception from Democratic U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, of Illinois, who will vote on Kennedy’s nomination if it advances to the U.S. Senate floor.

“This is one of the most important and sensitive appointments that a president can make,” Durbin said at an unrelated news conference in Chicago

Continued on Page 7

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**vs. CASE NO. 2024FC46**  
**MICHAEL BRENNAN; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF PATRICIA BRENNAN; LAURA VANGORKUM AKA LAURI VANGORKUM; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF JENNIFER AANERUD; RYAN STRAW AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR PATRICIA BRENNAN; MICHAEL BRENNAN; KRISTEN AANERUD; WEST GROVE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendant(s).**  
**Property Address: 5000 Trillium Trail Unit 5B Poplar Grove, IL 61065**

**NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION**

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF PATRICIA BRENNAN; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF JENNIFER AANERUD; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; , defendants in the above entitled cause, that suit has been commenced against you and other defendants in the Circuit Court for the Judicial Circuit by said plaintiff praying for the foreclosure of a certain mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:

UNIT 5B OF WEST GROVE CONDOMINIUMS AS DELINEATED ON A SURVEY OF CERTAIN LOTS OR PART THEREOF IN THE PLAT OF WEST GROVE SUBDIVISION PLAT NO. 1, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (1/4) OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (1/4), PART OF THE NORTH HALF (1/2) OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (1/4) AND PART OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (1/4) OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (1/4) ALL IN SECTION 23, TOWNSHIP 45 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED SEPTEMBER 15, 2004 AS DOCUMENT NO. 2004R10950 IN THE RECORDER’S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; WHICH SURVEY IS ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT “B” TO THE DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM OWNERSHIP RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NO. 05R05475 IN BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, TOGETHER WITH AN UNDIVIDED PERCENTAGE INTEREST IN THE COMMON ELEMENTS, APPURTENANT TO SAID UNIT, AS SET FORTH IN SAID DECLARATION, AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

P.I.N.: 03-23-457-038 (new); 03-23-455-001 (old)

Said property is commonly known as 5000 Trillium Trail Unit 5B, Poplar Grove, IL 61065 and which said mortgage(s) was/were made and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds as Document Number 2006R10666, and for other relief; that Summons was duly issued out of the above Court against you as provided by law and that said suit is now pending.

NOW THEREFORE, unless you, the said above named defendants, file your answer to the complaint in the said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Boone County on or before DECEMBER 30, 2024, a default may be taken against you at any time after that date and a Judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said complaint. 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 additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit [www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp](http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp).

YOU MAY BE ABLE TO SAVE YOUR HOME – DO NOT IGNORE THIS DOCUMENT. By order of the Chief Judge of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit, this case is subject to Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program. For further information on the mediation process, please see the NOTICE OF MANDATORY MEDIATION on file with the Clerk of the Circuit Court by contacting the Plaintiff’s attorney at the address listed below.

This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120  
Naperville, IL 60563  
Telephone: (630) 453-6960  
Facsimile: (630) 428-4620  
Attorney No. Cook 64727, DuPage 293191  
Service E-mail: [midwestpleadings@dallegal.com](mailto:midwestpleadings@dallegal.com)  
6088-948196  
Published in The Boone County Journal Nov 28, Dec 5, 12, 2024 SW

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT  
BOONE COUNTY

**DATE FOR REQUEST OF NAME CHANGE (ADULT):**  
**Case No.2024-MR-28**  
**OISIN SEAMUS SCHOFIELD**

There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from: OISIN SEAMUS SCHOFIELD to the new name of JAMES RONALD STANIS. The court date will be held on 01/14/2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008 in Courtroom #3  
Published in the Boone County Journal – 11/27, 12/05,12 (P)

**TAX DEED NO.: 2024TX23**  
**FILED: 11/21/2024**  
**TAKE NOTICE**  
**County of Boone**  
**Date Premises Sold: October 27, 2022**  
**Certificate No.: 2021-00002**  
**Sold for General Taxes of (Year): 2021**  
**Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and Special Assessment Number: N/A**  
**Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A**  
**THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES**  
Property Located at: 1392 Rockton Road, Caledonia, IL 61011  
Legal Description or Property Index No.: 01-17-300-010  
This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on May 21, 2025.

The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming.

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before May 21, 2025.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Boone County in 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008, Room 3, on June 10, 2025 at 10:00 AM.

You may be present at this hearing, but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time.

YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY

Redemption can be made at any time on or before May 21, 2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Belvidere, Illinois.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK  
1212 Logan Ave.,  
Suite 103  
Belvidere, IL 61008  
(815) 544-3103  
Private Equity Group, LLC  
Purchaser or Assignee  
November 25, 2024  
Jim Helsell  
Jim Helsell  
William A. Hall, as Trustee u/t/a dated 7/31/2003 a/k/a The William A. Hall Declaration Trust  
Kathleen A. Hall, as Trustee u/t/a dated 7/31/2003 a/k/a The Kathleen A. Hall Declaration Trust  
William A. Hall, as Trustee u/t/a dated 7/31/2003 a/k/a The William A. Hall Declaration Trust  
Kathleen A. Hall, as Trustee u/t/a dated 7/31/2003 a/k/a The Kathleen A. Hall Declaration Trust  
Occupant  
Joseph M. Cavallaro  
Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois  
Claimants, Judgment Creditors, and Decree Creditors, if any of the above described as  
“Unknown Owners”  
“Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots”  
Published in The Boone County Journal Dec 5, 12, 19, 2024

**TAX DEED NO.: 2024TX24**  
**FILED: 11/21/2024**  
**TAKE NOTICE**  
**County of Boone**  
**Date Premises Sold: October 27, 2022**  
**Certificate No.: 2021-00133**  
**Sold for General Taxes of (Year): 2021**  
**Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and Special Assessment Number: N/A**  
**Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A**  
**THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES**  
Property Located at: 129 West Madison Street, Belvidere, IL 61008  
Legal Description or Property Index No.: 05-26-404-003  
This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on May 21, 2025.

The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming.

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before May 21, 2025.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Boone County in 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008, Room 3, on June 10, 2025 at 10:00 AM.

You may be present at this hearing, but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time.

YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY

Redemption can be made at any time on or before May 21, 2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Belvidere, Illinois.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK  
1212 Logan Ave.,  
Suite 103  
Belvidere, IL 61008  
(815) 544-3103  
Private Equity Group, LLC  
Purchaser or Assignee  
November 25, 2024  
Greta Denise March  
Occupant  
Brenda L. Cwienkala  
Joseph William Knaup II  
Terrell Demond Robinson  
Maya G. Narch  
Terrell Hanson  
Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois  
Claimants, Judgment Creditors, and Decree Creditors, if any of the above described as  
“Unknown Owners”  
“Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots”  
6088-948267  
Published in The Boone County Journal Dec 5, 12, 19, 2024 SW

**TAX DEED NO.: 2024TX25**  
**FILED: 11/21/2024**  
**TAKE NOTICE**  
**County of Boone**  
**Date Premises Sold: October 27, 2022**  
**Certificate No.: 2021-00134**  
**Sold for General Taxes of (Year): 2021**  
**Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and Special Assessment Number: N/A**  
**Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A**  
**THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES**  
Property Located at: 512 West Madison Street, Belvidere, IL 61008  
Legal Description or Property Index No.: 05-26-405-004  
This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on May 21, 2025.

The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming.

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before May 21, 2025.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Boone County in 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008, Room 3, on June 10, 2025 at 10:00 AM.

You may be present at this hearing, but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time.

YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY

Redemption can be made at any time on or before May 21, 2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Belvidere, Illinois.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK  
1212 Logan Ave.,  
Suite 103  
Belvidere, IL 61008  
(815) 544-3103  
Private Equity Group, LLC  
Purchaser or Assignee  
November 25, 2024  
Joyce M. Terpstra  
Joyce M. Terpstra  
Bessie M. Schwebke  
Karen L. Ford  
Karen L. Ford  
Karen L. Ford  
Karen L. Ford

Christina Morris  
David Chesemore  
Occupant  
Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois  
Claimants, Judgment Creditors, and Decree Creditors, if any of the above described as  
“Unknown Owners”  
“Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots”  
Published in The Boone County Journal Dec 5, 12, 19, 2024 SW

**TAX DEED NO.: 2024TX26**  
**FILED: 11/21/2024**  
**TAKE NOTICE**  
**County of Boone**  
**Date Premises Sold: October 27, 2022**  
**Certificate No.: 2021-00222**  
**Sold for General Taxes of (Year): 2021**  
**Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and Special Assessment Number: N/A**  
**Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A**  
**THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES**  
Property Located at: 6006-6008 Welty Drive, Cherry Valley, IL 61016  
Legal Description or Property Index No.: 07-06-126-018  
This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on May 21, 2025.

The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming.

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before May 21, 2025.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Boone County in 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008, Room 3, on June 10, 2025 at 10:00 AM.

You may be present at this hearing, but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time.

YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY

Redemption can be made at any time on or before May 21, 2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Belvidere, Illinois.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK  
1212 Logan Ave.,  
Suite 103  
Belvidere, IL 61008  
(815) 544-3103  
Private Equity Group, LLC  
Purchaser or Assignee  
November 25, 2024  
Harrolle Properties Inc.  
Lisa A. Harrolle as President for Harrolle Properties, Inc.  
Anthony Harrolle as R/A for Harrolle Properties Inc.  
Lisa A. Harrolle as President for Harrolle Properties, Inc.  
Occupant  
First Mid Bank & Trust N.A., as Successor to First Bank, bc  
First Mid Bank & Trust N.A., as Successor to First Bank, bc  
First Mid Bank & Trust N.A., as Successor to First Bank, bc  
Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois  
Claimants, Judgment Creditors, and Decree Creditors, if any of the above described as  
“Unknown Owners”  
“Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots”  
6088-948268  
Published in The Boone County Journal Dec 5, 12, 19, 2024 SW

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

**FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA, Plaintiff,**  
**vs. Case No. 22 FC 32**  
**REBECAH M. ALLEN, BOTH INDIVIDUALLY AND AS TRUSTEE UNDER A TRUST AGREEMENT DATED FEBRUARY 6, 2003 AND KNOWN AS THE REBECAH M. ALLEN TRUST NO. 1 , COUNTRYSIDE CONDOMINIUMS, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD LIEN CLAIMANTS, Defendants.**  
**NOTICE OF SHERIFF’S FORECLOSURE SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure heretofore entered by said Court in the above entitled cause, SCOTT YUNK, Sheriff of Boone County, Illinois will on the 8th day of January, 2025, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., at the Main Entrance of the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Boone County, Illinois sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder for cash and all singular, the following described premises and real estate in said judgment mentioned, situated in the County and State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said judgment to wit:

UNIT 19-4 IN COUNTRYSIDE CONDOMINIUMS AS DELINEATED ON A PLAT OF SURVEY OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE: PART OF LOT 18, LOT 19, AND LOT 20 AS DESIGNATED UPON PLAT NO. 2 OF COUNTRYSIDE MALL SUBDIVISION, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE WEST HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 26, TOWNSHIP 45 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, THE PLAT OF WHICH IS RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NO. 2002R05940, IN ENVELOPE 267-B IN THE RECORDER’S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; ALL SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND THE STATE OF ILLINOIS; WHICH SURVEY IS RECORDED AS COUNTRYSIDE CONDOMINIUMS ADD-ON EXHIBIT “A” ON JULY 12, 2005 AS DOCUMENT NO. 2005R07847 IN ACCORDANCE WITH DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM OWNERSHIP RECORDED APRIL 26, 2004 AS DOCUMENT NO. 2004R04777 AND AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME, TOGETHER WITH ITS UNDIVIDED PERCENTAGE INTEREST IN THE COMMONS ELEMENTS AS SET FORTH IN SAID DECLARATION, AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 13569 HARVEST WAY, POPLAR GROVE, ILLINOIS 61065  
PROPERTY INDEX NUMBER: 03-26-406-012

Together with all buildings and improvements thereon, and the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging.

This property is commonly known as 13569 Harvest Way, Poplar Grove, IL 61065, Boone County, Illinois, and is residential property. This property will not be open for inspection. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act.

Terms of Sale: This real estate is being sold in an “As Is Condition” for cash and the successful bidder is required to deposit 10% of the bid amount at the time of the sale with the Boone County Sheriff and the balance to be paid within twenty-four hours of the sale.

FRANKS, GERKIN, PONITZ & GREELEY, P.C.  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
19333 E. Grant Highway  
Marengo, Illinois 60152  
(815) 923-2107  
Published in the Boone County Journal on Dec 5, 12, 19 2024.

2025  
**NOTICE OF ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**  
To All Owners And Occupiers Of Lands Lying Within The Boundaries Of The Boone County Soil And Water Conservation District:  
Notice is hereby given that an Election will be held on the eighth day of January, 2025 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 211 N. Appleton Rd, Belvidere, IL 61008. Two Directors will be elected to serve the Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District of the State of Illinois.  
All persons, firms or corporations who hold legal title or are in legal possession of any land lying within the boundaries of the said district are eligible to vote at said election, whether as lessee, renter, tenant or otherwise. Only such persons, firms or corporations are eligible to vote.  
William Hall  
Chairman  
Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Published in The Boone County Journal Dec 5, 2024

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 12/09/2024 and closing at 10:00 AM on 12/19/2024. Strovo Management LLC d/b/a Belvidere Storage, 810 W. Locust Street, Belvidere, IL. 61008 Phone (815) 337-7398  
Unit # 88 Sheila Hansen  
Published in The Boone County Journal Dec 5, 12, 2024

## ASSUMED NAMES

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE COUNTY  
ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION  
No. DBA4214 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a LAWN CARE FERTILIZATION SERVICES business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of GREEN BLADE LAWN CARE that its location is or will be 2512 E. 6th St., 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: 224-762-8110  
Vincent E. Pacello, 2512 E. 6th St., Belvidere, IL 61008  
Cheryl L Pacello 2512 E. 6th St., Belvidere, IL 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: November 25, 2024  
Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder  
Published in Boone County Journal 11/27, 12/05,12 - P

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE COUNTY  
ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION  
No. DBA4215 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a BOOK PUBLISHING business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of HARMONY FLAVORS that its location is or will be 640 Candlewick Drive NE, 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: 773-614-3986  
Latesha Collins, 640 Candlewick Drive NE, Poplar Grove, Illinois 61065  
Harmony Brown, 640 Candlewick Drive NE, 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: November 30, 2024  
Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder  
Published in Boone County Journal 12/05, 12/12, 12/19/24 - P

## REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
**FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA, Plaintiff,**  
**vs.**  
**Case No. 22 FC 32**  
**REBECAH M. ALLEN, BOTH INDIVIDUALLY AND AS**  
**TRUSTEE UNDER A TRUST AGREEMENT DATED FEBRUARY**  
**6, 2003 AND KNOWN AS THE REBECAH M. ALLEN TRUST NO.**  
**1, COUNTRYSIDE CONDOMINIUMS, UNKNOWN OWNERS**  
**and NON-RECORD LIEN CLAIMANTS, Defendants.**  
**NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S FORECLOSURE SALE**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure herein entered, the Sheriff of Boone County, Belvidere, Illinois, or his deputy, will on the 8th day of January, 2025, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., at the Main Entrance of the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Boone County, Illinois sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder the property commonly known as 13569 Harvest Way, Poplar Grove, IL 61065, Boone County, Illinois.  
The property is residential property. This property will not be open for inspection. Terms of Sale: This real estate is being sold in an "As Is Condition" for cash and the successful bidder is required to deposit 10% of the bid amount at the time of the sale with the Boone County Sheriff and the balance to be paid within twenty-four hours of the sale.  
SCOTT YUNK  
Sheriff of Boone County  
FRANKS, GERKIN, PONITZ & GREELEY, P.C.,  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
19333 E. Grant Highway Marengo, Illinois 60152  
815-923-2107  
Published in the Boone County Journal on Dec 5, 12, 19 2024.

**Boone County**  
**License & Title**  
419 S. State St. Bel.

**RFK**  
in November. "Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. may be qualified in some areas; he is totally unqualified for this job. He has engaged in quack science and crazy theories right and left and drawn a lot of attention because of it. I fear this man is going to bring the same ideas to the administration of this life and death agency and that would be a disaster."

If Kennedy becomes the HHS secretary, his administration's work could put Illinois health policy at odds with federal directives in some areas. But the state might also find a partner in Kennedy as the General Assembly considers food regulation.

**Floride in water**  
If Kennedy gets his way, the Trump administration's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention would recommend public water systems stop putting fluoride in public drinking water on the very day Trump is sworn in on Jan. 20, according to a social media post Kennedy made days before the election.

"Fluoride is an industrial waste," Kennedy said, claiming it causes bone and neurological issues as well as other problems.

Fluoride keeps teeth strong and is a naturally occurring mineral that is often used in toothpaste because of its benefits for dental health, according to the CDC. Putting it in water supplies was named by the agency one of the 10 greatest public health achievements of the last century.

As for Kennedy's claim that it causes health problems, one National Toxicology Program study found a possible link between fluoride levels of 1.5 milligrams per liter or higher and lower IQs in children. However, researchers noted more studies are needed to draw specific conclusions. Illinois water systems keep fluoride levels at 0.7 parts per million and are required to notify customers when levels exceed 2 milligrams per liter, according to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

Nearly every Illinois resident consumes fluoride in their drinking water, according to a 2023 CDC report. The annual report found 90% of state water systems had fluoride. Together, they serve 98% of the state's population.

Fluoride is required in Illinois drinking water under a 1967 state law, which was amended in 2016 to lower the amount of fluoride water systems are required to use. However, the 2016 law says the levels "shall be in compliance with the recommendations on optimal fluoridation for community water levels as proposed and adopted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention."

Additional rules established by the state's Pollution Control Board also govern the level of fluoride in water. It's not clear how Illinois' fluoride use would change if federal recommendations change.

"Illinois EPA cannot speculate on what actions may be taken if such decisions are made at the federal level. State regulations can be more stringent than federal regulation but cannot be less stringent," agency spokesperson Kim Biggs said in an email.

**Vaccines**  
Kennedy is known for being skeptical of vaccines and spreading false information about them. What he would do about vaccines as HHS secretary is unclear. He has said

*The Boone County Journal* December 5, 2024 7

in recent weeks he wouldn't take any vaccines away. However, he has pushed for significant deregulation and changes at HHS and its agencies that could affect approval of future vaccines.

The Illinois Department of Public Health requires a schedule of 12 vaccines children must receive and stipulates parents present their child's school with proof of immunization for certain vaccines by certain grade levels. There are also various vaccine requirements for college students and health care workplaces.

Illinois' school vaccine policy is set at the state level based on recommendations of a CDC advisory committee on vaccines, according to IDPH.

The state's history of requiring vaccines in schools goes back more than a century. The Illinois State Board of Health first required children to get vaccines against smallpox to attend school in 1894. The World Health Organization eventually declared smallpox eradicated in 1977 after decades of vaccination against the virus.

Broader vaccine requirements that apply today were mandated by the General Assembly beginning in 1967.

The State Board of Health, a division of IDPH, is primarily responsible for any changes to Illinois' vaccine requirements, even if recommendations change at the federal level. Any changes to the requirements would be recommended by the Board of Health following a public hearing, according to IDPH, and are based on recommendations issued by a CDC review panel. States bear the responsibility of setting specific requirements for vaccines, according to the CDC.

Some common vaccines such as Hepatitis A, flu and COVID-19 are not required for children to attend school in Illinois despite appearing on the CDC's recommended vaccine schedule. Illinois law requires school districts to provide parents with information about flu shots, however.

State law also allows parents and guardians to skip vaccines for their children for religious or

*Continued on Page 8*



**Milos Dental Care**  
Dr Jamie Lynn Milos

129 S. Phelps Ave. Suite 307, Rockford, IL 61108

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**(815) 315-4200**

*Call now for an appointment!!*

**www.milosdentalcare.com**

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*  
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**RFK**  
from page 7

**Food ingredients**

Another of Kennedy’s priorities is establishing healthy diets to combat obesity and chronic diseases. He has called for more regulation of food ingredients in a pledge to crack down on ultra-processed foods and ingredients linked to health problems.

“Given the current nominee’s interest, it’s likely something like this could be on the docket on the federal level,” University of Illinois Chicago School of Public Health Senior Associate Dean and Professor Jamie Chriqui told Capitol News Illinois. “Usually what we see is it gets tested first at the state and local level before it becomes a federal push, unless there is a champion at the federal level who is interested in making changes.”

Despite controversy around Kennedy, the Trump administration could have a partner with Illinois on ingredient restrictions. The state Senate took a bipartisan vote this spring to advance a bill that would ban brominated vegetable oil, red dye No. 3, propylparaben and potassium bromate — which are all used in food manufacturing — in food sold in Illinois beginning in 2028. The bill is currently stalled in the House.

“I agree with the science and in this case, it appears RFK does as well,” bill sponsor Sen. Willie Preston, D-Chicago, told Capitol News Illinois. “We’re in alignment. I’m happy to work with him if that’s possible to move this issue forward, certainly here in Illinois, which I have a responsibility to do, but across this country.”

Kennedy is “problematic” on other issues, Preston said, but he said he believes on the issue of food additives, Kennedy’s appointment shows the country is moving toward further regulation to make food healthier.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which Kennedy hopes to reduce in size and scope, has considered revoking authorization for brominated vegetable oil. These ingredients are all linked to health issues from cancer to nervous system issues, Chriqui said.

California has already cracked down on several artificial ingredients Illinois lawmakers are targeting, though food and business organizations have opposed such regulations, including in Illinois. Chriqui pointed to the FDA’s ban on artificial trans fats as evidence food manufacturers can make changes when prompted by the government.

“There was a similar push back, and ultimately when the FDA came out with federal regulations related to trans fats, manufacturers were able to comply,” Chriqui said.

While the FDA plays a key role in shaping federal food regulations, states maintain similar power, Chriqui said. She stressed that doesn’t mean it would be a good idea for Kennedy to abolish parts of the FDA, but that states have historically been the initial drivers of nutrition policy changes, such as regulating trans fats and food in schools.

“States like California and Illinois, who have a history of leading important food safety regulations, can continue to demonstrate how science-backed policies can make a positive impact,” Chriqui said.

While Kennedy has also suggested reforms he would make to school lunch programs, those are managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. An Illinois State Board of Education spokesperson said ISBE receives four grants from HHS, but they are not related to the lunch program.

# Illinois Will Decide On Spending \$40m Kroger Opioid Settlement

*Part of a national agreement that requires grocery chain to pay \$1.4B nationwide*

**By Nicole Jeanine Johnson**  
*Medill Illinois New Bureau for Capitol News Illinois*

Illinois will receive a \$40 million share of a \$1.4 billion bipartisan national settlement with Kroger over the grocery chain’s role in the opioid crisis, Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul announced. The settlement is the latest contribution to the 2021 Illinois Opioid Allocation Agreement steered by Raoul and state’s attorneys.

“This settlement ensures Kroger is held accountable and allows resources to reach communities hardest hit by this ongoing opioid crisis that continues to affect all corners of America,” Raoul said in a Nov. 4 statement announcing the settlement.

Under the agreement Kroger will also require its pharmacies “to monitor, report and share data about suspicious activity related to opioid prescriptions,” the statement said. The agreement will only be applicable to states in which Kroger and its subsidiaries operate, according to the statement, noting that in Illinois, Kroger operates under the Kroger name as well as Mariano’s and others.

By 2038, Illinois’ Opioid Remediation Fund is projected to receive approximately \$772.6 million in total from various opioid manufacturers and distributors, according to the settlement fund allocation dashboard operated by the Illinois Department of Human Services. Illinois was awarded more than \$420 million from Johnson & Johnson, Walmart, Walgreens, Allergan, CVS, Teva, Mallinckrodt, and opioid distributors, such as AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health and McKesson.

Since Gov. JB Pritzker signed Executive Order 2022-19 in 2022, funds received from any settlements will be distributed into three areas: 55% will go into the state’s Opioid Remediation Trust Fund that will finance organizations across Illinois working to abate the opioid crisis in their respective communities; 25% will be awarded to local governments to provide their own abatement programs, and the remaining 20% will go to the state to carry out abatement programs through the Illinois Department of Public Health.

To date, Illinois has committed or spent \$115 million from the fund, according to the Illinois Opioid Settlement website. Most of the money has been awarded to organizations that have applied for funding to implement opioid abatement programs in their areas. Current and previous

funding opportunities can be found here. The Illinois Opioid Remediation Advisory Board is the governor-appointed body that is responsible for making advisory recommendations for how the Illinois Opioid Remediation Trust Fund will be spent.

Read more: State announces plan for \$760 million in opioid settlement money

State Rep. La Shawn Ford, D-Chicago, was appointed by the governor to serve on the board, along with organizations that represent the needs of the entire state. In an interview, Ford said he has dedicated a lot of his time to this issue.

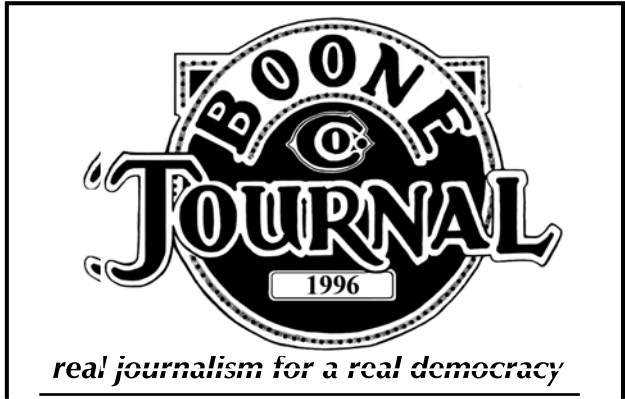
“Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton brought grassroots organizations to the advisory board, allowing them to have input on how the money is being spent, which is critical, when you have people, organizations, nonprofits doing the work and having a say in how the settlement funds are spent,” Ford said.

All programs and funding priorities must align with strategies described in the 2021 agreement, including: naloxone or other overdose reversal drugs; medication-assisted recovery and other recovery or bridge services; services for pregnant of postpartum people with opioid use disorders, as well as neonatal abstinence syndrome; treatment for incarcerated people; syringe services; prevention programs; harm reduction programs; and syringe services.

According to Ford, once recommendations are made by the advisory board, they will be forwarded to Raoul’s office for approval to ensure that the programs align with the priorities set in the settlement agreement.

Nicole Jeanine Johnson is a graduate student in journalism with Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications, and a Fellow in its Medill Illinois News Bureau working in partnership with Capitol News Illinois.

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