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Recently Identified Soldier's Remains to be Interned in Belvidere Cemetery

by David Larson

On February 22, 2022, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency identified the remains of Corporal William Martin Zoellick, missing from the Korean War. Corporal Zoellick entered the U.S. Army from Des Plaines, Illinois and was a member of B Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. CPL Zoellick was captured by the Chinese People's Volunteer Force on November 30, 1950, after his unit encountered the enemy near Kunu-ri, North Korea, 50 miles south of the Sino-Korean border.

This action is known as Battle of the Ch'ongch'on. The battle was part of what is generally known as the Chosin Reservoir. The Chosin Reservoir engagement occurred when General MacArthur, ignoring intelligence, caused the Army and Marines there to be surrounded in subzero weather without proper gear. These soldiers, greatly outnumbered by 380,000 Chinese troops that had just entered the war, had to fight their way to safety with very little support. It is regarded as one of the bravest and most challenging engagements in USA history.

A report provided to the United Nations in
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The arrival of Corporal William Martin Zoellick

photo provided

Madigan, McClain Enter Not Guilty Pleas

23-count indictment alleges bribery schemes involving ComEd, AT&T

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

Former Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan and his longtime political ally Michael McClain entered not guilty pleas Tuesday to bribery and corruption charges involving utility giant Commonwealth Edison and telecommunications company AT&T Illinois.

Both were charged previously in the ComEd scandal, but federal prosecutors last month added new charges involving AT&T after that company entered a deferred prosecution agreement and agreed to pay a \$23 million fine.

ComEd entered a similar agreement in July 2020 and agreed to pay a \$200 million fine.

In those agreements, the companies admitted they engaged in yearslong schemes to influence Madigan by making payments or awarding jobs and contracts to his associates in exchange for favorable legislation.

In the case of AT&T, the alleged payments to a Madigan associate were aimed at influencing Madigan to support passage of a 2017 "carrier of last resort," or COLR, bill that gives the company the opportunity to opt out of a requirement that it offer landline service to any customer in its service territory who requests it, if approved by the Federal Communications Commission.

In the case of ComEd, that involved the 2011 Energy Infrastructure Modernization Act, which established a formula-based system of

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A Look at the Statewide Races as Election Enters Its Final Week

Every statewide office, seat in General Assembly is up for vote Nov. 8

By Jerry Nowicki & Peter Hancock

In the Tuesday, Nov. 8, election, Illinois voters will cast a ballot on a state constitutional amendment, every statewide constitutional office, every seat in the General Assembly and, in 12 counties, a spot on the state's Supreme Court.

For more information about voting, including how to and where to cast an in-person ballot on election day and prior to it, you can visit your local election authority. You can find information for all local election officials on the Illinois State Board of Elections website. Information on where your Election Day polling place can be found here.

As of Monday, the Illinois State Board of Elections had reported 590,333 early votes had already been cast, including 362,604 mail-in ballots, 224,595 early in-person ballots and 3,134 grace period ballots.

Below is a brief summary of the statewide races. Links to other coverage on the races and interviews with the candidates and coverage of the Supreme Court races can be found here in the Capitol News Illinois voter's guide.

Governor's Race

Gov. JB Pritzker is facing off against state Sen. Darren Bailey, a Republican farmer from downstate Xenia. The candidates' views diverge widely on just about every topic, from abortion

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School Still Recovering from Pandemic Learning Loss, State Report Card Shows

Post-pandemic data shows scores falling, but student growth accelerating

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

Student test scores continued to fall last year but new data shows Illinois' students are on the path to recovering from the learning loss that occurred during the pandemic.

Numbers from standardized tests administered last spring show steep declines in the percentage of students who met or exceeded state standards in English language arts and math compared to 2019, the last year tests were administered before the pandemic.

Those numbers were reported in the latest state report card, which the Illinois State Board of Education released Thursday. In addition to test results, the report card includes information on a wide range of education metrics such as graduation rates, class sizes and teacher qualifications. It offers statewide data as well as data on each district and school building.

But while proficiency rates were down across the board, State Superintendent Carmen Ayala said the amount of growth students are showing from one year to the next is improving, suggesting that strategies being used help students catch up in their academics are working.

ISBE devised a new metric this year to track growth rates. It involves measuring a student's year-over-year change in scores in a particular subject and comparing that growth to a student in a prior year – in this case, 2019 – who started

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Election from page 1

to state spending to pandemic response to addressing gun crime. The Libertarian candidate is Scott Schluter.

The candidates' differences are demonstrated by Bailey's voting record on some of the major policy proposals backed by Pritzker. Bailey was a "no" vote on almost all of them, saying in one public appearance that he'd like to repeal "everything" Pritzker signed into law during his first term in office.

Bailey voted against the state's operating budget each year, saying it contains wasteful spending. Pritzker, meanwhile, has cited those budgets as the reason Illinois was able to pay down a backlog of unpaid bills that ballooned to \$16 billion under Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner, along with other interest-accruing debt.

Bailey also opposed the legalization of marijuana and a \$45 billion public works infrastructure plan. The public works plan was funded by a measure that doubled the motor fuel tax and increased license-related fees, as well as a gambling expansion. Bailey voted against both proposals.

He was one of just 13 lawmakers to vote against a measure capping insulin prices for some insurance plans, and he voted "no" on increasing the minimum wage to \$15 hourly by 2025.



- Linda Brien, 70, Poplar Grove, October 31
- William Chapman, 91, Kirkland, October 23
- Larry Dowey, 75, Harvard, October 29
- Mary Gayan, 87, Genoa, October 28
- Marilyn Herrold, 64, Belvidere, October 16
- George Little, 88, Belvidere, October 20
- Sally Molina, 69, Harvard, October 13
- Kay O'Brien, 79, Floral City Florida, October 21
- Betty Paulsen, 93, Kirkland, October 25
- Ellen Sailer, 95, Belvidere, October 20
- Judith Schneider, 82, Belvidere, October 25
- Robert Smith, 46, Marengo, October 27
- Lana Thayer, 69, Kirkland, October 24
- Richard Vyse, 64, Genoa, November 1
- William Zoellick, 18, Des Plaines, February 22

He also opposed the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act that increases investment in renewable energy and aims to force fossil fuel producers offline in Illinois over the next two decades, citing the bill's upward pressures on downstate energy prices as his reason for opposing it.

Pritzker's refrain in recent debates has been that Bailey "has no plan" for Illinois, and he has painted the Republican as a conservative "extremist."

Bailey, meanwhile, has focused his attention on crime, especially in Chicago, as well as taxes and state spending.

In a recent Springfield campaign stop, Bailey said his plan is to "come in with a totally new approach to government because nothing's working right."

He said he believes there's \$10 billion to \$15 billion of waste within the state budget, although he hasn't said what he would cut, aside from arguing that administrative costs in public education are too high.

He frequently mentions his plan for a "zero-based budget," which, he said, means "accounting for every dollar that's spent." He put the responsibility for identifying the waste on the shoulders of yet-to-be-named agency heads. And he said later in a recent debate he'd begin identifying them the day after the election.

Bailey has also been a staunch opponent to every measure that expanded abortion rights in Illinois in recent years, a point Pritzker has frequently reiterated on the campaign trail. Despite endorsements from the state's anti-abortion groups, Bailey has recently said he wouldn't try to repeal state abortion laws, because he wouldn't have the backing in the Democratic-controlled General Assembly to do so.

He would, however, look to repeal a criminal justice reform known as the SAFE-T Act, which passed in 2021 on slim Democratic majorities. Pritzker has said he will look to pass an amendment to that bill when lawmakers return to Springfield a week after the election.

Comptroller's Race

In Illinois, the position of chief fiscal officer is that of comptroller.

Democrat Susana Mendoza has been elected to that post twice, for a partial term beginning in December 2016 before gaining reelection in 2018. She touts the reduction of a \$16 billion bill backlog to a standard 30-day billing cycle, the state's largest-ever \$1 billion balance in its rainy-day fund and a pension payment that went \$500 million beyond statutory levels in the current fiscal year as some of her greatest accomplishments.

Her opponent, Shannon Teresi, is a newcomer to state politics and is the McHenry County auditor. It's an experience, she said, that will help her root out "waste, fraud and abuse" in state government — one of her most-repeated reasons for running.

The Libertarian candidate is Deirdre McCloskey.

Treasurer's Race

The race for

treasurer — the state's chief investment officer — pits two-term incumbent Michael Frerichs against Republican Tom Demmer, a deputy minority leader in the General Assembly and House GOP point person on budget issues. The Libertarian candidate is Preston Nelson.

Frerichs touts more than \$1 billion in investment gains as his greatest achievement while emphasizing his administrative work on returning unclaimed property, a state college savings plan and other programs overseen by the office.

Demmer has focused his race on being a statewide check on Democratic power when it comes to tax and budget issues. He has frequently attacked Frerichs for a comment he made in 2020 regarding a proposed graduated income tax amendment: "One thing a progressive tax would do is make clear you can have graduated rates when you are taxing retirement income. And I think that's something that's worth discussion," Frerichs is quoted as saying in the Daily Herald.

The treasurer, meanwhile, has no formal role in setting tax policy and Frerichs has frequently stated he does not support a retirement tax.

Secretary of State's Race

Incumbent Secretary of State Jesse White is stepping down at the end of his term, creating a vacancy in the office for the first time in 24 years.

The race to succeed him features Democrat Alexi Giannoulias, a former state treasurer from Chicago, and Republican State Rep. Dan Brady, of Bloomington. Each has a long list of initiatives they would like to implement to modernize the office.

While Giannoulias has White's endorsement, the outgoing secretary has also spoken highly of Brady. And Brady has the endorsement of Republican former governor and secretary of state Jim Edgar.

The Libertarian candidate is Jon Stewart.

Attorney General's Race

Democratic Attorney General Kwame Raoul and Republican private practice attorney Thomas DeVore differ starkly on a number of issues, with

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REAL JOURNALISM FOR A REAL DEMOCRACY

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THE BOONE COUNTY JOURNAL

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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.



Thousands pass through the Community Building Sunday evening for free hot dogs and ice cream after the Halloween Parade sponsored by the IOU Club

Soldier

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1953 stated that CPL Zoellick died at POW Camp 1 at Ch'angsong, North Korea, on February 27, 1951. Historians surmised that the reported location may have been made in error, as Camp 1 was not yet operational until sometime after that date.

In September 1954, during Operation Glory, North Korea returned remains reportedly recovered from Pyoktong, also known as Prisoner of War Camp #5, to the United Nations Command. One set of remains, Unknown X-14319, could not be identified and was buried in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu.

In July 2018, the DPAA proposed a plan to disinter 652 Korean War Unknown Soldiers from the Punchbowl. In September 2019, the remains of Unknown X-14319, as part of Phase Two of the Korean War Disinterment Plan, were sent to the DPAA laboratory at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, for analysis.

To identify Zoellick's remains, scientists used dental and anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis.

Zoellick's name is recorded on the American Battle Monuments Commission's Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, along with the others who are still missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Zoellick will be buried Nov. 10, 2022, in Belvidere, Illinois.

The body of Corporal William Zoellick has returned back home after 72 years. U.S. Army Corporal William Zoellick was 18 at the time of his disappearance. His body was flown to O'Hare Airport Monday. A procession took place along I-90 to Belvidere. Riders from The Patriot Guard, American Legion, Rolling Thunder Patrol Groups, VetsRoll and more led the way.

There are currently 82,000 missing American soldiers.



Madigan

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setting utility rates that effectively bypassed the Illinois Commerce Commission. It also involved the 2016 Future Energy Jobs Act, which, among other things, provided ratepayer-funded subsidies to two nuclear power plants owned by ComEd's parent company Exelon.

The 23-count indictment, which was unsealed Oct. 14, charges both men with multiple counts of bribery, racketeering, wire fraud and use of interstate commerce facilities to carry out illegal activity.

Both Madigan and McClain waived their rights to appear at the arraignment Tuesday, which was conducted by teleconference in federal court in Chicago. Their not guilty pleas were entered by their attorneys.

Madigan has consistently denied any wrongdoing, saying the alleged bribes had no influence on his legislative decisions, and he has defended the utility legislation as good public policy.

His arraignment came exactly one week before the Nov. 8 general election in which Republicans are hoping to make gains in the General Assembly by tying Democratic incumbents to the so-called "Madigan Machine."

During a news conference Tuesday following the arraignment, House Minority Leader Jim Durkin, R-Western Springs, wouldn't predict how many seats, if any, Republicans stand to gain in the election, but he said there needs to be an effective check against Democratic power in the General Assembly.

"Our caucus is working very hard, but Illinoisans need a balance of power," he said.

"They need to see some type of, you know, checks and balances in the House of Representatives."

Editor's note: This story has been updated to more accurately reflect the nature of AT&T's admitted attempts to influence and reward former House Speaker Michael Madigan in exchange for favorable legislation.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government. It is distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide, as well as hundreds of radio and TV stations. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.



Theis Sworn in as Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Amid Possible Election Shake-Up

Depending on election results, she could preside over first female-majority high court

By Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

Justice Mary Jane Theis was sworn in Wednesday as chief justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, the fourth woman in the state's history to hold the position.

She'll serve a three-year term replacing Justice Anne M. Burke, whose term as chief justice concluded Tuesday ahead of her planned retirement effective Nov. 30.

This is a Democrat from the court's 1st District which encompasses Cook County and elects three of the court's seven justices. She was chosen for the post through the court's standard process of naming chief justice, which gives the position to the most tenured justice who has not yet held it.

"I look forward to working with the bench, bar and community at large to further the Court's mission of providing access to equal justice, ensuring judicial integrity and upholding the rule of law," Theis said in a news release. "Our goal continues to be increasing public trust and confidence in the courts."

Theis, born in 1949 in Chicago, graduated from Loyola University in 1971 and earned her law degree from the University of San Francisco School of Law in 1974. She was appointed to the court in 2010 and she won election to her seat in 2012.

She'll be on Cook County ballots this election cycle facing a retention vote, which requires 60 percent approval from the electorate for her to receive another 10-year term.

Her duties as chief justice will include serving as the court's chief administrative officer, which oversees more than 900 judges in the statewide judicial system. The chief justice also selects Supreme Court agenda items, supervises all Supreme Court committee appointments, chairs the executive committee of the Illinois Judicial Conference and presents the court's budget request to lawmakers.

Theis takes over the court that, beginning in December, could consist of a majority of justices who have less than one year of experience on the high court. Republican Justice Lisa Holder White

was sworn in on July 7, replacing retired Justice Rita Garman in the 4th District. In December, Democrat Joy Cunningham will replace Burke in District 1.

Depending on the Nov. 8 election results, Theis also may preside over the court's first female majority in its history.

Two Supreme Court seats in the Chicago suburbs and surrounding counties are up for vote this year, and the partisan makeup of the court could flip from a 4-3 Democratic majority to a 4-3 Republican one. If both Democrats win, the party would hold a 5-2 advantage.

Incumbent Justice Michael Burke, a 2nd District Republican who is not related to Anne Burke, is running for election in the 3rd District. He has served on the court since being appointed to replace retired Justice Robert Thomas in 2020, but he's running in the 3rd District after lawmakers redrew the state's judicial maps in 2021.

He's running against Democrat Mary Kay O'Brien, an appellate court justice since 2004 who was previously a member of the state House of Representatives from 1997 until 2003.

Michael Burke was rated "strongly recommended" by the Illinois State Bar Association, while O'Brien was rated "recommended." Capitol News Illinois recapped that race and interviewed each candidate here.

The 3rd District is where former Justice Thomas Kilbride, a Democrat, lost a retention vote in 2020, although the boundaries changed with the remap. He garnered 56.5 percent of the vote while needing 60 to gain another 10-year term, creating the vacancy to be filled this election.

The 2nd District is up for grabs Nov. 8 as well. Experienced Judge Elizabeth Rochford is running as a Democrat against judicial newcomer Mark Curran, a former Lake County sheriff and unsuccessful Republican candidate for U.S. Senate in 2020.

While Rochford is rated "strongly recommended" by the Illinois State Bar Association, Curran has been rated "not recommended." Capitol News Illinois covered that race here.

In each of the races, abortion has become a major issue on the airwaves, with backers of the Democrats attacking Republicans as having "extreme" stances on the topic. While Curran has spoken extensively against abortion in previous campaigns, Burke in an interview with Capitol News Illinois denied ever making any public statements or giving any indication of how he might rule on the issue of abortion.

Political committees backing the Republicans, meanwhile, have focused on corruption within the Democratic party and the candidates' potential ties to indicted Democratic power players.

For O'Brien, that's focused on her time in the General Assembly and campaign contributions she accepted from the Democratic Party of Illinois and other campaign funds that were once controlled by indicted former House Speaker Michael Madigan. O'Brien has denied any Madigan links and said

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Supreme

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she was elected without his help.

O'Brien and Burke each touted their judicial records as proof of their impartiality on the bench.

Rochford has been attacked for Madigan ties as well, although she denies even knowing him and there's no evidence to say that she does. She was, however, a donor to indicted Chicago Alderman Ed Burke, giving \$15,000 to the one-time Chicago powerbroker over the years.

That included a \$1,500 check cashed after Burke's offices were raided by federal authorities, although the Rochford campaign said it was written for the alderman's annual Christmas fundraiser before news of the indictment or investigation of Burke had broken.

Ed Burke is married to former Chief Justice Anne Burke but is not related to Justice Michael Burke.

Rochford touted her decade of judicial experience and impartiality as her main qualification for the court, while Curran said a Republican majority is the only way to adequately check Democratic power in Illinois.

Each Democratic candidate's campaign fund has received \$500,000 from Gov. JB Pritzker as well.

The other justices on the high court are David K. Overstreet, a Republican from Southern Illinois' 5th District who was seated in 2020, and Justice P. Scott Neville, a 1st District Democrat who was appointed to the court in 2018 and elected to it in 2020.

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Bird Flu Cases Add to Food Price Inflation

By Daniel Grant Farmweek

The outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) spread its wings across a much larger portion of the U.S. in the past year compared to the previous outbreak in 2015.

And it continues to drive up food price inflation, which recently soared to 11.4% — the largest 12-month increase since the period ending in May 1979.

"It appears the disease is now far more widespread than in the past, with a very large number of bird species affected," authors of the CME Group's Daily Livestock Report noted.

Cases of HPAI have been confirmed from Florida to Alaska. The turkey industry alone lost more than 5 million birds, prior to a recent outbreak in California. USDA also reported an outbreak of HPAI affecting 175,000 turkeys in Minnesota this month, which was the first confirmed case in the Midwest since May.

"We sit at 418 confirmed detections in 48 states that impacted about 40.5 million birds in the U.S.," said Bernt Nelson, American Farm Bureau Federation economist. "When we find a case, those birds are isolated and the flock is depopulated."

Consumers will be able to find turkeys for the upcoming holiday season, according to Nelson. But they should prepare for high prices.

"The reduction in (turkey) supply is largely responsible for the increase in prices," said Nelson, who recently discussed the situation on CBS News MoneyWatch. "Will HPAI have a further impact on supply? We could see prices climbing higher."

The weekly average price for an 8- to 16-pound turkey was \$1.85 per pound on Sept. 3, 27% higher than the same time last year. Breast cuts are

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Education

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off with the same score. This year's report card suggests students in 2022 showed greater growth than their academic peers in 2019.

"Now, proficiency rates are still not back to pre-pandemic levels, but this accelerated rate of growth tells us we are on the right track," Ayala said during a media briefing on the report card.

Overall, only 27.4 percent of third graders in Illinois met or exceeded state standards in reading, down from 36.4 percent in 2019.

That's considered an important metric because third grade reading skills are a strong indicator of future success in school. A 2010 study by the Annie E. Casey Foundation found that students who are not proficient in reading by third grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school than those who are proficient.

Typical questions on a third grade reading test would ask students to define a word such as "impatient" or "overwhelmed" as it's used in a short story or article.

Likewise, eighth grade math proficiency is considered crucial to future success in what are called the STEM fields — science, technology, engineering and math.

Typical questions on an eighth grade math test would ask students to calculate how many gallons of paint are needed to cover a patio of certain dimensions or use the Pythagorean theorem to calculate the length of a trip between three cities.

Last year, only 23.1 percent of Illinois eighth graders scored proficient in math, down from 32.6 percent in 2019.

One positive sign in math performance was an increase in the percentage of eighth graders who completed Algebra I — 29.9 percent, compared to 28.8 percent the prior year — although it was still lower than the 30.6 percent reported in 2019.

"This metric is critically important because taking Algebra I by eighth grade is the gateway to STEM in college," Ayala said. "If a student does not take Algebra I by eighth grade, then following the normal math course sequence ... that student will not make it to calculus by the end of high school. And calculus is frequently a prerequisite for STEM majors in college."

Although the overall percentage of students scoring at or above grade level may seem low, Ayala said that Illinois has some of the most rigorous standards for proficiency in the nation. The report card also noted that the four-year graduation rate in 2022 was 87.3 percent, the highest rate in 12 years, and that 64 percent of Illinois' 2020 graduates enrolled in a post-secondary program within 12 months of graduating.

The college enrollment rate was down significantly from the 75 percent recorded for the class of 2016. State officials said that has been a nationwide trend that was exacerbated by the pandemic.

The standardized tests are required by state and federal law. Like most states, however, Illinois received a federal waiver from the requirement in 2020, when school buildings were closed due to the pandemic, and the participation rate in 2021 was far below normal. State officials cautioned against using either of those two years as a point

of comparison on most metrics.

Achievement gaps

The report card showed academic declines across all racial and ethnic groups in both English language arts and math, but there were still large gaps between those groups.

For example, across all grades, preliminary data showed 39.4 percent of white students scored proficient in English language arts compared to 12.1 percent of Black students and 18.4 percent of Hispanic students. Asian students had the highest proficiency rate by far, at 58.6 percent.

In math, 35.6 percent of white students scored proficient compared to 6.8 percent of Black students, 13.5 percent of Hispanic students and 60.2 percent of Asian students.

One area where achievement gaps appeared to be closing, however, was high school graduation rates. The four-year graduation rate among Black students rose more than 1.5 percentage points, to 79.5 percent, while the graduation rate for Hispanic students rose 1.4 points, to 85 percent.

That was a major factor in the state's overall growth in graduation rates because the rate for white students dropped half a point, to 90.4 percent.

There were also increases across the board in the percentage of ninth graders who were on track to graduate, and for Black and Hispanic students, those rates were above pre-pandemic levels.

"We know that the number one strategy to increase graduation rates is to intervene early with students who are not on track to graduate," Ayala said. "The rate of ninth graders on track to graduate has bounced back to pre-pandemic levels after dipping in 2021."

National trends

The Illinois report card came out the same week the U.S. Department of Education released results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress, or NAEP exams, often referred to as "the nation's report card," and many of the trends seen in Illinois were consistent with national trends.

NAEP is administered to a representative sample of fourth and eighth grade students across the nation. In 2022, the majority of states saw average scores decline in both reading and math compared to 2019. There was also an increase in the percentage of students scoring below the NAEP "basic" level.

Illinois fared better than many states on the NAEP exam in that there was no significant difference between average scores in 2019 and 2022 for both subjects and grade levels, with scores above the national average.

"This is the nation's gold standard report card, and this demonstrates that our investments in learning recovery serve as a national model because they are working," Ayala said. "Now, we have much work to do, but this is an important indication that our students are on track."

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government that is distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

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LEGAL NOTICES**Public Notice**

Early Voting for the November 8, 2022 General Election will begin on Thursday, September 29, 2022 and end November 7, 2022. Early Voting for Boone County residents will be conducted at the Boone County Clerk's Office, 1212 Logan Ave, Suite 103, Belvidere, IL 61008. The office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30AM to 5:00PM, except holidays. The office will also be open on Saturday, November 5, 2022 from 9:00AM to 12:00PM

For more information about Early Voting please contact the Boone County Clerk's Office at 815-544-3103.

*The Republican Party Candidates will be listed first on the ballot, followed by Democratic Party Candidates. This ballot placement was determined by a lottery held on August 16, 2022 at 9am. Independent candidates are listed after party candidates.

Julie A. Bliss

Boone County Clerk & Recorder

Published in *The Boone County Journal* September 22 to November 3, 2022

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BOONE COUNTY PROBATE DIVISION**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF EDUARDO A. CARABALLO, Deceased

CASE NO. 2022 PR 50

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given of the death of EDUARDO A. CARABALLO, who died on April 23, 2021. Letters of Office were issued on October 12, 2022 to Megan Basten, 6633 E. Greenway Parkway, Apt. 2079, Scottsdale, AZ 85254, who is the Administrator of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Darron M. Burke, of Barrick, Switzer, Long, Balsley & Van Evera, LLP, 6833 Stalter Drive, Rockford, Illinois 61108.

Claims against the Estate may be filed on or before April 21, 2023, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975 as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk, Probate Division at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois, or with the Estate Administrator, or both.

Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office, Probate Division, must be mailed or delivered to the Estate Administrator and to her attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Dated: October 17, 2022

MEGAN BASTEN, Administrator

DARRON M. BURKE - #6302978

BARRICK, SWITZER, LONG,

BALSLEY & VAN EVERA, LLP

6833 Stalter Drive, Rockford, IL 61108

(815) 962-6611 / dburke@bslv.com

Published in *The Boone County Journal* October 20, 27, Nov 3 2022

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

BANKUNITED N.A. Plaintiff,

-v.- 2022 FC 15

DARRIN M MCCracken, Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on June 28, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on January 31, 2023, 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:

Lots Seventy-Eight (78) and Seventy-Nine (79) in Meadow Lawn, a Subdivision of part of the Northwest Quarter of Section 26, Township 44 North, Range 3 East of the Third Principal Meridian, according to the Plat thereof recorded September 26, 1907, in Book 3 of Plats, Page 1, situated in the City of Belvidere, County of Boone, in the State of Illinois.

Commonly known as 1117 DALBIGNÉ STREET, BELVIDERE, IL 61008

Property Index No. 05-26-176-018

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$66,498.30.

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, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. 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, contact RANDALL S. MILLER & ASSOCIATES Plaintiff's Attorneys, 120 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 1140, Chicago, IL, 60602 (312) 239-3432. Please refer to file number 20IL00013-2.

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.

RANDALL S. MILLER & ASSOCIATES

120 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 1140

Chicago IL, 60602

312-239-3432

E-Mail: ilpleadings@rsmalaw.com

Attorney File No. 20IL00013-2

Case Number: 2022 FC 15

TJSC#: 42-3213

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 # 2022 FC 15

6088-927678

PO927678

Published in *Boone County Journal* 10/27, 11/3, 11/10

Flora Township

Flora Township meeting will be Monday November 7th at 6:30 pm at Flora Township Office, 3100 Town Hall Road, Belvidere, for the transaction of miscellaneous business of said Town.

Kenneth Freeman, Flora Township Supervisor

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Oct 27, Nov 3

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF BOONE**

IN RE THE ESTATE OF: Ronald J. Mewitz, Deceased.

CASE NO. 2022 PR 53

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given of the death of Ronald J. Mewitz. Letters of Office were issued on October 25, 2022 to Marissa Morrison, who is the legal representative of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Mark D. Brynteson, 2969 Rolling Meadow Court, Belvidere, IL 61008. Claims against the estate may be filed on or before April 27, 2022, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by 755 ILCS 5/18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975 as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date as stated above shall be barred.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk-Probate Division at the Boone County Courthouse, Belvidere, Illinois, or with the estate legal representative, or both.

Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office-Probate Division, must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to his/her attorney within ten days after it has been filed.

Mark D. Brynteson

Attorney for Administrator

Mark D. Brynteson

ARDC No.: 627884

2969 Rolling Meadow Court

Belvidere, IL 61008

Office: (815)569-4280

Fax: (815)459-4075

Email: mdb@bryntesonlaw.com PURSUANT TO ILLINOIS

SUPREME COURT RULE 11 FOR PLEADINGS ONLY

Published in *Boone County Journal* 10/27, 11/3, 11/10

MANLEY, DEAS, KOCHALSKI LLC

One East Wacker - Suite 1250

Chicago, IL 60601

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC, Plaintiff, v. ELVIRA ZAMROZIEWICZ, AKA E. ZAMROZIEWICZ; ADRIAN ZAMROZIEWICZ, AKA A. ZAMROZIEWICZ; BMO HARRIS BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FKA HARRIS BANK BARRINGTON, N.A.; CANDLEWICK LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC.; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants, Case No. 2022FC76

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you, Adrian Zamroziewicz, AKA A. Zamroziewicz, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, that the said suit has been commenced in the Circuit Court of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit, Boone County, Illinois by the said plaintiff against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit:

Lot 57 in Unit Ten of Candlewick Lake Subdivision according to the plat thereof recorded as Document Number 72-3475 in the Recorder's Office of Boone County, Illinois, situated in the County of Boone and the State of Illinois.

109 Prince Court, Poplar Grove, IL 61065 03-26-103-014

Now, therefore, unless you, Adrian Zamroziewicz, AKA A. Zamroziewicz, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, and the said above named defendants, file your answer to the complaint in said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the office of the Clerk of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit, Boone County, Illinois, on or before December 18, 2022, default may be entered against you at any time after that day 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 <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or contact the Clerk of this Court.

Alan S. Kaufman (6289893)

MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC

Attorneys for Plaintiff

One East Wacker, Suite 1250, Chicago, IL 60601

Phone: 312-651-6700; Fax: 614-220-5613

Email: sef-askaufman@manleydeas.com

One of Plaintiff's Attorneys

6088-927878

927878 P.O.

Published in *Boone County Journal* 10/27, 11/3, 11/10

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF BOONE
PROBATE DIVISION**

In the Matter of the Estate of: PETER MARATOS, Decedent.

CASE NO. 2022-PR-51

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given of the death of PETER MARATOS. Letters of Office were issued on the 18th day of October, 2022 to JEANETTE MARATOS, 607 Madison Street, Oregon, Illinois 61061, who is the legal representative of the Estate. The attorney for the Estate is GEORGE P. HAMPLOS, of Hampilos & Associates, Ltd., 308 West State Street, Suite 210, Rockford, Illinois 61101.

Claims against the Estate may be filed on or before April 27, 2023, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975 as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk--Probate Division, at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, or with the estate legal representative, or both.

Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office--Probate Division, must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to their attorney within ten days after it has been filed.

Dated: October 21, 2022

By: /s/George P. Hampilos, Esq.

George P. Hampilos, Esq.

George P. Hampilos — ARDC #6210622

HAMPLOS & ASSOCIATES, LTD.

308 West State Street, Suite 210

Rockford, Illinois 61101

Telephone: 815-962-0044

Fax: 815-962-6250

georgehamp@aol.com

Published in *Boone County Journal* 10/27, 11/3, 11/10

ASSUMED NAMES

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a tile and flooring business in said County and State under the name of R & T TILE AND FLOORING at the following post office address: 2829 Clines Ford Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Kristina M. Cottet, 2829 Clines Ford Drive, Belvidere, IL; phone # (779) 221-6017. Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 24th day of October, A.D. 2022.

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk

Published in *Boone County Journal* 11/3, 11/10, 11/17 - P

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a hair salon, selling hair products and clothing business in said County and State under the name of BLISS HAIR 1 STUDIO at the following post office address: 207 North State Street, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Kenyarea Price, 127 Fir Street, Michigan City, IN; phone # (773) 531-8326. Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 24th day of October, A.D. 2022.

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk

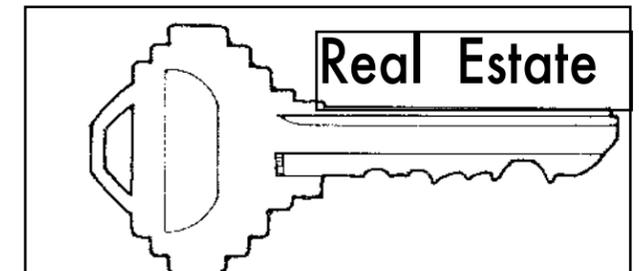
Published in *Boone County Journal* 11/3, 11/10, 11/17 - P

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a digital media production and consulting business in said County and State under the name of AMPLIFIER MEDIA CONSULTING at the following post office address: 232 Bridgestone Trail, Poplar Grove, IL 61065 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Beatrice Marion Rinaldi, 232 Bridgestone Trail, Poplar Grove, IL; phone # (815) 276-5285. Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 31st day of October, A.D. 2022.

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk

Published in *Boone County Journal* 11/3, 11/10, 11/17 - P



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

BANKUNITED N.A. Plaintiff,

-v.- 2022 FC 15

DARRIN M MCCracken, Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on June 28, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on January 31, 2023, 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:

Commonly known as 1117 DALBIGNÉ STREET, BELVIDERE, IL 61008

Property Index No. 05-26-176-018

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

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OP-ED

Cousins

By Scott Reeder

Great balls of fire, Jerry Lee Lewis is dead! But his legacy lives on. What legacy, you might ask? Well, the legacy of marriage.

Lewis had two famous cousins, televangelist Jimmy Swaggert and Myra Gale Brown.

But it was his relationship with Brown that captured the headlines.

Lewis made her famous in 1957 after marrying her when she was just 13. The scandal destroyed his promising rock and roll career. But he later rebounded with a series of successful country tunes.

Apparently, country fans aren't as hung-up about family trees that don't fork.

But the state of Illinois does have such a hang-up.

In fact, cousins can't marry in Illinois unless at least one person in the union is sterilized or they are both past the age of 50. That law is based on a cultural taboo and faulty science.

And it makes no sense. None.

Once upon a time, there was a worry that the offspring of two cousins were at a higher risk for birth defects. But recent medical studies indicate it poses little risk. In fact, cousin marriage is common in much of the Middle East and Asia.

The prohibition against cousins marrying is deeply rooted in American racism, Martin Ottenheimer, a retired anthropology professor at Kansas State University, told me recently.

"White settlers came to this country and encountered Indians, who often married their cousins. By attacking cousin marriage, they were depicting their enemies as savages."

He also said during an interview with me eight years ago, "People think that cousins marrying is an animal-like, savage thing to do and that their children will be stupid. They think it will lead to the downfall of civilization. It's all based on faulty genetics from the 19th Century. Americans shouldn't object to gay cousins marrying because genetics isn't even an issue."

Gay cousins? Yes, even though the Illinois' law is supposedly rooted in genetic concerns, even two biologically male cousins or two biologically female cousins cannot marry – unless they are older than 50 or one of them is sterile.

"The United States is the only Western country that restricts cousins from marrying," Ottenheimer noted.

He said he became interested in cousin marriage when he was doing anthropological research on remote islands in the Indian Ocean with his wife.

"We lived with the people and it was a culture where cousins frequently married. But their children were absolutely beautiful. So, we started asking why our own society disapproved of cousins marrying."

Cousin marriage is prohibited in 23 states and remains something that carries a stigma in all 50. Former state Rep. Greg Harris drafted the original same-sex civil unions legislation, which was the basis for the law allowing same-sex marriage.

He told me in 2014, he drafted the bill to reflect all the benefits and restrictions of a traditional marriage.

Harris said the cousin provision was discussed when the bill was drafted and deliberately left in because he did not want those people engaging

in same-sex unions to have more rights than heterosexual couples who marry.

"We wanted this issue to be about civil unions, not whether cousins should marry," he said.

Harris, who was one of the first openly gay members of the General Assembly and eventually rose to be House majority leader, has long prided himself as a champion of marriage equality.

But do we really have marriage equality if cousins can marry in some states but not others?

Some famous cousin marriages include:

* Naturalist Charles Darwin and his first cousin, Emma Wedgewood.

* Physicist Albert Einstein and Elsa Lowenthal, his first cousin on his mother's side and his second cousin on his father's side.

* Bank robber Jessie James and his first cousin, Zerelda Mims.

* Author H.G. Wells and his first cousin, Isabel Mary Wells.

* Rocket scientist Werner Von Braun and his first cousin, Maria Von Quirstorp.

Some folks believe there is a biblical prohibition to cousins marrying. While the Hebrew Bible, or Christian Old Testament, prohibits many types of relatives from marrying, cousins are not on the list.

In fact, the Biblical character Jacob married the sisters Leah and Rachel. They were not only sisters but also his first cousins.

Am I advocating that cousins marry? Not particularly. But I certainly don't see a compelling state interest in Illinois preventing such couplings.

Who knows, someday instead of heading to the bars, lovelorn singles may head to family reunions.

Scott Reeder is a staff writer for Illinois Times and is not married to a cousin. He can be reached at sreeder@illinoistimes.com.

Pritzker, Ayala Point to Positive Trends in Report Card, Acknowledge Pandemic's Toll

State Board of Education released 2022 data Thursday

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

Gov. JB Pritzker and State School Superintendent Carmen Ayala on Thursday touted some of the more positive findings from the 2022 school report card, insisting that Illinois schools are on the right track while also acknowledging that the COVID-19 pandemic took a toll on student learning.

"To say that these last two-and-a-half years have been difficult for our teachers and our students would be an understatement," Pritzker said. "What now seems like lifetimes ago, our educators in Illinois and throughout the nation had to navigate the sudden transition to online learning, all while working to give their students the support and resources they needed to not only thrive, but to survive."

Pritzker and Ayala spoke at an event at J. Sterling Morton West High School, a school with a large population of Hispanic students in the southwest Chicago suburb of Berwyn. That school saw its four-year graduation rate grow more than 5 percentage points over the 2019 rate, to 85.6 percent.

"And this trend is happening at high schools across Illinois," Ayala said. "As a state in 2022, students reached the highest four-year graduation rate in 12 years, and it's driven by the gains of our Black and Hispanic students."

Overall, the report card showed declines in the percentage of students in grades 3-8 scoring at or above grade level in English language arts and

math. Those trends were consistent with national trends measured by the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

But it also showed the statewide four-year high school graduation rate reaching a high of 87.3 percent, as well as an increase in the number of students completing Algebra I in eighth grade.

More than anything, though, Pritzker and Ayala highlighted the student growth rate, a new metric devised last year to track not just whether students are proficient, but how much progress they are making from one year to the next.

The report showed that while students may be scoring lower than their peers did in 2019, the last pre-pandemic year tests were given, but they are progressing at a faster rate than the earlier class.

"Every single demographic group in Illinois experienced accelerated growth in both English language arts and math, outpacing pre-pandemic levels," Pritzker said.

When asked by a reporter about the declining proficiency rates, Ayala said it was largely due to the impact that COVID-19 had on low-income communities and communities of color, but

Continued on Page 8

Voting

from page 2

the AG's response to COVID-19 executive orders leading that list.

DeVore was a frequent challenger of the governor's executive order authority throughout the pandemic, while Raoul defended that authority in court. But it's not the only issue on which the pair differed.

In an hourlong discussion organized by the Illinois Associated Press Media Editors earlier this year, DeVore defended his use of the private lawsuit to go after individuals, including the governor and a special education teacher, who he believes have defamed him.

Raoul, meanwhile, said it's a waste of court resources. They also differed on the SAFE-T Act, which DeVore believes is unconstitutional, and whether the AG should be prosecuting public officials. The Libertarian candidate on the ballot is Dan Robin.

Constitutional Amendment 1

Voters will decide on whether the state's constitution will be amended to give a right to workers to unionize. It reads:

SECTION 25. WORKERS' RIGHTS

(a) Employees shall have the fundamental right to organize and to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing for the purpose of negotiating wages, hours, and working conditions, and to protect their economic welfare and safety at work. No law shall be passed that interferes with, negates, or diminishes the right of employees to organize and bargain collectively over their wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment and work place safety, including any law or ordinance that prohibits the execution or application of agreements between employers and labor organizations that represent employees requiring membership in an organization as a condition of employment.

(b) The provisions of this Section are controlling over those of Section 6 of Article VII.

Supporters of the amendment say it is needed to prevent future governors and lawmakers from attempting to pass "right to work" legislation, which former Gov. Rauner attempted to do. Right to work laws prohibit employers from requiring membership in a labor union as a condition of employment.

Opponents, meanwhile, argue that passage of the amendment would give public-sector labor unions greater power, which could lead to more expensive government contracts that create upward pressure on property taxes.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government that is distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

Bird Flu

from page 5

leading the surge with an average price of \$6.65 per pound on Sept. 3 compared to \$3.13 at the same time last year, Nelson noted.

Meanwhile, the loss of chickens to HPAI led to egg prices nearly tripling in the past year.

It's one of the numerous contributors to the historic run-up in food prices. Other key factors include ongoing supply chain issues, escalating costs for shipping, packaging and fuel, a labor shortage and widespread drought in the western U.S. impacting food output.

Meanwhile, food demand remains strong around the world. U.S. beef exports were valued at \$6.45 billion from January through July, up 29% from the same time last year.

Tight supplies and higher prices rationed U.S.

pork exports, though, which were valued at \$3.56 billion the first half of the year, 15.9% lower than a year ago, according to the Daily Livestock Report.

Overall, there doesn't appear to be much relief from inflationary pressure any time soon. USDA expects food prices to grow more slowly in 2023 compared to 2022, but still above the historic average rate.

Nationwide, inflation of all goods measured remained at an historic high in August (8.3%), although it decelerated slightly compared to the previous month.

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.

Prizker

from page 7

she insisted that academic growth is the more important metric to consider.

"And so that can account for those declines that we're seeing nationwide," she said. "We really need to focus also on the growth because that's telling us we're doing some very specific systemic things in Illinois with our recovery initiatives and interventions that are having a big impact on the growth. And that will move towards and translate to higher proficiency levels as we continue to recover."

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government that is distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.



For FAR too long, Boone County has been controlled by a limited set of political elites, known throughout the county as "The Good Ol' Boys Club".

Dear Boone County,

On Tuesday, November 8th, we will have an opportunity to change the discretion that Boone County has been going. We will be able to re-elect representatives that have been doing a GREAT job, such as State Rep Dave Vella, State Senator Steve Stadelman and County Board Member Freddy De La Trinidad, who all have stellar reputations for bringing tax dollars home and doing great work for our community, and reaching across party lines to do what needs to be done! We also have the opportunity to elect new representation to join in bringing tax dollars back to our community so that we can make Boone County a MUCH better place than it already is! Lisa Haderlein and Peter Janko will do just that!

Unfortunately, the choice is more than just who to vote for, we are voting for ideologies, as well. We are selecting between a party of people who choose to live in fear and feed off of the fear of others in order to keep Boone County under their control and keep things from changing. We all know that the "Good Ol' Boys Club" has NEVER had anything but their own bottom line as their interest. WE, the vast majority of the residents of Boone County, have never fit into their agenda, and we never will! It's time to take control!

Ask yourself: What is the PLAN for the county. The Democrats have a very well thought-out plan that includes trying new things that have never been tried to reduce not only crime, but recidivism. The Republicans not only don't have a plan, they are outright lying about the Democrats' plan in order to scare people from voting

for them. The Democrats have done wonders with repairing the damage to the state caused by the 3-year impasse in which the Republicans refused to pass a budget, holding the state hostage. Our credit rating has been upgraded SIX TIMES, saving us taxpayers \$MILLIONS in interest!

Under his leadership, Illinois has lead the Midwest in the response and control of COVID. Susanna Mendoza has paid our bills ON-TIME, and even has the time down to less than 24 hours for bills to be paid when they are submitted to her office! State Treasurer Michael Frerichs makes sure the money gets to her on time so that she can pay them. It takes a team and this team we have has done an EXCELLENT JOB!!! We even have had the cronyism restrictions due to past corruption under BOTH Democrats and Republicans removed! We need to add a Secretary of State to the team that can walk in Jesse White's shoes and work with the team effectively! Alexi Gianoulius will do just that! And don't forget Tammy Duckworth who fought for her country, sacrificing so much (literally both legs) and now fights for Illinois as one of the most effective Senators!

Lets continue the upward trend! Vote Democrat all the way up and down your ballot! Don't let the Republicans scare you into standing still. Remember, all of the problems Boone County has started under the "Good Ol' Boys" watch! Vote them OUT!!!

**Sincerely Yours,
Angie Bodine
Boone County Democratic Party Chair**



**It's time for fresh faces, fresh voices, and fresh ideas!
I'm Juan Hernandez, and I'll be all of that! Please elect me for Boone County Board, District 3!**

Boone County needs elected officials who are in touch and focused on what's best for our community.

On November 8th, vote for:

- Lisa Haderlein for Congress - District 16**
- Peter Janko- State Representative - IL 69**
- Freddy De La Trinidad - County Board District 3**
- Juan Hernandez - County Board District 3**