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## Belvidere Hosts 67 Horses Across 14 Races



*GJ's Movie Star, trained and driven by Darla Martin Lohman narrowly beats Tys Tia Wind, driven and trained by Jerome Daniels in the 3rd Race, sponsored by Weaver Stables, with race starter, Del Moldenhauer looking on.*

**By Charles Herbst**

Last Tuesday, August 5, Belvidere held 14 horse races at the Boone County Fairgrounds. A large herd of 67 horses were entered to race, with a few horses “scratched” from the program. This year, the race was announced for the first time by Jerry Dudzik of Sycamore, with Brad Dye returning as judge.

The crowd was treated to over 3 hours of fine harness racing on a fast track. It was a beautiful summer day, with a temperature of 80 degrees, low humidity, a light breeze, and a bit of haze caused by distant wildfires.

Because of a broken starting gate, an “open start” was used. In an open start, the horses begin running and may not pass the #1 horse until the starter, Del Moldenhauer, gives the signal.

With 8 horses entered in the 3-year-old colt pace, the race was divided into 2 divisions: The 6th, Jones Family Memorial Race, and the 7th Race, sponsored by Harmony Oaks Stable. There were also six, 3-year-old fillies in the 5th race, sponsored by Union Feed.

Fox Valley Compass, trained by Scott Douglas and driven by Gabe Wand won the 6th, and I'll Decide, trained by Nick Prather and driven by Cole Prather was the winner in the 7th. For the fillies in the 5th, Captain's Magic, trained by Tony Farina and driven by Jordan Patton got the job done in the 5th race in 2:05.

Horse racing is very much a family affair. Belvidere and the local area are no exception. These families have kept local horse racing going since the first Boone County Fair in the 1850s.

The current local superintendents, Sara and

Wayne Weaver, are the children of Belvidere's former long-time and legendary announcer, Buck Weaver. Sara and Wayne sponsored the 11th Race in honor of their parents, Buck and Lucy Weaver. Weaver Stables also sponsors two other races.

This year, I sat in the grandstand and was privileged to sit next to Wayne Moldenhauer, a 90-year-old horseman from Lake Mills, Wisconsin and part-owner of the second-place horse in the 5th Race, Truly A Winner, trained by Kevin

Miller and driven by Wyatt Avenatti, who almost beat Captain's Magic.

Wayne Moldenhauer's parents used to attend Wisconsin county fairs and Wayne tagged along. He became interested and got involved. He has attended over 30 Wisconsin fairs. His son, Del was the starter for Tuesday's races.

The Jones Family has been active in local horse racing for 5 generations. Tuesday, I had occasion

*Continued on page 6*



**Announcer Jerry Dudzik**



**Driver and Trainer Casey Leonard**



# Firemen’s Donuts A Fair Tradition

By John Tuttle

The Boone County fairgoer enters through the gate, kicking up dust and gravel, and walks past the livestock shows: bulls, dairy cows, pigs, and all the smells and noises that accompany them. The bleating of sheep drowns out a few lines of the 1977 hit “Come Sail Away” by Styx, which is played from a loudspeaker brought by one of the many exhibitors that populate the fair.

Everything from home businesses to mega manufacturers turn out for the occasion. Churches and charities also find it to be a good opportunity to gain interest and support. With a seemingly endless parade of attractions and activities, the fair offers something to appeal to everyone, and families flock to the event day and night.

At a juncture, the fairgoer turns and heads toward the grandstand. Across from a lot of tractors and sandwiched between food vendors selling sweet corn, lemonade, and corn dogs, stands the donut shop



Fair goers in line buying firemen’s donuts



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of the Boone County Fire District No. 2 Firefighters Association.

The Association started selling donuts at the fair to raise money for the local fire district in 1977, the same year Styx released its classic rock song. After covering the cost of the event, funds raised by the charity help pay for various tools and truck equipment. In other words, they sell some dough to make some dough, which gets used for the needs of Fire District No. 2. In that sense, the money goes back to serving the community.

Firefighter Bob Hauser is one of the many people who made this year’s donut event a success. Everyone who assists with the fundraiser is a volunteer. These include firefighters, students, and others. Unlike other charities that only ask for donations, the Association raises money for their cause and gives people something in exchange – sweet, delectable treats.

“Everyone is here for the people,” says Hauser.

Continued on page 3

# got kidz?

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Donuts

from page 2

Firefighters typically encounter the average civilian on what could be one of the worst days of their lives. Making and selling donuts at the fair gives firefighters, in particular, a chance to interact with people under less dire circumstances, which is more enjoyable than meeting in the midst of an emergency.

Next to the donut shop rests an ambulance, more for display than for duty, but it could be used should there be a need for it. If there is a health emergency at the fair, however, Hauser says the first responders on the scene would likely take District No. 2’s utility terrain vehicle to transport someone to safety. Due to the large number of fairgoers, it would be faster than the bulky ambulance.

When it comes to donuts, there should always be coffee close at hand. If you ever thought to yourself, “Now if only there was a coffee organization that helped firefighters,” you’re in luck. This year, the Association did something new and partnered with the Rockford-based Fire Department Coffee to bring everyone’s favorite morning beverage to the fair.

Fire Department Coffee is a veteran-owned company. According to their website, their affiliated charitable foundation supports firefighters “who have become sick or injured while on the job.”

For those looking to stay hydrated with something cooler, the Association also offers water and milk. Donut patrons and corn connoisseurs take shelter under a row of canopies set up alongside the shop, and a Fire Department Coffee banner swings in the wind from one end. The Association’s donuts continue to be a success at the Boone County Fair.

The organizers usually close down the donut shop about 10:30 pm each evening. Around this time, more volunteers step in for the night shift, during which the next day’s donuts are prepared. In recent years, the fair has enjoyed over 200,000 visitors each summer. The Association sells hundreds of dozens of donuts every season.

Besides quantity, the Association also provides variety. Some donuts are doused with sprinkles or cinnamon and sugar; others are glazed and have different flavors. If you want a recommendation for next year, I suggest the sprinkle donuts with chocolate glaze underneath.



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Paul Howard Felton

Paul Howard Felton, 96, of Belvidere, passed away peacefully on August 6, 2025. He was born on April 18, 1929, in Richland Center, Wisconsin, the son of W. Lester Felton and Olive (Buroker) Felton.

Paul lived a life rooted in service, dedication, and unwavering commitment. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, and a loyal friend to many. His warmth, integrity, and sense of duty left a lasting impact on everyone who knew him.

A proud graduate of Readstown High School, Class of 1947, Paul went on to serve his community in many capacities — as a bus driver, police officer, and realtor. Notably, he was driving a school bus during the historic 1967 Belvidere Tornado, ensuring the safety of the children in his care.

Paul served with distinction on the Belvidere Police Department for 24 years, where his dedication to public safety and the well-being of his community stood as a testament to his character.

He transitioned into real estate and became a member of the Board of Realtors.

Throughout his life, Paul remained active in community organizations. He was a lifetime member of the Belvidere Moose Lodge and

generously volunteered with the Salvation Army. His commitment to service extended far beyond his professional life.

On July 20, 1949, in Readstown, Wisconsin, Paul married the love of his life, Delores (Van Fleet). Their 72-year marriage was a shining example of love, partnership, and devotion. Together, they raised two daughters and built a life centered around family, faith, and community. Paul will be deeply missed but fondly remembered for his strength, kindness, and the legacy of service he leaves behind.

He is survived by his daughters, Lawanna (John) Turnipseed and Shelia (Gordon) Myers; grandchildren, Angie (Jim Bowers) Adams and Adam (Melissa) Myers; great-grandchildren, Ethan (Anna), Emily, Elaina Turnipseed, Rachel (Dalton Renteria), Jocelyn, and Max Myers; great-great-granddaughter, Naomi Mae, great-great-grandson, Elliott, sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Dixie and Howard Chambers, grand daughter in-law, Sarah Turnipseed and many nieces and nephews.

He is welcomed into heaven by his wife, Delores, grandson, Jason Turnipseed; his parents, W. Lester and Olive, sisters, Opal (Frank), Beulah (Hollis) and Helen (Cal) brothers in-law and sisters-in-law, Dwight and Dorothy Van Fleet, Roger and Sharon Clark, Larry and Donna Van Fleet, and Tell and Avis Hooverson.

Paul’s visitation will be Wednesday August 13, 2025 between the hours of 9:30am and 11am at Anderson Funeral Home. Located at 218 W. Hurlbut Ave, Belvidere, IL 61008. Funeral begins at 11am and burial to follow at Belvidere Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Northern IL hospice at 4751 Harrison Ave, Rockford, IL 61108 or Hope Hospice at 3501 W Algonquin Rd Suite 190 Rolling Meadows, IL 60008. The family would like to extend their appreciation to Rose and Irene, as well as caregivers, Veronica, Maria, Heather, Shawna, Socorro and Elbia, as well as the many who took their time to look out for Paul during his illness.

OBITUARIES

- Gary Conklin, 83, Belvidere, August 5  
Charlie “Joe” Davis, 80, Belvidere, July 28  
Michael Doyle, 76, Belvidere, July 31  
Ronald “Ronnie” Frederick, 55, Belvidere, July 30  
Marilyn Kemp Hanson, 97, Belvidere, July 31  
Elizabeth Harris, 94, Belvidere, July 29  
Noah Mullins, 82, Belvidere, August 4  
Martin Kulick, 76, Poplar Grove, August 5  
Joseph Waldspurger, 82, Belvidere, July 31

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor,

That is a great honest editorial. However, there are many young people educated in Belvidere that have gone onto great careers in other states. That would indicate that perhaps not enough effort was put into developing other jobs/industries to keep them in the community. It doesn't always have to be a huge plant. There was that crystal creating technology company by the Oasis. Were they encouraged to rebuild and stay in production? It could have been the nucleus of a new technology

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hub in Belvidere. But does that scare some people that fear their status or lower skill level will be challenged and there are already enough pressures on the cost of housing, or companies might fear that they would have to compete to get the best employees? There are a lot of perspectives and concerns by people who fear their Ox is going to be gored.

If St. Joe's had been kept going or turned into a state-run veteran's home, there would be a solid employer in the city with many job skill levels employed. And there would have been a return of federal and state taxes to the community and its re-circulation. The then Republican officials in office were determined that nothing would come back to Belvidere and maybe that included the well-educated that left the community. Who often only come back for the Boone County Fair. The success of the officials' legacy continues.

There are positive legacy results. Way back when, in an effort to protect farmland a requirement for 5 acre or larger lots was put in place that resulted in large homes on large lots being built and that established the upscale quality of new housing in the county that has been a draw to affluent residents. They all didn't get their wealth by winning the lottery, so they likely have good educations and skills. Maybe they don't fill out forms or answer questions. They might not even realize they are in Boone County.

**Bruce Jacobsen (past resident of Belvidere)**  
**Machesney Park, IL**

Dear Editor,

Just wanted to drop you a note to say I loved the two articles in this week's Journal. Very honest, fair, and so specific to the problems we face here. I hope I'll get to read more of your insights. There's a lot of social media sniping from side to side (memes and snark abound) but these types of articles convey an earnestness that I hope encourages people to engage with the issues we face here. Thanks for contributing to that.

**Michael Hart**

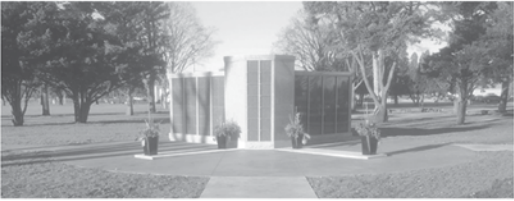
Strong editorials BAM  
**John Berry**

Editor,

I have lived in Boone County/Belvidere since 1994. One thing I have learned over the years is, the people and institutions are slow to embrace change. This starts in city government, and filters down to your next door neighbors. People are friendly, but if you don't share their beliefs, they will never be your friends.

Imagine my surprise, to see the Boone County

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Journal actually print the unvarnished truth, and darn the consequences. I am not suggesting this paper is normally not credible. In fact, compared to the Rockford Register Star, which is a clone of USA Today, the Boone county publication is one of the few sources of unbiased information still available to us in the Northern Illinois area. Do I agree with everything the paper says? No. But it's not their job to make me feel good about my insecurities, or biases. It's to inform and educate, not indoctrinate.

So, let's break down some of what the Journal said on July 31st. Belvidere and Boone County are being held hostage by Stellantis. Ownership changes, layoffs and plant closings have happened too frequently at the Belvidere plant. And our tax dollars have been squandered on these companies, in return for false promises. This is unfortunately true.

The City council is a rubber stamp for the mayor. Belvidere has home rule, and as a consequence, property tax increases are not limited to 4%, like under Illinois law. In 2023, under Mayor Morris, these taxes were raised 6.6%. They also have a 1% grocery tax. National median property tax rates are 1.02%. Belvidere's is 3.03%. My property is valued about the same as 20 years ago. But property taxes have doubled. This hurts your ability to sell your home, and decreases the value. So, I appreciate the editorials printed by the Journal in the last issue.

I absolutely agree our city could be doing more to diversify our manufacturing, and increase the tax base in Boone County. Stellantis is a foreign company. They do not have your best interests at heart. If you care about Boone County, hold those that represent you to a higher standard. And Mayor Morris--Start encouraging your board to challenge themselves, and not just be your rubber stamp. Belvidere, and Boone County, can do better.

**Glenn Harrington**

Editor,

I would like to comment on the editorial in the Journal dated July 31, 2025.

I think it was spot on and tells a story all the people of Belvidere needed to hear. I agree with all that was stated and hope the people of Belvidere will voice their opinions as well.

Belvidere needs to grow. We need more manufacturing and businesses that bring in workers, not just storage buildings. We need to have people wake up each morning and say I am glad I am a resident of Belvidere, where I can work, maybe raise a family and not be afraid of not having a job tomorrow. Come to the meetings. Say something before it is too late.

Respectfully,  
**John Albertini**  
Belvidere Alderman, Ward 1



**An Autumn Tradition**

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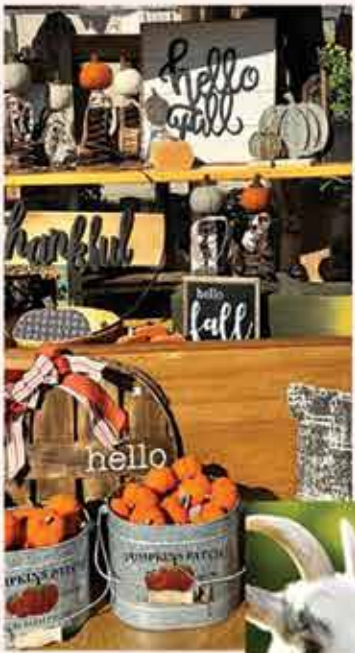
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# Autumn on Parade



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# Autumn on Parade



## Gene Shepard & Mike Schneider Fill the Fair With the Pleasure Of Live Music

By Emely Villarejo

It's hard to talk about the Boone County Fair without mentioning Gene Shepard, a local legend whose musical journey has been intertwined with the fair for well over four decades, and likely even longer.

"I probably played at the fair longer than 45 years," Gene says with a laugh. "I used to bring my accordion down with my dad, and we'd walk through the buildings playing music, just the two of us."

Gene's first performance at the fair dates back to 1957 at Spencer Park. Back then, he was just a child, carrying on the musical tradition his father had started. "He always wanted his kids to join in whenever they could," Gene recalls.

Over the years, that family tradition blossomed into a lifelong commitment. Gene and his wife even took over the fair's talent show for a time before stepping back to focus on their growing family. But the music never stopped.

His deep roots in Boone County and love for the community have kept him coming back year after year.

"Family, tradition... and I love the music," he says simply. "It's part of our being."

During the week of the fair, Gene performed alongside Mike Schneider, a professional

accordionist known for his energetic polka music. Mike travels throughout the Midwest and beyond, bringing polka to fairs, festivals, schools, and community events. As of 2025, his music is even featured by the Milwaukee Brewers with "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" and "Beer Barrel Polka" played during the seventh-inning stretch.

While Gene leans toward country, folk, and bluegrass, and Mike specializes in polka, the two have found a way to blend their distinct styles on stage.

"We just play," Gene says with a smile.

"We're trying to entertain and have fun, that's what it's all about."

For Gene, music is more than performance; it's a way of life. Over the years, he's been part of several musical groups, including a beloved church ensemble called Brotherhood Plus Two, which performed throughout the region, delivering both music and comedy in a style reminiscent of the Hee Haw television show.

His musical evolution reflects the times, from early Western music to folk music he always shared with family and friends. He proudly credits his wife, a talented singer, for much of the journey, joking: "She married me because I could play guitar and because I could spell."

Now 55 years into marriage, Gene still plays music and works the same family farm that has sustained generations before him. This year marks his 57th crop.

When asked what advice he'd give to young performers, Gene offers:

"Be flexible. Try all kinds of music. Music is a part of your brain and your being; once it's in you, it never leaves."

And the future?

"I'm just going to keep playing as long as I can."



Mike Schneider



## Racing

from page 1

to catch up with Tiffany (Jones) Wogsland and her 6-year-old son Sam, who was decked out in silks for the race!

Tiffany's great-grandfather, Jay, started the tradition. His son, Gordon, carried it on. The third generation, the recently deceased Bill Jones, raised and raced horses as well. Today, the tradition continues as Tiffany Wogsland and her brother Lance continue in the business. Hopes are high for Tiffany's sons, Jon (16), Josh (13), and Sam.

One of the thrills of horseracing is that one never knows which horse will win. After the 11th Race, the Buck and Lucy Weaver Memorial, I got the chance to catch up with well-respected driver Casey Leonard of Leonard Stables to ask him about his race on Loulita. Leonard has been racing horses since 2009 and frequently races at Hawthorne. Trained by Steven Searle, Loulita was, on paper, with 26 wins in 109 lifetime starts, the best horse in the race. Yet she finished last. Leonard explained that Loulita, who won her last two starts, made a bad step in the fourth turn. As Leonard said, even the best athletes have bad days. Horses are no exception.

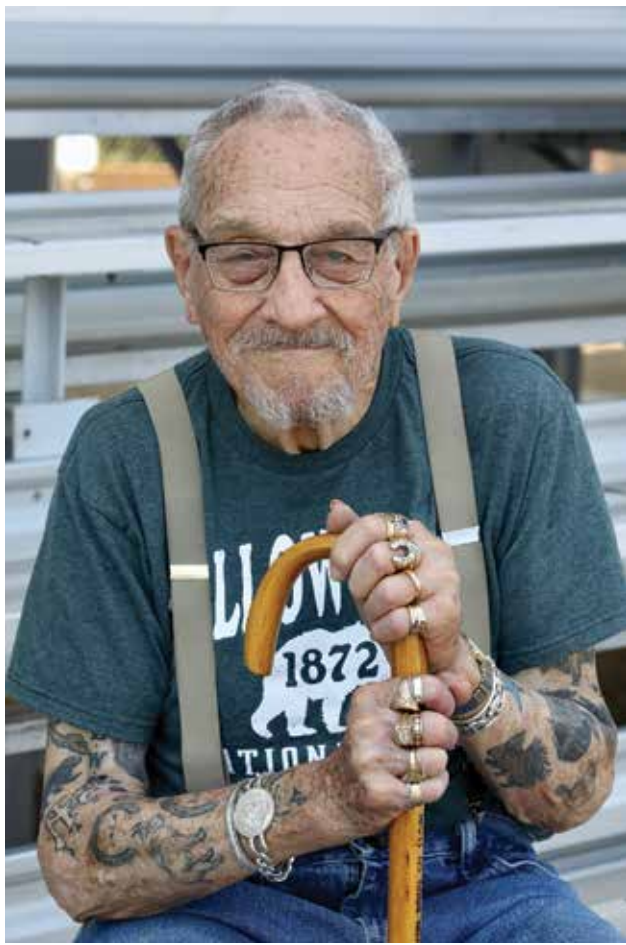
Plan to join us next year on August 4 as Belvidere will once again host excellent harness racing. It is certainly worth taking a long lunch or the afternoon off in order to attend. (But we do wish the fair would schedule an evening card so more people could enjoy this long-standing tradition.) Parking in the lot along McKinley Avenue facilitates a quick entry to the grandstand. Wonderful local vendors, such as the Boone County Fire Dist. 2, Cosmo Club, and 4-H have convenient stands with great-tasting, reasonably priced food on offer just behind the grandstand.



***Starter, Del Moldenhauer***



*Tiffany and Sam Wogsland*



*Wayne Moldenhauer*

# OP-ED

## Will America Be Great?

Leaving the grocery store the other day, I asked myself how people are feeding their families. Prices are double what they were when my own children were still at home. With a trunk full of groceries, I felt fortunate, thankful



When I was growing up, grocery shopping was like an activity for our family. Every Friday night my mother, father, and I would go to the neighborhood grocery store and shop for whatever we needed for the week. We took our paper grocery bags home and put everything away together. Then, we ate popcorn and drank Shasta soda while watching TV. Nobody worried about where their next meal was coming from.

People in our neighborhood pretty much had what they needed. The kids had sports, lessons, vacations, and plenty of food was a “given”. Dads worked good paying factory jobs. Many moms stayed home, to a point. Neighbors were friends and everyone got along.

Nobody said “Make America Great Again” and in some ways, it was already great. In some ways, it wasn’t. I am critically aware and jaded enough to know it was, and is, greater for me than for some. Our job, as fellow Americans, is to continue to try to fill the greatness gap for others through support, compassion, and creating opportunity. Herein lies the irony. Under the current administration, I believe America becomes less great daily.

Recently, there has been a nationwide plundering of food assistance programs, led by our current president. Locally, the pillaging occurred in the Illinois Eats/Farmers Rising program that distributes fresh, local produce to food banks. There was one last push to feed families using remaining funds this past summer, but in August the program, as it is now, will end, short of a miracle.

“Food banks, already grappling with rising needs, told Reuters they will now have less food to distribute after USDA made more than \$1 billion in federal funding cuts...” (Hunger in America is on the Rise as USDA Cuts Food Bank Funding, [www.equaljusticeinitiative.org](http://www.equaljusticeinitiative.org) 3-26-25).

I can't think of anything less great than depriving families in need of food assistance. Also not great, there have been cuts to medical coverage, critical vaccine research, and protection of our air and water quality. At a recent demonstration, I noticed that every sign addressed a different issue. I've been to demonstrations for over 40 years, and this was a first. This is clear evidence that we are facing fascism. It is a classic fascist tactic to

*Continued on page 7*



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Op-ED

from page 6

light fires everywhere and strip freedoms away while people are desperately trying to extinguish the last fire.

But, for now, let’s address this heinous issue of taking food out of the mouths of hungry people. There are currently two things we should do as human beings, unless we don’t mind being complicit in taking benefits from our fellow Americans. First, give as much monetary support as possible to local food banks. Second, become part of the current uprising and barrage legislators with phone calls, correspondence, and our presence at town hall meetings. Town Halls are drawing standing room only crowds across the country and people are angry.

Tell your Republican legislators that they will be voted out in the midterms unless they find the courage to break with the madness. Tell your Democratic legislators to keep pounding the podium and screaming in legislative sessions. Rise up, or we will lose the battle for this country. And look around. There is a battle taking place right in front of us, a battle for everything.

Paula Coulahan  
Rockford, IL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

I recently read your editorial on the state of Belvidere in the July 31st issue of the paper. I must commend you and your staff for being courageous and in my opinion, truthful. That is not to imply that it does not hurt, it does. But sometimes “tough love” is the only answer.

After reading your editorial I saw a piece on the PBS Newshour (yes, I am one of those) about Bowling Green, Kentucky. There are many similarities to Belvidere except the Corvette plant is thriving. The offsetting priorities of the businesses, the “urbanites” and the farmers and dairy people in the area are common to both locations.

The gentleman that was interviewed holds some political authority for the area. He was lamenting that town hall meetings were not productive and the public at large felt disenfranchised. My words, not his.

He then engaged with Jigsaw Corporation, a Google Company to address the situation. It was not clear as to who reached out first, Jigsaw or Bowling Green. However, they were able to establish a non-threatening dialogue among all the interested parties, or to use today’s jargon. Stakeholders. The result was a set of common goals to use as a baseline going forward.

I will not pretend to understand the dynamics involved in doing something similar for Belvidere. However, I thought reaching out to you might be a good first step.


Regards,  
Greg Stumpo

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Northern Illinois University  
8500 E. State St. Rockford, IL 61108 Room: 200  
Thursday, August 14th, 2025 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM  
CONTACT Araiza@reactivate.com  
REGISTRATION: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_GA7RYSNPTpmGC0r4NufFBQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GA7RYSNPTpmGC0r4NufFBQ)



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**NWS** from page 10  
sure these positions will remain permanent and not be subject to any future cuts.

“For months, Congressman Flood and I have been fighting to get NOAA and NWS employees the support they need in the face of cuts to staff and funding,” said Congressman Sorensen. “Hundreds of unfilled positions have caused NWS offices across the country to cancel weather balloon launches, forgo overnight staffing, and force remaining meteorologists to overwork themselves. While I welcome this overdue news to hire more meteorologists, we need to pass our bipartisan bill to ensure these new hires are permanent and protected from any future cuts.”

“For decades the National Weather Service has helped keep our communities safe with accurate and timely forecasts,” said Congressman Flood. “This announcement from the administration sends a message that they’re focused on strengthening the NWS for years to come. I applaud the decision and will continue to work to support the agency’s critical work.”

Earlier this year, Congressmen Sorensen and Flood introduced their bipartisan Weather Workforce Improvement Act, which would allow NWS to quickly and full staff their offices with meteorologists, general physical scientists, hydrologists, computer specialists, and electronic technicians in the immediate future. The bill would ensure these NWS employees are appropriately and accurately recognized for their important public safety role and protect them from any future cuts.

*Editor’s Note: The Journal relied on climatic data from the National Weather Service to prepare another story in this issue. We appreciate the efforts of Congressmen Sorensen and Flood on behalf of the NWS.*

## Illinois Joins Suit Against Trump Administration Orders Limiting Gender-Affirming Care

*Raoul declines to give guidance to Illinois hospitals that have fallen in line with federal guidelines*

By Ben Szalinski Capitol News Illinois

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul is joining a multi-state lawsuit seeking to block the Trump administration from limiting gender-affirm-

ing care.  
The lawsuit, filed in Massachusetts district court by 17 states, argues an executive order signed in January by President Donald Trump that directs federal agencies to take “appropriate steps to ensure that institutions receiving federal research and education grants end the chemical and surgical mutilation of children” violates states’ 10th Amendment right to regulate medical care.  
The order defines “children” as people under age 19, which the attorneys general say conflicts with many states such as Illinois, where people are generally considered adults when they turn 18. A separate executive order by the president established that the federal government only recognizes two genders.  
It also seeks to block two Department of Justice orders that direct the DOJ to investigate and enforce legal action against doctors, hospitals and other medical professionals that provide gender-affirming care to youths.  
The orders use “cruel, demeaning language” to “undermine the legitimacy” of medical care, California Attorney General Rob Bonta said at a news conference Friday.  
“This administration is driving a wedge between patients and health care providers from providing patients the health care that they need,” Raoul said.  
Also troubling to the attorneys general is the prospect of criminal prosecution against doctors who provide care.  
“The Department of Justice is diverting valuable law enforcement resources away from catching criminals and predators who are actually harming children,” Raoul said. “How does any of this keep our children or our communities safer?”  
**Guidance to Illinois doctors**  
The orders have also caused Illinois health care

administration’s policies and believes they are illegal, he declined to give legal advice about whether Illinois health care providers should continue following the federal directives while the lawsuit proceeds.  
“I am not a health care administrator; I am not the head of a hospital that’s being threatened with potential criminal investigation or prosecution or removal of funding that goes toward saving the lives of various patients,” Raoul said. “And so I am not in the position of either advising what administrative decisions should be made at hospitals.”  
Raoul said his role is to “remove” legal threats against the state and its residents.  
Medical providers that decide to stop providing gender-affirming care are likely not guilty of discrimination under Illinois law, Raoul said, “particularly if the federal government is threatening you with criminal prosecution.” He added Illinois laws don’t require doctors to provide a full range of gender-affirming care.  
Illinois has numerous laws on the books establishing legal gender-affirming care, including protections for Illinois health care providers from prosecution and other disciplinary action in other states for giving legal health care to patients in Illinois that might be considered illegal in another state.  
*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.*

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