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## Nothing Seen In These Photographs Still Exists

David Larson

Is the title of this story true—or not? The buildings were razed, the horses died, as did the people in the image. The wagons fell into disrepair and disuse a century ago. All that remains is the soil that is now hard packed beneath concrete streets covered with asphalt.

As far as today's world is concerned, this image might have never existed, but for a photographic reminder. The ethereal aspect of photography can be curious. Social critic Susan Sontag claimed in her *Essay on Photography*, that photographs “now provide most of the knowledge people have about the look of the past and the reach of the present.” A photograph is a primary source in academic historical research.

Both Pictures represent what Belvidere once was about in the later 19th Century. We view them as quaint – whatever that means – abstractly or psychologically. That world has defined Belvidere more so than murals, improved streets or anything else. It is an environment that, in that time, defined who we are: our character.

Look around Downtown Belvidere and see for yourself. More than a century has passed since the John Plane Hardware Store disappeared from Downtown Belvidere. No one living in Belvidere today bought 10-penny nails or a coal-burning stove from that store. Yet, the John Plane Hardware Store was one of the earliest and most influential retail businesses in Downtown Belvidere. Interestingly John Plane's decedents still live in Belvidere.

The Sabin and Sykes Dry Goods Store also disappeared into the dusty pages of time. No one in Belvidere remembers going with their grandmother to Sabin and Sykes to buy needles, thread, or colorful yarn. All of those items, along with bolts of cotton, wool, and the finest silk fabrics were found there. They delighted even the most judgmental feminine eye when it came to designing and constructing a suit of clothes—or even a colorful sash or wrap to accent a gown.

The garments, the stores, the carriages, the horse, the men and the women, along with the veritable buildings have all now disappeared. The site where John Plane's Hardware Store and Sabin and Sykes Dry Goods Store were located has long been razed and replaced by what is now the site of the now the Midland States Bank.



### Hot Bread Delivered on a Sub-Zero Morning

Just imagine, the sun is rising and the thermometer outside the kitchen window registers somewhere north of zero degrees and all you can think is, “Wouldn't it be great if someone would deliver some piping-hot rolls and bread on such a day?” Having such a wish is easy to imagine, but what is harder to conceive is, “Who will deliver it?”

In late 1800s Belvidere, there was the Bowley Family and their business, “Belvidere City Bakery.” In the photograph above, H.F. Bowley, is running the reins and the horse that pulled the Belvidere City Bakery wagon. H. F. Bowley was willing and able to manage any weather to deliver the goods. For some, it might be hard to imagine that a century or more ago there was a wider  
*continued on page 4*

# Lawmakers Advance Pritzker's Cell Phone Ban, Social Media Regulations

*Bill expanding 4-year degrees at community colleges progresses after facing opposition last year*

**Ben Szalinski, & Brenden Moore**  
*Capitol News Illinois*

House committees advanced portions of Gov. JB Pritzker's legislative agenda on Wednesday, though in many cases lawmakers conceded they'd need to amend their bills to gain broader support.

The House was working ahead of a Friday deadline for passing bills out of committee, an early test for Pritzker's and other policy proposals, many of which have stagnated for multiple years.

One such measure would place new regulations on social media companies. But like many other bills advanced by House committees this week, the bill is expected to see more changes before being considered for a full vote.

House Bill 5511, the Children's Social Media Safety Act, would require social media companies to confirm a user's age through the device's operating system, prohibit companies from sending nighttime notifications to users under 18, establish default privacy settings protecting a minor user's location data and profile information, and allow more parental controls.

Supporters say the ultimate goal is to prevent children from consuming an addictive social media feed — and its advancement came the same day a New Mexico jury found that Meta, Facebook's parent company, knowingly harmed children's health. The company was fined \$375 million.

In Illinois, the bill passed a House judiciary committee Wednesday on a partisan 13-7 vote.

"We've been a little bit too late to the game to talk seriously about how do we protect children's mental health and children's safety online," said bill sponsor Rep. Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz, D-Glenview. "These conversations I think have been taking place in every household in America."

### Cell phone ban

A House education committee unanimously approved the latest version of a bill that would require school boards to prohibit public school students from using their cellphones in the classroom.

As amended, Senate Bill 2427 would require Illinois school districts to adopt policies by the 2027-2028 school year banning the use of wireless communication devices like cellphones, tablets, laptops and gaming devices during school time.

The prohibition would be bell-to-bell for elementary and middle school students, but the legislation leaves discretion for school districts to allow high school students to use their devices during lunch and passing periods.

The bill also includes carve-outs for students with medical needs, who are caregivers for family members, and who need those phone for English translation services. School officials can also permit device use if it's for educational purposes.

"We know, as we've discussed many times, that the use of cell phones is causing a great distraction," said state Rep. Michelle Mussman, D-Schaumburg, the bill's sponsor. "It's an academic distraction, it adds to student anxiety, it contributes to bullying, and we really believe that all the research is indicating that students are much better off and more well focused and balanced when they have time away from their cellphones."

School cellphone bans have become a rare area of bipartisan agreement in recent years, with more than 30 states banning or limiting their use.

Pritzker called for the policy change in Illinois during his 2025 State of the State address. A version of the legislation passed unanimously out of the Illinois Senate last April but wasn't called in the House.

Many school districts already have cellphone bans on the books. These districts would be able to keep their existing policy through 2030-2031 school year, after which they would have to adopt a policy conforming with the state's requirements.

### Four-year degrees

The House Executive Committee unanimously OK'd an amended version of legislation authorizing Illinois community colleges to offer four-year bachelor's degree programs in high-demand fields — another Pritzker initiative.

House Bill 5319, sponsored by state Rep. Tracy Katz Muhl, D-Northbrook, would allow community colleges to offer bachelor's degree programs in select areas, provided the school's board of trustees can demonstrate the program would help fill an "unmet workforce need" in the area the school serves, and that the school has sufficient resources, expertise and student interest to sustain the program.

Tuition and fees per credit hour for the third and fourth years would not be allowed to exceed 150% of the tuition and fees of lower-division course work.

The goal of the legislation is to make programs more affordable and accessible while addressing local workforce needs.

The measure, also a top legislative priority of Pritzker's last session, stalled in May amid opposition from the state's four-year universities, which feared that the new programs might undercut similar programs they offer.

Under the amended bill, community colleges would have to first collaborate with four-year institutions to determine if a partnership can address the workforce need. It also contains provisions meant to avoid the creation of duplicative programs.

Katz Muhl told the committee that she won't run the bill until she's certain everyone's on the same page. But, she doesn't anticipate any additional changes.

### Abortion fund

The House Human Services Committee voted 8-4 to advance legislation that would create a state grant program to pay for abortions for uninsured and underinsured women.


The Affordable Care Act requires insurers that cover abortions beyond the limited circumstances allowed by the federal government under the Hyde Amendment to collect at least \$1 per person per month. These funds can only be used to cover abortions, which has resulted in many insurance companies accumulating large sums they can't fully use.

Under House Bill 5408, sponsored by state Rep. Anna Moeller, D-Elgin, insurance companies offering plans on the state's exchange would have to annually report to the Illinois Department of Insurance how much money is in these separate accounts, how much they spent during the year

*continued on page 3*



Ronald Austin, 79, of Belvidere, March 22  
Isidra Dominguez, 83, Poplar Grove, March 26  
Marie Krueger, 101, Marengo, March 23  
Deborah Pete, 69, Belvidere, March 28



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David Grimm April 1938 - Dec. 2000  
Richelle Kingsbury Aug. 1955 - June 2013

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# OP-ED

## No to a One Party System

Bob Evans Rockford University

In a recent editorial, the *Chicago Tribune* lamented what it considered to be a very unfortunate development. It observed that “Illinois Republicans aren’t just losing. They’re disappearing.” Currently, Illinois Republicans do not hold a single statewide office. Democrats currently hold a veto proof majority in the state legislature; although the governor is, of course, a Democrat himself. The *Tribune* further noted that a mere 560,000 souls bothered to vote Republican for governor in the March primary. Although turnout rises and falls, of course, there are currently 5.4 million registered voters in the Land of Lincoln. “Disappearing” indeed.

Now one may prefer Republicans or one may prefer Democrats. Either preference is perfectly legitimate. One should not, however, prefer one party rule. How would you like to be a Republican in California? How would you like to be a Democrat in Texas? Neither choice is particularly palatable under present political conditions.

Our American government textbooks uniformly endorse and extol the manifold virtues of political parties. Parties promote active involvement in public activities. They recruit and develop the talents of civically minded citizens. They assist, nay direct, the process of transforming mere opinion into beneficial public policy. Crucially in our current environment, they moderate and reconcile diverse and divisive popular sentiment. The textbook lists of virtues are extensive.

Some scholars advocate for two parties. Others prefer multi party systems. No one, however, advocates a one party system. Such a system robs parties of virtually all their many virtues.

So get to work Illinois Republicans, Texas Democrats, California Republicans. You owe the rest of us your best constructive efforts.



## Bills from page 2

and remit 90% of remaining funds to a state-controlled abortion access fund.

California and Maryland have passed similar legislation. The bill is an initiative of Pritzker’s office.

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## Junk Fees, Child Torture, Tipped Wage Proposals Among Bills To Clear Committee

*More than 150 measures have moved thus far as House deadline approaches*

Jenna Schweikert, Ben Szalinski,  
Peter Hancock & Jerry Nowicki  
*Capitol News Illinois*

The Illinois House passed more than 150 bills out of committee from Tuesday to Wednesday as it worked toward a Friday deadline to move legislation to the full House.

The measures included a ban on junk fees, classification of “child torture” as a Class X felony, a retry at a nonprofit savings bill the governor recently vetoed, and a bill to strip Chicago’s authority to alter the minimum wage for workers who make tips.

All of the measures passed this week are still a long way from final passage, requiring approval from both chambers and the governor to become law.

### Tipped minimum wage

Lawmakers considered a bill that would end Chicago’s tipped minimum wage ordinance,

ultimately passing it in committee despite opposition from some Democrats. House Bill 4623 would give the state exclusive regulatory power over allowance for tips as part of hourly wages, ending home rule authority on that issue.

The bill would overturn a 2023 Chicago ordinance that would gradually phase out the city’s “tipped minimum wage,” which allows employers to pay tipped workers an amount lower than the standard minimum wage if the rest is made up in tips.

The city council, however, recently passed an ordinance pausing this year’s scheduled increase. But on Wednesday, Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson vetoed that measure.

When Illinois passed its current minimum wage law in 2019, it maintained a provision that allowed employers to pay tipped workers 60% of the minimum wage, which is currently \$15 hourly. The restaurant industry

lobbied for limiting home rule authority during the passage of the 2019 law, to no avail.

Bill sponsor Rep. Curtis Tarver, D-Chicago, said he brought the bill to keep tipped minimum wage laws uniform statewide. His bill does not prevent municipalities from having higher minimum wages than the state.

“Having 200-plus home rule municipalities, it doesn’t make a ton of sense for somebody to get the home rule and have one set of goals and then to cross over to another municipality” with other rules, Tarver said.

Proponents of the bill limiting home rule authority argued that the tipped minimum wage helps keep costs down. Eliminating it could lead to restaurant closures across Chicago, they said. Opponents generally argued that the legislature shouldn’t encroach on home rule powers, and tipped workers in Chicago deserve the raise.

The bill passed 22-4, with four Democrats from the Chicago area voting in opposition.

### Junk fees

The House Consumer Protection Committee passed a bill to ban ‘junk fees,’ or hidden charges that are placed on bills but not otherwise posted or advertised.

*continued on page 4*

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## Other Bills

from page 3

House Bill 228 would make it a violation of the existing Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act for a company to post a price that does not include all mandatory fees and surcharges. It also mandates that prices and fees must be clearly disclosed prior to checkout.

This is the third time the committee has considered a bill to ban junk fees, but none have become law.

“At a time when working people are already struggling with rising costs, hidden fees that appear at checkout make it even harder to budget and compare prices,” Economic Security Illinois Action said in a statement. “Banning hidden junk fees and requiring companies to show the full price upfront is a simple, commonsense reform that will bring fairness to our marketplace and protect working families from corporate greed.”

### Child torture offense

A House criminal judiciary committee passed House Bill 5562 unanimously on Tuesday, which would create the offense of child torture in state law.

Rep. Michelle Mussman, D-Schaumburg, who sponsored the bill, said it was inspired by a 2019 American Bar Association resolution calling on states to define child torture in their laws. The bill would apply to cases of physical and emotional abuse that “create, increase or prolong the pain, suffering and agony of a child.” The offense would be charged as a Class X felony — the most serious in Illinois.

Mussman said the bill is important because torture “may not necessarily manifest as physical abuse that results in great bodily harm but still has a tremendous impact on a child’s physical, mental and emotional health.”

Some Democrats said they were concerned the bill was too broad and encouraged Mussman to craft an amendment outlining more specific cases that would be considered torture.

“Child torture is wrong and terrible and we have a responsibility I think to be very cautious about when we create new Class X felonies because of the severity of that sentence that the conduct that could be sentenced to a Class X should be the most egregious conduct that there is,” Rep. Will Guzzardi, D-Chicago, said.

### Nonprofit investment fund

A bill that would allow the state treasurer to establish a special investment fund for Illinois nonprofit corporations advanced in both chambers of the General Assembly on Wednesday.

The proposal is a revised version of one state Treasurer Michael Frerichs pushed in 2025. It would operate much like Illinois Funds, the pooled investment fund the treasurer’s office operates for state agencies and municipalities.

“This investment pool will allow our nonprofits to invest their money in a fund that will generate substantial interest and have a meaningful impact on their operations,” Frerichs told a Senate committee.

Gov. JB Pritzker vetoed the bill last year, saying

it could have the unintended consequence of benefitting fringe and extremist organizations that organize as nonprofits.

The revised bill would limit the types of organizations that could qualify to participate in the investment pool to include Medicaid-certified health care providers, organizations previously certified to receive state grants, federally registered labor organizations and organizations whose missions fall within specified categories such as neighborhood development, affordable housing or services for military veterans.

It would also exclude organizations that are on certain suspension, debarment or stop payment lists for the state or federal government.

The new language is included in two identical bills, House Bill 5045 and Senate Bill 2968. Both bills await final action by the full chambers.

### Unemployment benefits

School employees who get summers off would be eligible for unemployment benefits under a bill approved by the House Labor Committee on Wednesday. House Bill 4416 would allow school district employees like bus drivers, custodians and cafeteria workers to collect benefits in the summer if they are unemployed and cannot find other work.

Illinois AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Pat Devaney said the bill is a matter of fairness as private contractors hired by school districts are eligible for benefits. The bill passed 18-10, with Republicans voicing concerns it would be a significant cost to districts. Devaney estimated it would cost less than \$200 million annually.

### Jury duty pay

House Bill 4844, which would require employers to pay employees their regular rate of pay when they are selected for jury duty, passed 13-7 out of a judiciary committee.

Bill sponsor Rep. Jay Hoffman, D-Swansea, said jurors can face financial challenges if they’re selected for a case that lasts several weeks, adding he hopes the legislation would make it more affordable for people to serve on a jury.

But Republicans voiced concerns the bill would be burden for businesses because they have to pay an employee who isn’t showing up to work.

### Rate increase hearings

House Bill 4514 would require the Illinois Commerce Commission to offer hearings specifically to collect public feedback whenever it holds utility rate increase hearings. It passed 11-6.

The bill comes after a series of controversial rate increase requests from Illinois’ public utility companies.

Currently, the public is allowed to testify at ICC rate increase hearings but are limited to three minutes of testimony and cannot submit written statements. Residents would be allowed to testify and submit statements to the record during the newly required hearings.

*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.*

## Photograph

from page 1

range of personal services available than there are today.

The Bowley family is a founding family of the city, with members who still live here. Many towns across the nation have similar families that have remained, and, in some cases, their primary business has also remained.

Many today claim that our economy is primarily a service economy, with an ever-expanding catalogue of services. It seems with every passing day, yet another new service appears and is consumed by customers. The photograph above attests to the fact that the Belvidere City Bakery employed a man and a horse to travel a circuit selling bakery goods to those that did not or could not come to their bakery at South State Street and Logan Avenue. The effort to serve people at home was not solely confined to the Bowley Family and the Belvidere City Bakery.

Prescriptions were often delivered to the elderly or the infirm. Druggists would blend the prescribed potions by hand, place the drug inside a bottle, and have someone deliver the medicine to the door of the person in need.

Milkmen delivered bottled milk up until the late 1950s until that service disappeared. In addition to milk, dairies would also deliver a wide range of dairy products.

Grocery and liquor stores once delivered to homes, but those days disappeared after World War II, when everyone had one or two cars in their garage or on the street. Doctors once made “house calls.” If people are ill today, they don’t summon a doctor; they go to a hospital emergency room—or they stand in line at an immediate care clinic.

Much has changed in the past 50, 75, and certainly 100 years. Nothing shown in these photographs exists today, some might ask, “Did it ever really exist?” Sometimes it seems the norms of today are at odds with the evidence.

Many elements of our everyday existence are temporal and limited to our momentary perceptions, making the moment a fleeting element of time. A brick-and-concrete landmark can disappear within almost a twinkling of an eye.

Though the buildings and wagons and people have gone away, the photograph remains a sufficient marker to affirm that this scene once existed.

Perhaps that understanding could have been enhanced if those buildings had survived Belvidere’s planning whims, weak aspirations, and the investment of later owners.

Does the something still exist or doesn’t it?

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# Raw Milk Proponents Push for Fewer Restrictions on Illinois Sales Despite State Health Warnings

*As federal support wavers, Illinois farmers and lawmakers face hurdles with their agenda*

By Olivia Ardito Medill Illinois News Bureau

With the ascension of Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to U.S. Health and Human Services secretary and allies in the Make America Healthy Again movement, raw milk advocates have cheered on newfound support at the federal level. These developments, they hoped, could set the stage for more widespread sales of the controversial beverage.



*Cows on the Little Brown Cow Dairy farm in Delavan IL. (Provided by Terry Hoerbert, Little Brown Cow Dairy)*

However, a turnaround is not likely in the cards in Illinois, as the state's Department of Public Health still heavily regulates and warns against the product and a bill to loosen that regulation has received little to no support in the General Assembly.

At the same time, Kennedy has scaled back his once-vociferous support for raw milk. Instead, he has since seemed to focus on promoting whole milk instead of raw milk. The USDA created an advertising campaign based around the hashtag "#DrinkWholeMilk."

Because raw milk has not been heated or pasteurized to remove illness-causing organisms, Illinois imposes strict limitations on its sale to protect public health. Raw milk can only be purchased directly at state-regulated farms and cannot be sold at a grocery store.

Matt and Jenna Kilgus, of Kilgus Farms in Fairbury, began selling raw milk around the start of the COVID-19 pandemic when business was unpredictable. At first, the farm, located 70 miles east of Peoria, sold 30 to 40 gallons of raw milk a week. Now, they sell more than 800 gallons a week.

"It's really started growing over the last five years," Matt Kilgus said. "It's just been a steady increase."

### State regulation, legislation

Further growth, however, will not be easy.

State Sen. Jil Tracy, R-Quincy, is trying to change that – though even she concedes that her bill, which has no cosponsors, is unlikely to advance.

Tracy's Senate Bill 2702 aims to expand the market for raw milk and allow sales at, for example, a farmers' market. It hasn't been assigned to a committee since she introduced it in October. Previous efforts to deregulate raw milk have also drawn little support in past General Assemblies.

Tracy said she sought the regulatory changes after speaking with a farmer in her district who was struggling with the restrictions placed on selling raw milk. Tracy said she is aware of the health concerns around raw milk but believes it can be sold safely in Illinois, comparing its risk to

*continued on page 8*

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THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

**LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, Plaintiff,**  
-v.-  
**2025FC19**

**JEREMY OWEN; WANDA OWEN A/K/A W OWEN, Defendants.**  
**11669 RUSSELLVILLE ROAD, BELVIDERE, IL 61008**

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Part of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 4, Township 44 North, Range 4 East of the Third Principal Meridian, bounded and described as follows, to -wit: Beginning at the Northwest corner of the South 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of said Section; thence North 89 degrees 56 minutes 29 seconds East along the North line of the South 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of said Section, 328.34 feet; thence South 00 degrees 7 minutes 23 seconds East, parallel with the West line of the Northwest 1/4 of said Section 398 feet; thence South 89 degrees 56 minutes 29 seconds West, parallel with the North line of the South 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of said Section 328.34 feet to the West line of the Northwest 1/4 of said Section; thence North 00 degrees 7 minutes 23 seconds West along the West line of the Northwest 1/4 of said Section, 398 feet to the point of beginning, subject to the rights of the public and State of Illinois in and to those portions thereof taken, used or dedicated for public road purposes; situated in the County of Boone and the State of Illinois.

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## LOSS OF PROPERTY

Redemption can be made at any time on or before 7/22/2026 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Belvidere, Illinois.

For further information contact the County Clerk.

Boone County Clerk  
1212 Logan Ave., Suite 103  
Belvidere, IL 61008  
(815) 544-3103  
INTERSTATE FUNDING CORP.  
PURCHASER or ASSIGNEE

Dated: 2/20/2026

Published in The Boone County Journal March 31, April 7, 14

**HEIDI SROGA, AS R/A FOR CANDLEWICK LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC., ELIZABETH RENNER, KATHLEEN RENNER A/K/A KATHLEEN CALERO, DANIEL RENNER, OCCUPANT, JORGE CALERO A/K/A JORGE SALAZAR, JULIA RENNER, CANDLEWICK LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC., DAVID LOPEZ QUIROZ, PARTIES IN OCCUPANCY OR ACTUAL POSSESSION OF SAID PROPERTY; UNKNOWN OWNERS OR PERSONS INTERESTED IN SAID LAND OR LOT.**

**BOONE COUNTY CLERK**

**TAX DEED NO. 2026TX3 FILED 2/11/2026**

### TAKE NOTICE

County of Boone, State of Illinois

Date Premises Sold 10/26/2023

Certificate No. 2022-00065

Sold for General Taxes of (year) 2022

Sold for Special Assessment of N/A (municipality) and Special

Assessment Number N/A

Warrant No. \_\_\_\_\_ N/A

Inst. No. \_\_\_\_\_ N/A

**THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES**

Property located at 1909 CANDLEWICK DR. SW, POPLAR GROVE, IL

Legal Description or Property Index No. 03-27-401-006

This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 7/22/2026.

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

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 7/22/2026.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Belvidere, Illinois, on 8/25/2026 in the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. MAIN ST. BELVIDERE, IL 61008, Courtroom 3 at 9:00 A.M. VIA ZOOM [www.Zoom.us/join](http://www.Zoom.us/join) MEETING ID #96397918024.

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

**YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT**

### LOSS OF PROPERTY

Redemption can be made at any time on or before 7/22/2026 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Belvidere, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. Boone County Clerk 1212 Logan Ave., Suite 103,

Belvidere, IL 61008 (815) 544-3103

INTERSTATE FUNDING CORP.

PURCHASER or ASSIGNEE

Dated: 2/20/2026

Published in The Boone County Journal March 31, April 7, 14

**TO: STATE OF ILLINOIS, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, LIEN UNIT, SAMANTHA SILVESTRI, JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, S/I TO WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FA, UNITED STATES DISTRICT ATTORNEY, UNITED STATES ATTORNEY GENERAL, ROBERT WISNIEWSKI, ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL, OCCUPANT, DISTRICT DIRECTOR-I.R.S., CHERYL SILVESTRI, PARTIES IN OCCUPANCY OR ACTUAL POSSESSION OF SAID PROPERTY; UNKNOWN OWNERS OR PERSONS INTERESTED IN SAID LAND OR LOT.**

**BOONE COUNTY CLERK**

**TAX DEED NO. 2026TX4 FILED 2/11/2026**

### TAKE NOTICE

County of Boone, State of Illinois Date Premises Sold

10/26/2023

Certificate No. 2022-00222

Sold for General Taxes of (year) 2022

Sold for Special Assessment of N/A

(municipality) and Special Assessment Number N/A

Warrant No. \_\_\_\_\_ N/A

Inst. No. \_\_\_\_\_ N/A

**THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES**

Property located at 1811 BRIDGEWATER DR., BELVIDERE, IL

Legal Description or Property Index No. 06-30-353-012

This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 7/22/2026.

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

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 7/22/2026.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Belvidere, Illinois, on 8/25/2026 in the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. MAIN ST. BELVIDERE, IL 61008, Courtroom 3 at 9:00 A.M. VIA

ZOOM [www.Zoom.us/join](http://www.Zoom.us/join) MEETING ID #96397918024.

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

**YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT**

### LOSS OF PROPERTY

Redemption can be made at any time on or before 7/22/2026 by applying to the County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Belvidere, Illinois.

For further information contact the County Clerk.

Boone County Clerk  
1212 Logan Ave., Suite 103  
Belvidere, IL 61008  
(815) 544-3103

INTERSTATE FUNDING CORP.

PURCHASER or ASSIGNEE

Dated: 2/20/2026

Published in The Boone County Journal March 31, April 7, 14

## STATE OF ILLINOIS

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

**In the Matter of: JOHN ROBERT DANIS, Decedent**  
**2026-PR-11**

### CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given of the death of JOHN ROBERT DANIS, who died on January 10, 2026. Letters of Office were issued on March 16, 2026, to Stephen D. Lundgren, of 1628 Hidden Creek Lane, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, who is the Executor of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Douglas R. Henry, of Barrick, Switzer, Long, Balsley & Van Evera, LLP, 6833 Stalter Drive, Rockford, Illinois 61108.

Claims against the Estate may be filed on or before September 30, 2026, 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, IL, or with the Estate Executor, or both.

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

Dated: March 26, 2026

/s/ Stephen D. Lundgren, Executor  
DOUGLAS R. HENRY - #6229426  
BARRICK, SWITZER, LONG,  
BALSLEY & VAN EVERA, LLP  
6833 Stalter Drive  
P.O. Box 17109  
Rockford, IL 61110-7109  
(815) 962-6611  
dhenry@bslbv.com

Published in The Boone County Journal March 31, April 7, 14, 2026

### LEGAL NOTICE

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

Village of Poplar Grove, Plaintiff

v. Case No. 2026-CH-2

Louis Tenore, Jr., Defendant

NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU: Louis Tenore, Jr.

That this case has been commenced in this Court, and you are an interested party in this matter. A COMPLAINT FOR SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE has been filed in this matter.

NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU file your appearance and responsive pleading in this case in Office of the Clerk of the Court, located at 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 on or before May 21, 2026, A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND THE COMPLAINT FOR SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE MAY BE GRANTED IN ABSENTIA.

Prepared by:

Aaron Szeto (#6284104)

Sosnowski Szeto, LLP

Attorney for Plaintiff

6735 Vistagreen Way, Suite 300

Rockford, IL 61107

Published in The Boone County Journal April 7, 14, 21, 2026

### NOTICE

Belvidere Community Unit School District #100 is seeking bids for Secure Entry Project Abatement Bid Pack #2A.

A pre bid contractor site walk through will be held at the project site on April 16th, 2026 at 10:00am. Project sites include Caledonia Elementary and Everest Satellite High School. Meet at Everest Satellite High School front entrance for the pre bid meeting.

All bids are due by April 23rd, 2026, 2:00 pm and a public bid opening will take place at 2:30 pm the same day at the Administrative Building, 1201 5th Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008. All vendors are welcome to attend the bid request opening.

All bids should be submitted through SECURE BIDS. Link to CUSD 100 website with SECURE BIDS <https://colbisecurebids.com/agency/bcusd100>.

Proposal specifications will be available through the SECURE BIDS website. If you have any questions please contact the District Office at 815-544-8616 or via email at [Purchasing@District100.com](mailto:Purchasing@District100.com).

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Holly Houk

Clerk

Board of Education

Published in The Boone County Journal on Tuesday April 7, 2026

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BOONE COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

Notice is hereby given that the Boone County Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the County Board Room, 1212 Logan Ave, Belvidere, IL 61008 upon the following petitions:

The applicants, Elvia Soriano and Emilio Diaz, are seeking a special use permit in the A-1 Agricultural Preservation District for an Assembly Hall, pursuant to section 2.7 Special Use and Section 3.16.1 (Table of Permitted Uses) of the Boone County Zoning Ordinance, in unincorporated Boone County, at 8410 Huber Road, PIN: 08-16-100-030 in unincorporated Spring Township, Boone County, IL.

The applicant, Nexamp Solar LLC. 101 N Wacker Drive Suite 200 Chicago, IL, is, is seeking a special use permit in the A-1 Agricultural Preservation District for a solar energy facility 1.0 MW or greater, pursuant to section 2.7 Special Use and Section 3.16.1 (Table of Permitted Uses) and Chapter 4 Design Criteria for Specific Uses 4.22 Solar Energy Systems Siting 4.2 of the Boone County Zoning Ordinance, in unincorporated Boone County, at 107xx Cemetery Road, PIN's: 04-11-400-002 & 04-11-400-018 in unincorporated Boone Township, Boone County, IL.

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

Rick Schultz, Chair, Boone County Zoning Board of Appeals  
Published in the Boone County Journal on Tuesday April 7, 2026.

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

601 NORTH MAIN STREET, BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS  
ESTATE OF Patricia A. Sanford, DECEASED. 26 PR 13

Notice is given to creditors of the death of the above named decedent. Letters of office were issued to Cindy K. Barr Reilley, 9298 Easton View Court, Rockford, Illinois 61107, as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is Timothy A. Rocap, Huck Bouma PC, 1755 South Naperville Road, Suite 200, Wheaton, Illinois 60189.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (Ill. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755, par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the clerk or with the representative, or both, on or before October 7, 2026, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

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>.

Timothy A. Rocap  
Huck Bouma P.C. (6302862)  
1755 South Naperville Road, Suite 200  
Wheaton, Illinois 60189  
(630)221-1755  
l3284908

Published in The Boone County Journal April 7, 14, 21, 2026 PNN

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

Wilmington Savings Fund Society FSB not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee on Behalf of CSMC 2018-RPL12 Trust, Plaintiff, Vs. 2026FC9

Michele L Walters, unknown owners and non-record claimants, Defendants.

**NOTICE BY PUBLICATION NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU: MICHELE L WALTERS**

**UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS**

That this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit:

LOT NINETY-NINE (99) AS DESIGNATED UPON THE FINAL PLAT OF SUBDIVISION OF FARMINGTON FIELDS EAST UNIT TWO, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE EAST HALF OF THE SOUTH-EAST QUARTER OF SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 4 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN IN BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AS RECORDED SEPTEMBER 27, 2006 AS DOCUMENT NO. 2006R10644 IN PLAT FILE ENVELOPE 358-A IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

COMMONLY KNOWN AS 1683 PARKSIDE DRIVE, BELVIDERE, IL 61008

PIN # 06-31-478-006

and which said Mortgage was made by:

JASON WALTERS AND MICHELE L WALTERS HUSBAND AND WIFE, the Mortgagor(s), to National City Mortgage a Division of National City Bank

as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of BOONE County, IL, as Document No. 2007R06031; and for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as provided by law and that the said suit is now pending.

NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Clerk of this Court, on or before May 7, 2026 A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGMENT MAY BE 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 [HYPERLINK "http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp"](http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp) [www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp](http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp).

Potestivo & Associates, P.C.  
223 W Jackson Blvd., Suite 610  
Chicago, IL 60606

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act you are advised that this law firm is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Our File No.: 321101  
l3284710

Published in The Boone County Journal April 7, 14, 21, 2026 PNN

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

**PUBLICATION NOTICE In The Interest of CHARLOTTE BORN, minor No. 24-JA-16 To: Nicholas Born, All Unknown Fathers, All Whom It May Concern ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

Take notice that on March 26th, 2026, a petition was filed under the JUVENILE COURT ACT by Attorney Tricia Smith, Boone County States Attorney, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, in the Circuit Court of Boone County entitled "In the Interest of CHARLOTTE BORN, a minor. At the Boone County Courthouse, located at 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, on May 14th, 2026 at 2:00 PM CDT, or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a hearing will be held upon the Petition to have the child declared to be a ward of the Court under that Act. THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS PROCEEDING TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH THE POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD. Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an Amended Petition or a Motion to Terminate Parental Rights. Unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the Petition, the allegations of the Petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an Order or Judgment entered.

Dated: March 30, 2026  
Pamela Coduto, CIRCUIT CLERK  
Published in The Boone County Journal: 4/7, 4/14, 4/21/26- C

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

**PUBLICATION NOTICE in The Interest of VIOLET BORN, minor No. 24-JA-15 To: Nicholas Born, All Unknown Fathers, All Whom It May Concern ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

Take notice that on March 26th, 2026, a petition was filed under the JUVENILE COURT ACT by Attorney Tricia Smith, Boone County States Attorney, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, in the Circuit Court of Boone County entitled "In the Interest of VIOLET BORN, a minor. At the Boone County Courthouse, located at 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, on May 14th, 2026 at 2:00 PM CDT, or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a hearing will be held upon the Petition to have the child declared to be a ward of the Court under that Act. THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS PROCEEDING TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH THE POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD. Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an Amended Petition or a Motion to Terminate Parental Rights. Unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the Petition, the allegations of the Petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an Order or Judgment entered.

Dated: March 30, 2026  
Pamela Coduto, CIRCUIT CLERK  
Published in The Boone County Journal: 4/7, 4/14, 4/21/26- C

**ASSUMED NAMES**

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

No. DBA 4272 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a INTERNET RETAIL business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of CARD MANIA that its location is or will be 1220 W. JACKSON ST IN BELVIDERE, in the County of Boone County, State of Illinois, and that the true or real name(s) of the person(s) owning, conducting, or transacting the same with the post office address or address of said person(s) is shown below.

Phone Number: 815-979-5386  
ROSEMARIE COLDIRON  
1220 W. JACKSON ST BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS 61008

I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk and Recorder of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: March 19, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk and Recorder of Boone County  
Published in Boone County Journal 03/24,31 04/07 P.

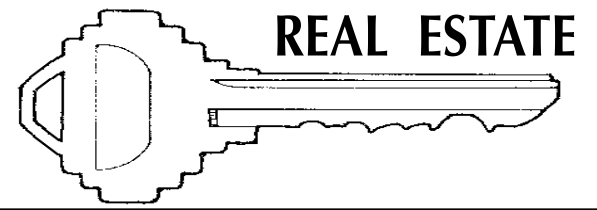
**STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE COUNTY ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION**

No. DBA 4273 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of LOGAN AVENUE MOBILE that its location is or will be 220 LOGAN AVE. in BELVIDERE, in the County of Boone County, State of Illinois, and that the true or real name(s) of the person(s) owning, conducting, or transacting the same with the post office address or address of said person(s) is shown below.

Phone Number: 815-547-5560  
TAMI JEAN TEMPLE  
10290 RUSSELLVILLE RD BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS 61008

I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk and Recorder of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: March 23, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk and Recorder of Boone County  
Published in Boone County Journal 03/24,31 04/07 P.



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

**LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, Plaintiff, -v- 2025FC19 JEREMY OWEN; WANDA OWEN A/K/A W OWEN, Defendants. 11669 RUSSELLVILLE ROAD, BELVIDERE, IL 61008**

NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 1/21/2026, an agent of Auction.com, LLC will conduct the Online Only auction at [www.auction.com](http://www.auction.com), with the bidding window opening on 4/20/2026 at 10:00 AM CDT and closing on April 22, 2026 at 10:00 AM subject to extension, and will sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate.

Commonly known as 11669 RUSSELLVILLE ROAD, BELVIDERE, IL 61008

Property Index No. 06-04-100-008

The real estate is improved with a Single Family Residence. The judgment amount was \$384,907.20 Sale Terms: Full Sale Terms are available on the property page at [www.auction.com](http://www.auction.com) by entering 11669 RUSSELLVILLE ROAD into the search bar. If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, the winning bidder must pay the full bid amount within twenty-four (24) hours of the auction's end. All payments must be certified funds. No third-party checks will be accepted. All bidders will need to register at [www.auction.com](http://www.auction.com) prior to placing a bid. 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)(l) 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. For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP (312) 346-9088 please refer to file number 23-16194IL. Auction.com, LLC 100 N LaSalle St., Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60602 - 872-225-4985 You can also visit [www.auction.com](http://www.auction.com). Attorney File No. 23-16194IL Case Number: 2025FC19 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.

l3283760

Published in The Boone County Journal Mar 24, 31; Apr 7, 2026 PNN



**Put 29 Years of Experience  
Publishing Legal Notices  
To Work for You.  
815-544-4430**

## Raw Milk

from page 5

that of other farm products like vegetables.

“There’s always risk in the food industry with hazards of illness, some kind of foodborne illness,” she said. “I certainly want every child or a person that would consume raw milk to be as safe as possible.”

The IDPH, echoing the findings of many other health advocates and organizations, warns that raw milk can be dangerous for consumers because it hasn’t been pasteurized. It has said there is no reason to believe, as some raw milk adherents do, that pasteurization decreases the nutritional value of milk.

Concerns about the safety of raw milk were amplified during a recent outbreak of *Campylobacter* infection in 66 people in Illinois that appeared to be connected to the consumption of raw milk. According to the Cleveland Clinic, symptoms of *Campylobacter* infection include diarrhea, stomach cramping, vomiting and fever. It can often be confused with food poisoning.

According to the USDA, raw milk consumption was linked to 3 deaths, 2,645 illnesses and 228 hospitalizations in the U.S. between 1998 and 2018.

In a recent news release, the director of the IDPH, Dr. Sameer Vohra, called pasteurization one of the greatest public health successes of the last century and encouraged people to think carefully before drinking raw milk. Vohra emphasized that young children, older people and individuals with chronic medical conditions should exercise extra caution.

Tracy said she doesn’t think her measure can pass without IDPH’s support.

### Advocacy efforts

Advocates and some farmers claim raw milk has health benefits despite what professional research says. Kennedy has stated that he only drinks raw milk.

Terry Hoerbert of Little Brown Cow Dairy, located in Delavan IL, said that she hears about the alleged benefits from some of her customers. She said some with dairy allergies have told her they can drink raw milk without any allergic reactions.

“It’s been very rewarding to hear all the people say that they can now drink milk that they couldn’t used to,” she said.

Despite Kennedy’s stated support for raw milk, the U.S Food and Drug Administration’s website still maintains a page debunking claims related to raw milk’s effects on allergies and lactose intolerance, and warning that it is more dangerous than pasteurized milk.

To sell raw milk, farmers must get permits from IDPH. After that, the department will collect and test raw milk samples for bacteria and other issues on a routine basis. Additionally, a department representative will come to the farm and do an on-site inspection. As of early 2026, the IDPH reported 19 farms in the state that were fully certified to sell raw dairy.

Kilgus remains convinced that raw milk can be sold safely in Illinois.

“With the raw milk, there is a risk, but there are some standards in place that help minimize those,” Kilgus said.

Hoerbert, meanwhile, says there’s a business incentive to deliver a safe product. “Not taking care of the milk, not taking care of the cows ... you’d be squandering your reputation,” she said. “Why would farmers want to do that?”

*Olivia Ardito is a graduate student in journalism with Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism, Media and Integrated Marketing Communications, and is a fellow in its Medill Illinois News Bureau working in partnership with Capitol News Illinois.*

*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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## Illinois House Committee Advances Bill Banning Immigration Detention Centers Near Homes, Schools

*The bill comes months after Broadview facility became focal point of Midway Blitz*

*Brenden Moore Capitol News Illinois*

An Illinois House committee on Wednesday advanced a bill that would prohibit the federal government from owning, leasing or operating an immigration detention center within 1,500 feet of any home, school, day care center, park, forest preserve, cemetery or place of worship.

The legislation, sponsored by House Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch, D-Hillside, moved to the House floor on an 8-3 vote, with all Democrats in favor and all Republicans opposed.

“This is not an abstract policy debate for me,” Welch told the committee. “This is personal and it is deeply local.”

Welch’s district includes Broadview, the west suburban village of about 8,000 that became a central point of conflict during Operation Midway Blitz last year.

Welch acknowledged, however, that the legislation is not retroactive, meaning it would apply to future facilities, but not the existing facility in Broadview or others currently owned or leased by the federal government.

The state is also extremely limited, however, in its ability to restrict the federal government from operating within its borders. And it is unclear whether the proposal, if passed and signed into law, would pass constitutional

muster. Generally, the federal government is exempt from local zoning restrictions.

The Trump Administration sued the state late last year a seeking to nullify a new state law that allows Illinois residents to sue federal immigration agents who arrest them in or near courthouses or if they believe their constitutional rights were violated. That case is ongoing.

### Broadview facility

Immigration and Customs Enforcement used a facility the agency owns and operates in the community to detain undocumented immigrants swept up in the aggressive immigration enforcement campaign that targeted the Chicago region.

Many detainees described inhumane conditions inside the facility, which had previously been used to quickly process and send them to their next destination. But, by the end of last year, a federal judge said it had “really become a prison,” with some detained there for as long as three weeks during the height of Midway Blitz.

Outside the facility, masked federal agents and protestors clashed repeatedly and often violently. The situation quickly overwhelmed the local police department, and Illinois State Police troopers and Cook County Sheriff’s deputies were called in to maintain order.

“This bill says something very simple and very reasonable: Detention facilities do not belong in the middle of our neighborhoods,” Welch said.

“It doesn’t just affect the people inside that building,” Welch said. “It affects every child walking to school, every senior looking out their window, and every family trying to live in peace. This bill is about public safety. It is about human dignity, and it is about drawing a clear line and saying that Illinois communities should not be forced to serve as staging grounds for fear and intimidation.”

Broadview Mayor Katrina Thompson told the committee that some residents live as close as 600 feet from the facility. And she estimated that the village has lost more than \$700,000 in direct and indirect costs associated with the facility, including a strain on public safety resources and economic disruption. She said the bill “recognizes that communities deserve a buffer, especially in areas where families live, learn, worship and gather.”

Illinois already bans privately-owned immigration detention centers. And under the Illinois Way Forward Act, local governments are prohibited from entering contracts with ICE to detain immigrants for the agency in county jails.

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