

To be notified of new issues online, register at [www.boonecountyjournal.com](http://www.boonecountyjournal.com)

## The Leland Hotel

*David Larson*

One can not help but notice the Leland Hotel mural and the new copper-capped turret on North State Street at the river in Downtown Belvidere. The Leland operated more than a hundred years ago. It was similar to the other hotels in Belvidere. Nearly destroyed by a tornado on March 31st, 2023, the building remains and is now improving as a unique architectural element in the center of Belvidere and Boone County.

The Leland Hotel was a place to get a room for the night, but some made it their permanent residence, usually older retired men. Located directly across from the Derthick Opera House (later the Apollo Theatre) it was a restaurant for after the show and a hotel for itinerant actors who appeared in the evening show at the Derthick. It also had liquor – legal or illegal – depending on prohibition laws.

*continued on page 4*



*The Leland Hotel*

## Illinois Extends Enrollment Deadline For Health Insurance Plans Beginning Feb. 1

*Expired federal subsidies cause significant price increases for millions of consumers*

*Jenna Schweikert    Capitol News Illinois*

Customers still shopping for health insurance coverage through Illinois' state-run marketplace now have more time to choose a plan.

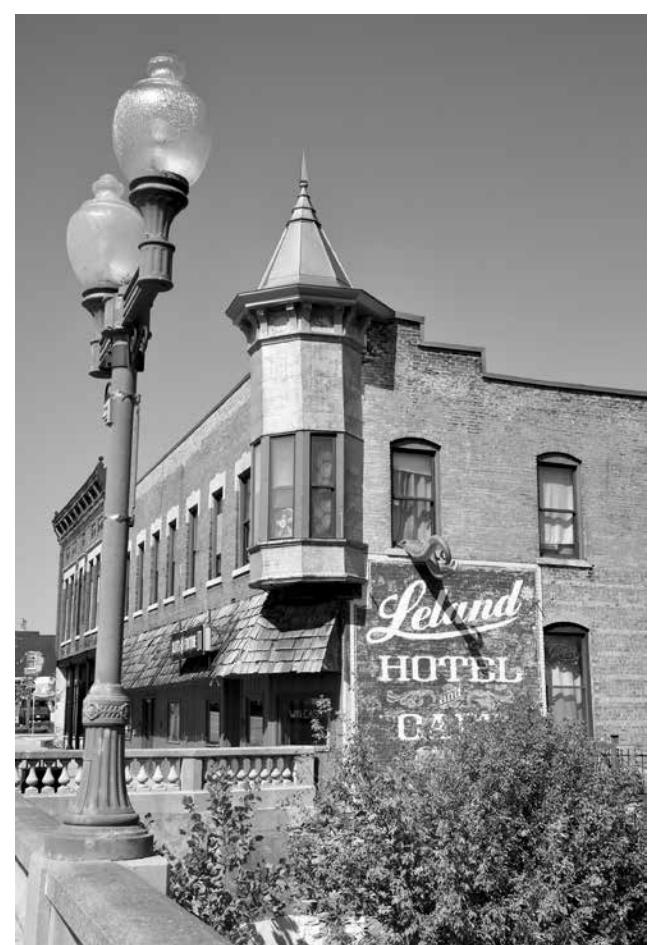
Officials at Get Covered Illinois announced Monday they would extend the open enrollment deadline by 16 days. For coverage beginning Feb. 1, 2026, consumers must enroll by Jan. 31.

Independent from the federal marketplace at Healthcare.gov, Get Covered Illinois allows Illinois residents to shop for plans under the Affordable Care Act.

"We are seeing record numbers of customers finding more affordable coverage by taking the time to shop for and compare plans," Morgan Winters, director of Get Covered Illinois, said in a statement. "As a state-based marketplace, not only do we now have the authority to offer this special enrollment extension, but we also have more resources to support our customers in finding affordable health coverage options."

Federal subsidies enacted during the COVID-19 pandemic expired on Dec. 31, 2025. That has resulted in significantly higher premiums in 2026 for millions of consumers nationwide.

*continued on page 5*



*Turret with new copper cap*



*Brick work from the original architecture of Belvidere, and not destroyed by the tornado.*

## New laws: Illinois Education Measures Focus on Immigrant Rights, AI In the Classroom

*Measures that provide legal protections for students, guidelines for schools take effect Jan. 1*

*Peter Hancock    Capitol News Illinois*

Immigrant rights and artificial intelligence were two of the hot-button issues that influenced public education in 2025. They are also the subject of new education-related laws that will take effect at the start of the new year.

The rights of noncitizen students, including those who are not lawfully present in the U.S., rose to the top of the education agenda as soon as President Donald Trump was sworn in to his second term in January.

The day Trump was inaugurated, the Department of Homeland Security rescinded a Biden administration policy that had limited immigration enforcement actions in or near "sensitive locations" such as schools, playgrounds, child care centers and school bus stops.

Two days later, Illinois Superintendent of Education Tony Sanders issued what he called *continued on page 4*

# Illinois Wage Inequities Improve Slightly, Persist Despite Transparency Efforts: Report

*Analysis of wage and demographic data from Illinois businesses shows some improvement, but inequity remains*

**Jenna Schweikert** *Capitol News Illinois*

Wage inequities persist in Illinois' workforce, although data suggests the state, on average, is doing better than others, according to a new report from the University of Illinois.

The gender wage gap appears to have moderately improved from 2021 to 2023, the period studied in the report, although racial wage gaps stagnated, researchers' analysis of Department of Labor data suggests. The widest gaps for both categories are in lower-wage and craft occupations.

Private employers with 100 or more Illinois-based employees are mandated to submit biannual reports with wage and demographic data to the department under a 2021 amendment to Illinois' 2003 Equal Pay Act.

This report is based on the first three years of data, 2021-2023, and includes information on 3.2 million employees at over 4,000 firms.

Findings show that women earn about 91-93 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts, while Black and Hispanic workers each earn 6-10% less than comparable white workers.

A regional analysis also showed smaller gender wage gaps in Cook County, but wider disparities in the downstate region.

Illinois appears to be performing better than the national median, according to the researchers' seminar presentation on Wednesday, Jan. 14. But they warned that methodological differences make comparison difficult.

The law also doesn't require government agencies and Illinois businesses with fewer than 50 employees to report, which could affect the results.

"If we expand the reporting coverage, we're going to include a lot of smaller businesses that could potentially widen the gap. That's one of our hypotheses," Dr. Tingting Zhang, a contributing researcher said at the seminar. Zhang is an Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois' School of Labor and Employment Relations.

## Recommendations

The researchers issued recommendations for further study, including establishing interagency data coordination and expanding reporting coverage to get a complete picture of wage equity in Illinois.

"If you want to have policy that's going to be impactful, here's a way to get better data and the overall outcome. If you're thinking about fairness, if you're thinking about equity, you're thinking about employers who attract and retain quality employees, then expanding the data set would be a good idea," Dr. Robert Bruno, director of the U of I's Project for Middle Class Renewal said.

Bruno said it would ultimately be up to the DOL to "figure out the logistics" of expanding the scope of the law to collect better data. But he added, "we stand ready to help with doing that based on other research."

Expanding the mandated reporting coverage would require another amendment to the law, due to the language within the current legislation, but the DOL does coordinate the enforcement of the EPA.

"We do not want to be punitive. We'd rather

bring you into compliance than be punitive under the law," Jason Keller, assistant director of the labor department, said. "We can't provide legal advice, but we will do our best to tell you where our boundaries are and what we can advise and what we can't, so we encourage employers to reach out to us."

Zhang and Bruno also recommended developing self-audit and public dashboard tools for employer use, targeting enforcement at the most disparate industries, and streamlining reporting guidance to address recurring report issues like inconsistent job titles and implausible wages and hours.

"Illinois' EPA (Equal Pay Act) reporting system offers a unique and valuable lens through which to study pay disparities within individual workplaces, yielding insights that are not available through broader labor market surveys," the report states. "Continued progress will require refinements to data collection, broader employer participation, and expanded access to self-assessment tools."

*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.*



## State Education Board OKs \$10.9B Budget Request

*Proposal reflects minimal increases in K-12 spending, shift of early childhood ed to new agency*

**Peter Hancock**

*Capitol News Illinois*

The Illinois State Board of Education voted Wednesday to approve a budget request for the upcoming fiscal year that calls for only a minimal increase in K-12 education spending, a reflection of the state's tightening fiscal condition.

Overall, the \$10.9 billion request would be a slight decrease from the current budget of just over \$11 billion. But that is only because funding for early childhood education, which totals nearly \$750 million this year, is being shifted in the upcoming year to the newly created Department of Early Childhood, an initiative Gov. JB Pritzker pushed in 2024.

Otherwise, the request seeks a \$350 million increase in the Evidence-Based Funding formula.

*continued on page 3*



**Milos Dental Care**  
Dr Jamie Lynn Milos

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

**(815) 315-4200**  
*Call now for an appointment!!*

[www.milosdentalcare.com](http://www.milosdentalcare.com)

Like us on Facebook

Get instant cash for your **GOLD**



**WE PAY HIGHEST PRICES**

**Belvidere Collectible Coins**

880 Belvidere Rd.  
Belvidere, IL  
815-547-7111

Additional 10% off Jewelry with this ad  
Mon-Fri 10am - 5pm  
Sat 10am - 2pm

Visit us Online at [www.goldsilverjewelrycoin.com](http://www.goldsilverjewelrycoin.com)

**THE BOONE COUNTY JOURNAL**  
419 S. State St • Belvidere, IL 61008  
Phone: (815) 544-4430 Fax: 544-4330  
[www.boonecountyjournal.com](http://www.boonecountyjournal.com)  
[news@boonecountyjournal.com](mailto:news@boonecountyjournal.com)

*real journalism for a real democracy*

Publisher/Editor  
Senior Writer/Editorial  
Advertising  
Photography  
Office

David C. Larson  
Charles Herbst  
Bethany Staniec  
Susan Moran  
Amanda Nelson

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

Copyright 2025, The Boone County Journal.  
All rights reserved.

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.

That's the minimum amount called for under the 2017 law that aims eventually to bring all districts' funding up to at least 90% of their adequacy target.

That includes \$300 million in direct educational expenses, plus \$50 million for property tax relief grants for certain high-tax districts.

#### 10 years of EBF

The upcoming fiscal year, which begins July 1, will mark the 10th year of the EBF program. When it began in fiscal year 2018, according to the state board, 168 of the state's 852 school districts were being funded at less than 60% of their adequacy target.

Today, none are below the 60% level, but 48 districts are funded at less than 70% of adequacy, and 532 districts are below the 90% target.

The proposed increase for the upcoming fiscal year would bring the total amount of EBF funding to just under \$9.3 billion in FY 2027. According to ISBE data, however, it would take yet another \$3 billion to bring all districts up to at least 90% of their adequacy target.

#### Mandated categorical funding

The state board's budget request also seeks an increase of \$151 million, or 13%, in what are called "mandated categorical," or MCAT reimbursements to school districts. Those are mainly non-classroom expenses that school districts have to cover — including certain transportation and special education expenses — that are not included in the Evidence-Based Funding formula.

Over the last several years, budget constraints have resulted in the state funding only a prorated share of those costs.

In the current fiscal year, for example, state funding covers only 60% of the cost of transporting students to special education programs, which is down from 71% in FY 2024. The state also covers only 75% of the cost of transporting students to regular vocational education programs, down from 85% in FY 2024.

The proposed increase in MCAT costs would hold the proration percentages level in FY 2027.

#### Public hearings

Before drafting the budget request, fiscal staff at the state board conducted a series of public hearings to receive input from school officials and other interested groups. The agency also considered economic analyses and revenue projections from both the governor's office and the General Assembly.

The Governor's Office of Management and Budget reported in October that it expects state revenues to fall below previous estimates over the next several months, resulting in a \$267 million deficit in the current fiscal year and a \$2.2 billion deficit next year, unless action is

taken to increase revenues or reduce expenses.

The agency said that's largely due to changes in federal tax law that Congress approved last summer as part of the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" that will result in lower corporate income tax revenue.

Meanwhile, the General Assembly's Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability reported in December that it still had confidence the state would meet its revenue targets for the current fiscal year. But it cautioned about uncertainty in the months ahead created by changes in federal tax law.

*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.*

Since Trump returned to office, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has proposed cutting FSOC's budget by 32 percent.

"I worked in Congress to help create the OFR and FSOC in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis to monitor the U.S. financial system for vulnerabilities or risks that could lead to another economic crisis," said Rep. Foster. "For years, Republicans have tried to cut funding for these agencies, which would weaken their ability to protect our economic system. This legislation would help protect the important work these agencies do and insulate them from misguided efforts that only serve to put American consumers at risk."



## Foster Introduces Legislation to Safeguard Financial System

*Press Release*

Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL) (serving Belvidere) introduced the Enhancing Financial Stability Research and Oversight Act. The legislation would establish minimum budget and staffing levels for the Office of Financial Research (OFR) and the Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC), adjusted for inflation, to prevent misguided attempts to undermine our top financial stability watchdogs.

The OFR and FSOC were created as part of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 to monitor for and address potential risks to the stability of the U.S. financial system. During Trump's first term, his administration cut staffing at OFR and FSOC by nearly 50 percent and 18 percent, respectively.

## Foster Leads Effort To Allow DACA Recipients to Serve In the Military

*Press Release*

Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL) (serving Belvidere) introduced a resolution that calls on the Secretary of Defense to authorize Dreamers to serve in the armed services.

"For many Dreamers, the United States is the only home they have ever known. Every American deserves the right to serve their country through military service, and Dreamers should be no exception," said Foster. "Allowing Dreamers to enlist would ensure our armed forces benefit from some of our nation's best and brightest young minds. I strongly encourage the Secretary of Defense to review the current policy and authorize these patriotic individuals to serve their country."

**Has your tax preparer retired?  
Looking for someone with experience  
that you can trust?**



*It can be hard to find the right person. Someone who understands your needs and can deliver.*

*I've worked with hundreds of families and closely-held businesses, including farms. I understand your situation. I've practiced tax law for over 25 years. I have an advanced tax law degree. I've worked for a big four accounting firm, been on the staff of a major tax publisher and served as the tax research director for a major consulting company.*

*My overhead is low and my rates are competitive and reasonable. Most of all, returns are prepared in the privacy of an attorney's office, with the confidentiality that only an attorney can provide. No fishbowl atmosphere, flimsy partitions, overheard conversations or prying eyes. Hours are strictly by appointment, so you won't be kept waiting.*

*If this sounds like what you need, please call me for an appointment.*



**CHARLES HERBST, J.D., LL.M.**

LAW, PLANNING AND TAX

Belvidere and Rockford • 815 484 9482 • taxviking.com

**ACKERSON DOOR SALES**

*"We give your garage closure"*

- Sales • Doors • Openers • Replacement Sections
- Service • Cables • Installations • Springs

**C.H.I.**

Visit Our Showroom

**LiftMaster**  
PROFESSIONAL

2255 Rt. 173

VISA

815-765-1551

Fax: 815-765-0333



**New Laws**

from page 4

Senate Bill 1920 directs ISBE to develop state-wide guidance for districts and educators on the use of AI in K-12 settings. That includes a basic explanation of what AI is and how it works as well as descriptions of how it can be used in the classroom “to inform teaching and learning practices while preserving the human relationships essential to effective teaching and learning.”

The law also directs ISBE to include guidance on the impact AI systems and applications could have on student data privacy, on best practices for teaching students about responsible and ethical uses of AI, and the dangers of “unintentional and disparate biases against special populations inherent within artificial intelligence products.”

The law directs ISBE to publish those guidelines by July 1.

**Other education laws**

Also beginning Jan. 1, students in seventh and eighth grade will be able to get an early jump on earning high school credits.

House Bill 3039 authorizes districts to award credits to seventh and eighth graders who enroll in high school classes as long as they pass both the course and the end-of-course examination demonstrating they have achieved high school-level proficiency.

House Bill 1366 requires districts to notify the parents or guardians of students with special needs that they have a right to bring a third-party advocate with them to meetings about their student's Individual Education Plan, or IEP meetings.

*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.*

**Deadline**

from page 1

Data released by the federal government suggests that premium payments may more than double without the subsidies, according to analysis conducted by healthcare policy nonprofit KFF.

The U.S. House passed a bill support in January that would provide a three-year subsidy extension despite objections from GOP leaders, but it still must pass the Senate and receive a signature from the President to become law.

To apply for a plan, Illinois residents can visit [GetCoveredIllinois.gov](http://GetCoveredIllinois.gov) or call the Customer Assistance Center at 1-866-311-1119 (TTY: 711).

Navigators and brokers across the state, available through Get Covered Illinois, provide free plan recommendations and guidance through the enrollment and application process. They are funded by grants from the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and the Department of Insurance.

*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.*

## Recent Postal Service Changes Could Disrupt Mail-In Voting, County Clerks Warn

*Thousands of votes could be invalidated if not received in time*

**Jenna Schweikert & Nikoel Hytrek**  
**Capitol News Illinois**

New postal service changes to postmarking and transportation rules could disrupt mail-in voting in the 2026 election, Illinois county clerks warn.

Ahead of the March primary election, county clerks are telling voters not to rely on past processes and to mail their ballots as early as possible, no later than one week before Election Day.

Clerks from around the state discussed how to educate voters at the annual Illinois Association of County Clerks and Recorders Conference on Thursday in East Peoria.

One new rule, which took effect Dec. 24, states that the date a postmark is applied to a piece of mail may not reflect the day it was received by the Postal Service.

Currently, 14 states, including Illinois, will accept mail-in ballots if they are received within a certain period after Election Day if they are postmarked on or before Election Day.

Clerks warned that uncertainty about when ballots will now be postmarked necessitates voters to act earlier. The way postmarks are applied is not changing, the USPS says. Mail is only postmarked at distribution centers, and that will remain the same.

But in an effort to improve mail delivery efficiency, some localities' mail may be sent to a different distribution center than in the past, which can increase the amount of time it takes for the USPS to receive and then postmark mail at these centers.

“It’s a question mark of when will it actually get through a distribution center. So I’m advising my voters to make sure that they get their vote-by-mail ballot in the mail no less than a week before Election Day,” John Ackerman, the Tazewell County clerk, said.

In Peoria County, for example, the distribution center is in Peoria. Tazewell County’s center, Ackerman said, is in Champaign, although Peoria is geographically closer.

To educate voters about the change, he said, his office will include yellow index cards with the recommendation in the vote-by-mail packets sent to voters.

Voters can also request a manual postmark from their local post office or drop off their ballot at the election official’s office.

But if election officials can’t rely on postmarks to reflect accurate dates, a number of mail-in ballots that were mailed prior to Election Day may not be counted at all clerks said.

Ballots also will no longer be automatically considered priority mail, increasing the amount of time it will take to deliver the mail.

“We’ve utilized that successfully over the years to make sure that all those ballots not only are delivered, but they are received in time. Changing that status dramatically changes how that will impact us as well,” Ackerman said.

These changes will be most felt during the recount process, when candidates are “scrambling,” Ackerman said.

The clerks generally agreed this could change the outcome of a race.

Clerks also said they are concerned about changes impacting voter trust in elections, especially because voter guidance is now going to be different depending on the county’s location and distribution center.

“We’ve told all of our voters, get your vote-by-mail ballot in your box by Election Day to be postmarked for Election Day, we will process it now. We’re ripping the rug out from underneath

*continued on page 7*

## H & H Mini Unit Storage

*Household, Boat and RV Storage*  
**Located in Poplar Grove and Capron**

**815-943-6629**

**[www.hnhstorage.com](http://www.hnhstorage.com)**

# Boone County License & Title Stickers - Titles - Plates We Are OPEN

Bring your plate number

419 S. State St. Bel.

815-544-2075



## LEGAL NOTICES

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

In the Matter of the Estate of CHAD MATTHEW BERTRAND,  
Deceased

### CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of CHAD MATTHEW BERTRAND of Belvidere, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on December 18, 2025, to AMY B. BERTRAND of Belvidere, Illinois, whose attorney is Timothy J. Leake, Allen Galluzzo Hevrin Leake, LLC, 839 North Perryville Road, Suite 200, Rockford, Illinois 61107.

Claims against the estate may be filed on or before July 6, 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 clerk of the Circuit Court at the Boone County Courthouse, Probate Division, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, or with the estate legal representatives, or both.

Copies of claims filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representatives and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

AMY B. BERTRAND, Executor for the Estate of CHAD MATTHEW BERTRAND, Deceased

By: ALLEN GALLUZZO HEVRIN LEAKE, LLC

By: One of their Attorneys

PREPARED BY:

ALLEN GALLUZZO HEVRIN LEAKE, LLC

Timothy J. Leake, ARDC #6277868

839 North Perryville Road, Suite 200

Rockford, Illinois 61107

(815) 414-5522

Attorneys for the Estate

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Jan 6 13, 20, 2026

To: Dennis J Severson, Brenda S Severson, Timothy Horner, Viviane Severson, Greenview Estates, Amy E. Ohlsen, County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois, Curtis Newport, County Treasurer of Boone County, Tricia Smith, States Attorney of Boone County, State of Illinois, Attorney General, State of Illinois, Secretary of State Vehicle Services, Unknown Occupants of 711 Eastwood Ln., Belvidere, IL 61008, Unknown Owners and Parties Interested, Generally of 711 Eastwood Ln., Belvidere, IL 61008

**TAX DEED NO.: 2025TX19 FILED: 12/22/2025**

### TAKE NOTICE

County of Boone  
Date Premises Sold: 10/26/2023 Certificate No. 2022-90013  
Sold for General Taxes of: 2023  
Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality): N/A  
And Special Assessment Number: N/A

Warrant No. N/A INST. NUMBER: N/A

### THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES

Property located at: 711 Eastwood Ln., Belvidere, IL 61008  
Mobile Home Vehicle Identification No. (or other unique description): 50-28-400-209

This notice is to advise you that the above mobile home has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 5/20/2026.

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 mobile home 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 certificate of title which will transfer the certificate of title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 5/20/2026.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Boone County, 601 N. Main Street, Courtroom 3, Belvidere, Illinois, 61008 at 10:00 A.M. on 6/16/2026.

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 5/20/2026 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.

ADDRESS:

1212 Logan Ave, Suite 103

Belvidere, IL 61008

TELEPHONE: (815) 544-3103

Auction Z-2, Inc. Purchaser or Assignee

Dated: 1/2/2026

6088-961060

Published in *The Boone County Journal* 1/13, 20, 27 SW

To: Gladys (Tina) Feulner, Stephanie Feulner, Corey Feulner, Hedi Hayes, Adam Hayes, AMOS A. YODER as RA for Four Seasons Dream Homes, LLC, Four Seasons Dream Homes, Amy E. Ohlsen, County Clerk of Boone County, Illinois, Curtis Newport, County Treasurer of Boone County, Tricia Smith, States Attorney of Boone County, State of Illinois, Attorney General, State of Illinois, Secretary of State Vehicle Services, Unknown Occupants of 350 Elder Ln., Belvidere, IL 61008, Unknown Owners and Parties Interested, Generally of 350 Elder Ln., Belvidere, IL 61008

**TAX DEED NO.: 2025TX21 FILED: 12/22/2025**

### TAKE NOTICE

County of Boone  
Date Premises Sold: 10/26/2023 Certificate No. 2022-90024  
Sold for General Taxes of: 2023  
Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality): N/A  
And Special Assessment Number: N/A

Warrant No. N/A INST. NUMBER: N/A

### THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES

Property located at: 350 Elder Ln., Belvidere, IL 61008  
Mobile Home Vehicle Identification No. (or other unique description): 70-02-200-350

This notice is to advise you that the above mobile home has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire

on 5/20/2026.

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 mobile home 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 certificate of title which will transfer the certificate of title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 5/20/2026.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Boone County, 601 N. Main Street, Courtroom 3, Belvidere, Illinois, 61008 at 10:00 A.M. on 6/16/2026.

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 5/20/2026 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.

ADDRESS:

1212 Logan Ave, Suite 103

Belvidere, IL 61008

TELEPHONE: (815) 544-3103

Auction Z-2, Inc. Purchaser or Assignee Dated: 1/2/2026

6088-961059

Published in *The Boone County Journal* 1/13, 20, 27 SW

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.

ADDRESS:

1212 Logan Ave, Suite 103

Belvidere, IL 61008

TELEPHONE: (815) 544-3103

Auction Z-2, Inc. Purchaser or Assignee

Dated: 1/2/2026

6088-961059

Published in *The Boone County Journal* 1/13, 20, 27 SW

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

Rock Valley Credit Union, Plaintiff,

vs. in case no.: 2025FC90

Guadalupe Cazares, Tenants and Persons in Possession, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Defendants,

### NOTICE BY PUBLICATION IS GIVEN TO YOU:

Guadalupe Cazares, Tenants and Persons in Possession, 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 Twenty-one (21) in Block Two (2) as designated upon the Plat of Biester's Fourth Subdivision of a part of Lot Four (4) of Prospect Hill Subdivision as platted and recorded in the Recorder's Office of Boone County, Illinois in Book 4 of Plats on Pages 38 and 39; situated in the County of Boone and State of Illinois, commonly known as 172 Beacon Drive, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, PIN 05-25-429-017, and which said Mortgage was made by Guadalupe Cazares, as mortgagor, to Rock Valley Credit Union, as mortgagee, and recorded July 31, 2014 in the Recorder's Office of Boone County, Illinois, as Document No. 2014R03772; 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, Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 on or before February 13, 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. ELISA J. WHITMAN, REILLY LAW OFFICES, Attorney for Plaintiff, 6801 Spring Creek Rd. Suite 2D, Rockford, IL 61114 (815) 316-8540. 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.

Published in *The Boone County Journal* 1/13, 20, 27

### Notice of Lien Sale of Stored Vehicle

Notice is hereby given by Boxed Up Self Storage, or affiliates, intends to hold a public sale to satisfy a lien, pursuant to 770 ILCS 95/1 et seq., by selling a vehicle belonging to those individuals listed below on March 4, 2026, at approximately 11:00 a.m. (CST) at www.storagegettreasures.com.

### BOXED UP SELF STORAGE

4431 IL Route 173, Caledonia IL, 61011-9754

Parking Space: V114

Owner(s): Regina Czajkowski and Cade A. Wilson

Lienholder: Santander Consumer USA Inc.

Make: Ford

Model: 2018 Focus

VIN: 1FADP3H21HL264428

Amount due and owing: \$749.89

Parking Space: VO4

Owner(s): Jo Sprawl

Lienholder: One Main Financial Group LLC

Make: Saturn

Model: 2007 Ion

VIN: 1G8AJ55F37Z152186

Amount due and owing: \$2,910.00

Unit Number: 450

Owner(s): Timothy Wasinger

Lienholder: N/A

Make: Geo

Model: 1991 Metro

VIN: JG1MR336MK608722

Amount due and owing: \$4,862.00

For more information, please contact Boxed Up Self Storage by phone at (815) 399-9226 or by email at info@boxedupsselfstorage.com.

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagegettreasures.com. See website and conditions. Purchases must be made with cash only and must be paid at the Boxed Up Operations Center located at 1511 E. Riverside Boulevard, Loves Park, Illinois 61111, in order to complete the transaction. Boxed Up Self Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase until winning bidder takes possession of the property. All sales are final. Following sale, buyer must cooperate with completion of all documentation required by the Illinois Secretary of State to transfer ownership of the vehicle and take possession.

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Jan 20, 27, 2026

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Belvidere, Illinois, invites sealed bids for the Station 2 Aparatus Bay Floor Refinishing project. Bid documents are available on the City of Belvidere website or at City Hall, 401 Whitney Blvd., Belvidere, Illinois.

Bids must be received by 5:00 p.m. on February 16, 2026. The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Jan 20, 2026

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

## ASSUMED NAMES

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

No. DBA 4259 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a RESTAURANT business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of SAFFRON GARDEN that its location is or will be 116 BUCHANAN 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: 630-276-9564  
SHARAREH VASSAJI 495 PRAIRIE KNOLL DR  
POPLARGROVE, ILLINOIS 61065

I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Chief Deputy Clerk 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: January 6, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Chief Deputy Clerk of Boone County  
Published in Boone County Journal 01/13/20,27 - P

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

No. DBA 4260 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a BEAUTY COSMETIC SALES business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of KENYADOO BEAUTY SHOP that its location is or will be 878 IVY OAKS DR in CALEDONIA, in the County of Boone County, State of Illinois, and that the true or real name(s) of the person(s) owning, conducting, or transacting the same with the post office address or address of said person(s) is shown below.

Phone Number: 224-401-7930  
KENIA LIZILY SIFUENTES 878 IVY OAKS DR CALEDONIA,  
ILLINOIS 61011

I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Chief Deputy Clerk 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: January 13, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Chief Deputy Clerk of Boone County  
Published in Boone County Journal 01/20/20,27 02/03 P.

## Ballots from page 5

that," Ackerman said. "That leads to distrust. When you can't give a solid date, you can't give a solid answer, when you can't reply back to them with facts, when it's left for interpretation. That erodes the trust that we've been trying to rebuild."

In the past, when this potential change was proposed, the clerks said they were able to speak to federal lawmakers to advocate for its reversal.

In late September 2025, a delegation of clerks traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with lawmakers and staff about changes to federal funding for election infrastructure and learned lawmakers didn't know about the potential changes, Ackerman said.

"They were all unaware that this change was going to take effect. They were unaware, in my opinion, of the impacts it would have on vote by mail," he said.

This time, however, clerks didn't know the changes were proposed until days before they were implemented.

"It is our goal to get to the public being 100% trusting of our system, but that's something we've strived diligently to do to repair that relationship, and I think this hurts that," Ackerman said.

To be sure your vote has been counted, voters can call their county clerk's office, or some coun-

ties offer ballot tracking online.

County clerks emphasized that voting by mail is still safe and secure, but it might take more work and planning.

Kathy Michael, the McLean County clerk, said voters can request to have their ballot manually postmarked at the post office when they return it.

"Just mail it early or go into the post office. I don't want to say it's that simple. I don't want to make it simple, but that's all you have to do," she said. "Don't be discouraged and not do it and not vote. ... Get it postmarked, and you can go off on your vacation and not worry about it."

## Few Fireworks as Illinois GOP Governor Hopefuls Share Stage For First Time

*The four Republican candidates trained their fire on Gov. JB Pritzker and Illinois' immigration policies*

**Brenden Moore** *Capitol News Illinois*

Far ahead of his Republican primary opponents in the most recent public polling, Darren Bailey told a half-filled central Illinois auditorium in that he expected to be "the punching bag."

Instead, Bailey walked away relatively unscathed from a candidate forum Thursday evening as the four Republican candidates for governor struck a conciliatory tone with one another. The four candidates preached unity after years of intraparty conflict, called for an end to the state's robust protections for immigrants and took aim at Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker while pitching themselves as the most electable candidate in a general election.

It was the first time the candidates — Bailey; former conservative think tank president Ted Dabrowski; video gambling mogul Rick Heidner; and DuPage County Sheriff James Mendrick — shared a stage. It comes just a few weeks ahead of the kickoff to early voting, and two months before Republicans choose a nominee to take on Pritzker, who is seeking a third term, in November.

"We've got to make sure that we commit ourselves right here — that on March 18, we stick together and we work together," Bailey, the party's 2022 nominee, said.

The fireworks were few and far between, with the candidates largely in alignment on their conservative visions for the state. Dabrowski took a few swings, suggesting Bailey, who lost to Pritzker by 12.5 percentage points and more than 500,000 votes in 2022, did not have enough appeal to win in the vote-rich Chicago suburbs. He also suggested Heidner's past donations to Democrats were at odds with conservative values.

### Winning in Chicago area

The Illinois GOP hasn't won a statewide election in more than a decade, has been relegated to the superminority in the state legislature, holds just three of the state's 17 congressional seats and occupies just two of the seven Illinois Supreme Court seats.

That reality framed the forum's opening ques-

tion: how the candidates planned to reverse the party's fortunes in the suburban collar counties — once GOP strongholds that have drifted away as the party's grown more rigid in its conservatism on social issues like abortion and gun rights. President Donald Trump also remains deeply unpopular in the northeast corner of the state.

"I know, and I feel confident that all of us are going to do well downstate," Dabrowski said. "The question is going to be: Who can do well enough in Cook County and in the suburbs?"

Dabrowski, a resident of Wilmette and the son of immigrants from Poland and Ecuador, suggested that he could appeal to voters from Chicago's wealthier North Shore communities to the patchwork of ethnic enclaves in the city and suburbs.

He said this sets him apart from Bailey, a farmer from downstate Xenia who lost all but one of the suburban collar counties while referring to Chicago as a "hellhole" over the course of his failed 2022 campaign.

Mendrick said his election as sheriff of the state's second-most populous county is proof of his viability in this race. Both he and Dabrowski also suggested Republicans would appeal in Chicago's African American community over the issue of immigration.

"They're all flipping red," Mendrick said. "They're all going with Trump. The sanctuary state (policy) is driving them."

However, a poll conducted by Emerson College earlier this month found Trump with an 82% disapproval rating among the state's Black voters. By contrast, 71% approve of Pritzker's job performance. Immigration ranked a distant sixth in terms of what the group believes are the most important issues facing the state. Mendrick added, however, that he's "always ignored the polls."

Whether it's shown in a poll or an anecdote from the campaign trail, the top issue on voters' minds is cost of living. The candidates criticized the state's high property tax rates and each suggested implementing caps — though they were vague on how they would fill in funding gaps that could create for school districts and other local taxing bodies.

Bailey said that if they focus on that issue and can get Republican voters who've sat out past elections to the polls, they have a chance.

"We've got the message: affordability," Bailey said. "Our property taxes are too high, energy costs are too high. We need more police officers on the streets. We need to repeal the SAFE-T Act. We need to improve education for our children. And people all over the state agree and believe in that. That's how we will win in November."

### Ending sanctuary status

However, none of the candidates appeared willing to move off their conservative positions to win over voters despite Illinois' Democratic lean. Dabrowski suggested instead that "Democrats are going to meet us" due to "extreme" policies from Pritzker, then listing off topics such as transgender girls having access to girl's bathrooms and sports.

The state's immigration policy was also front-and-center, with the candidates criticizing state spending in recent years on health care for undocumented immigrants and to address the migrant crisis caused by

*continued on page 8*



**GOP**

from page 7

the busing of migrants from border states like Texas to Chicago in 2023 and 2024.

"We're being washed out with a dependent society," Mendrick said.

A February 2025 audit found the state had spent over \$1.6 billion on an immigrant health care programs from 2021 through 2024. Lawmakers and the governor ended the program that provided Medicaid-like benefits to immigrants aged 42-64 in the current fiscal year. The state also paused enrollment in an ongoing program serving immigrants age 65 and older.

Heidner, who jumped into the race in late October but whose campaign had been radio silent up until this week, added that undocumented people are "coming here and then just feeding off of us."

The state's TRUST Act, signed by then-Gov. Bruce Rauner, a Republican, in 2017, generally prohibits state and local law enforcement from assisting the federal government with immigration enforcement unless a federal criminal warrant is presented. All four said they support repealing the law and would withhold state funds from cities like Chicago that maintain sanctuary ordinances.

"We can't be a sanctuary state," Heidner said. "I'm on board with President Trump. I mean, we cannot house the world when we can't take care of all our own citizens."

They signaled support for Trump's crackdown on illegal immigration. A targeted campaign in the Chicago region last year led to the arrests of 4,500 people in the country without authorization. But it also led to violent clashes between armed, masked federal agents and protesters.

Dabrowski said that Pritzker was "the one fostering a lot of this problem in Illinois" by not cooperating with federal immigration authorities and by describing them as "jackbooted thugs," among other names. There was no mention of language utilized by Trump, who has referred to protesters as "insurrectionists" and "domestic terrorists."

"If we would have opened our doors for ICE to come in, they would have been in and out of here probably six to eight weeks to get the worst of the worst out of here," Heidner added.

**Dem donations 'huge mistake'**

Though chummy with one another for most of the night, Dabrowski took Heidner to task for campaign donations to prominent Democrats, including a \$25,000 contribution to Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson in 2023 and a \$2,500 donation in 2015 to Kim Foxx, who was running for and later elected Cook County state's attorney.

"I still can't square up the values with giving money to somebody like Brandon Johnson and Kim Foxx, who have such different values, I think, from what we're saying here — and I think that's something that maybe needs to be answered," Dabrowski said.

Heidner, who operates businesses in the city of Chicago, said he supported Paul Vallas in the 2023 mayoral election but agreed to help Johnson pay off some campaign debt.

"It was like cutting my arm off," Heidner told the audience.

As for Foxx, the two-term state's attorney who was one of the chief supporters of the state law that



*Ted Dabrowski pitches his candidacy for governor as his primary opponents — video gambling mogul Rick Heidner, former state Sen. Darren Bailey and DuPage County Sheriff James Mendrick — listen during a forum sponsored by the Tazewell County Republican Party on Jan. 15, 2026. (Capitol News Illinois photo by Brenden Moore)*

ended cash bail, Heidner had no defense, calling it a "huge mistake."

"That one there I really can't even forgive myself for, so I apologize for that," Heidner said.

Though Bailey leads in recent polling, Dabrowski and Heidner have raised more cash. Heidner has donated more than \$1.25 million to his campaign while Dabrowski has raised more than \$1.5 million, mostly from a series of large donors.

Dabrowski said he's the one who can compete financially with Pritzker in a general election — but also will be principled.

"There's too many people who are breaking off and doing things with Democrats," Dabrowski said. "We have to be principled with the conservative values that we all need and trust."

Bailey, however, said that Republican voters should give him another shot.

"I have been that steadfast rock for you since 2019," Bailey said. "I've stood, I've not wavered in my convictions, I've been your voice, and I intend to, hopefully, continue to be that voice of reasoning to all of Illinois, and especially the Democrat Party. We can win Illinois. We have the blueprint."

**Dabrowski support grows**

Earlier in the day, more than a dozen current and former central Illinois Republican lawmakers endorsed Dabrowski, touting his credentials as a conservative policy wonk. They said they believe he can raise the money and build the broad support needed



*Republican gubernatorial candidate Rick Heidner talks to a voter during a meet-and-greet following a central Illinois candidate forum on Jan. 15, 2026. (Capitol News Illinois photo by Brenden Moore)*

to end the party's decadelong shutout from elected statewide office.

"There's one person who has the best chance to get Illinois back on track as our governor, and that same person has the best chance to beat JB Pritzker," said state Rep. Travis Weaver, R-Peoria, referring to Dabrowski. "When you thoughtfully consider who has the ability to win new voters, repair our state, attract support statewide and unite our party, the choice is clear, period."

Dabrowski also added support from state Sens. Li Arellano, R-Dixon; Chris Balkema, R-Channahon; Sue Rezin, R-Morris; and Sally Turner, R-Beason; and state Reps. Regan Deering, R-Decatur; Bill Hauer, R-Morton; Kyle Moore, R-Quincy; Brandon Schweizer, R-Danville; and Dennis Tipsword, R-Metamora.

It furthers the consolidation of establishment support around Dabrowski — and away from the party's 2022 gubernatorial nominee, Bailey.