Sample Ballot Inside

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BOONE COUNTY
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Lawmakers Take Step To Incentivize Bears To Stay in Illinois

Bill would allow Bears, other mega developments, to negotiate tax rates with local governments

Ben Szalinski & Brenden Moore
Capitol News Illinois

An Illinois House committee voted to advance a major economic development bill on Thursday of last week that could ultimately help convince the Chicago Bears to stay in Illinois rather than bolting for Indiana.

It represents the first notable legislative movement on a concept that had languished at the bottom of Springfield's priority list for several years. However, the full Illinois House adjourned without acting on the bill, and they're not scheduled to return until March 18. That left the Bears short of the goal line in Illinois, even as Hoosier lawmakers work this week to finalize a legislative framework to lure the team across the state line.

The House Revenue and Finance Committee voted 13-7 along party lines to send House Bill 910 to floor. The bill would freeze property tax assessments on the sites of so-called "megaprojects," like the Bears' proposed stadium in Arlington Heights, and instead allow developers to negotiate a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes with local governments.

The bill, and other parts of any deal with the Bears, likely has a long way to go, however.

Funding for public infrastructure needed to support a new stadium isn't addressed in the bill. Members of both parties on the committee

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Conceptual image of Chicago Bears stadium in Arlington Heights. (Courtesy of the Chicago Bears)

Gov. JB Pritzker delivers his 2026 State of the State address to a joint session of the Illinois General Assembly on Wednesday, February 18, 2026. Pritzker did not mention discussions about a stadium for the Chicago Bears in the address. (Capitol News Illinois photo by Jerry Nowicki)

Pritzker Says Bears' Statement 'Not Some Confirmation That They're Moving To Indiana'

Illinois lawmakers were caught off guard by the team's embrace of Indiana effort

Brenden Moore & Ben Szalinski

Capitol News Illinois

The Chicago Bears' flirtation with Indiana has Hoosier lawmakers advancing legislation that laying the groundwork to build a new domed stadium for "the pride and joy of Illinois" across the state line.

Meanwhile, an Illinois House committee that had been scheduled to hear long-stalled legislation aimed at assisting the Bears' effort to build that football palace in suburban Arlington Heights was abruptly canceled Thursday morning.

An Indiana House committee unanimously passed Senate Bill 27, which would create a public stadium authority with the power to acquire land, issue long-term bonds and finance the construction of a stadium and related facilities. The stadium would be built near Wolf Lake in Hammond, which straddles the Illinois-Indiana state line.

Indiana House Speaker Todd Huston said the team has committed $2 billion to the project, the Indiana Capital Chronicle reported. The Bears have also previously committed $2 billion

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REPUBLICAN SPECIMEN BALLOT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION
MARCH 17, 2026

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS SPECIMEN BALLOT IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE OFFICES AND CANDIDATES TO BE VOTED IN THE GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD IN BOONE COUNTY ON TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026.

AMY E OHLSEN, COUNTY CLERK
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

FEDERAL

FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR
(Vote for one)

- CASEY CHLEBEK
- DON TRACY
- R. CARY CAPPARELLI
- PAMELA DENISE LONG
- JIMMY LEE TILLMAN, II
- JEANNIE EVANS

STATE

FOR GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
(Vote for one)

- (TED DABROWSKI (CARRIE MENDOZA
- (JAMES MENDRICK (ROBERT RENTERIA
- (DARREN BAILEY (AARON B. DEL MAR
- (RICK HEIDNER (CHRISTINA NEITZKE-TROIKE
- (JOSEPH SEVERINO (RANTCH ISQUITH
- (Write-in _____ (_____

FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL
(Vote for one)

- ROBERT W. FIORETTI
- Write-in _____

FOR SECRETARY OF STATE
(Vote for one)

- WALTER ADAMCZYK
- DIANE M. HARRIS

FOR COMPTROLLER
(Vote for one)

- BRYAN DREW

FOR TREASURER
(Vote for one)

- Write-in _____

CONGRESSIONAL

FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS ELEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
(Vote for one)

- JEFF WALTER
- MICHAEL PIERCE
- TEDORA BROWN
- CHARLIE KIM
- Write-in _____

FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS SIXTEENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
(Vote for one)

- DARIN LaHOOD
- Write-in

LEGISLATIVE

FOR STATE SENATOR THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
(Vote for one)

- DAVE SYVERSON

FOR STATE SENATOR FORTY-FIFTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
(Vote for one)

- ANDREW S. CHESNEY
- Write-in _____

REPRESENTATIVE

FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SIXTY-EIGHTH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT
(Vote for one)

- KATHY EASTON

FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SIXTY-NINTH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT
(Vote for one)

- JOE C. SOSNOWSKI

FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY EIGHTY-NINTH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT
(Vote for one)

- VICTORIA ONORATO
- TONY M. McCOMBIE

FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY NINETIETH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT
(Vote for one)

- JOHN M. CABELLO

COUNTY

FOR COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER
(Vote for one)

- AMY E OHLSEN

FOR COUNTY TREASURER
(Vote for one)

- CURTIS P. NEWPORT

FOR SHERIFF
(Vote for one)

- SCOTT YUNK

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE REGION

FOR REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (BOONE AND WINNEBAGO COUNTIES)
(Vote for one)

- SCOTT BLOOMQUIST

FOR REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (DeKALB COUNTY)
(Vote for one)

- CARMEN R. SIRAGUSA

FOR REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (McHENRY COUNTY)
(Vote for one)

- DIANA HARTMANN

COUNTY BOARD

FOR MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD DISTRICT ONE
(Vote for not more than two)

- GERARD WECHET
- MATT ELLINGSON
- DAVID R. WILTSE

FOR MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD DISTRICT TWO
(Vote for not more than two)

- PAUL T ZEIEN JR
- JAYDEN LEE GALLAGLY

FOR MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD DISTRICT THREE
(Vote for not more than two)

- RODNEY J. RILEY
- DANA LOGSDON
- DANIEL N. AREVALO

JUDICIAL

FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FIRST SUBCIRCUIT (To fill the vacancy of the Hon. John S. Lowry)
(Vote for one)

- No Candidate

FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SECOND SUBCIRCUIT (To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Eugene Doherty)
(Vote for one)

- SCOTT ROBINSON

PRECINCT

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON BELVIDERE 1
(Vote for one)

- No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON BELVIDERE 2
(Vote for one)

- No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON BELVIDERE 3
(Vote for one)

- RODNEY J. RILEY

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON BELVIDERE 4
(Vote for one)

- No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON BELVIDERE 5
(Vote for one)

- No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON BELVIDERE 6
(Vote for one)

- No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON BELVIDERE 7
(Vote for one)

- No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON BELVIDERE 8
(Vote for one)

- DANIEL K. SNOW

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON BELVIDERE 9
(Vote for one)

- VICKI O'BRIEN

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
BELVIDERE 10
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
BELVIDERE 11
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
BELVIDERE 12
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
BELVIDERE 13
(Vote for one)
AUSTIN SCOTT DAVIES

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
BELVIDERE 14
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

PRECINCT

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
BELVIDERE 15
(Vote for one)
DAVID SYVERSON

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
BELVIDERE 16
(Vote for one)
Write-in

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
BELVIDERE 17
(Vote for one)
ROBERT E. TURNER

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
BELVIDERE 18
(Vote for one)
TOM WALBERG

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
BONUS 1
(Vote for one)
BOB WALBERG

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
BONUS 2
(Vote for one)
STEVE PIERCE

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
BOONE
(Vote for one)
VICTORIA GREEN
NORMAN STIMES

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
CALEDONIA 1
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
CALEDONIA 2
(Vote for one)
DAVID R. WILTSE

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
CALEDONIA 3
(Vote for one)
GERARD WECHET

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
CALEDONIA 4
(Vote for one)
CURTIS P. NEWPORT

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
CALEDONIA 5
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
FLORA 1
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
FLORA 2
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
FLORA 3
(Vote for one)
MARK RHODE

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
LEROY
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
MANCHESTER
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
POPLAR GROVE 1
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
POPLAR GROVE 2
(Vote for one)
Write-in

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
POPLAR GROVE 3
(Vote for one)
DAVID ALLGOOD

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
POPLAR GROVE 4
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
POPLAR GROVE 5
(Vote for one)
GAIL WORLEY

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
SPRING
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

Bears Deal

from page 1

also raised several concerns about the mechanics of the bill, indicating the plan is still likely to change. And left unresolved are concessions for Chicago, which many city lawmakers have said are necessary to earn their votes for any bill that would clear the way for the Bears to leave Soldier Field.

Competition among governments

The bill's advancement happened under the shadow of the Indiana General Assembly, which was on track on Thursday to pass their plan to lure the Bears to Hammond, which Gov. Mike Braun is expected to sign.

"I don't think we're in competition with Indiana," state Rep. Kam Buckner, a Chicago Democrat sponsoring the bill, told reporters. "I've been very clear about this. I think what they have done there and what they have rolled out has not risen to the level of the pandemonium that's been surrounding it."

Buckner said the Bears "understand" the General Assembly's process and schedule, which has lawmakers in Springfield for another three months.

A big question also remains in Illinois: Does the bill have enough votes to pass the House and will Chicago Democrats get on board? House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, D-Hillside, has an unofficial rule that requires at least 60 Democrats to support a bill before it moves forward.

Chicago officials are still holding out hope the Bears can remain at Soldier Field. Chicago acting chief financial officer Steven Mahr, who testified in opposition to the bill, begged lawmakers to give the city "fairness" in negotiations and consider the team's 2024 proposal to overhaul the lakefront stadium.

"If the state is going to support infrastructure spending elsewhere as a subsidy to facilitate a new sports stadium, then the state should be willing to support infrastructure in and around the Museum Campus for a similar build," Mahr said. "With such a commitment, the city of Chicago and the Park District would submit multiple viable proposals for a new publicly owned sports stadium in Chicago."

Gov. JB Pritzker and state lawmakers have long ruled out spending state dollars on stadium construction. And the governor told reporters in Chicago last week that "there's a common understanding by most of the General Assembly that they're not going to be able to build in the city of Chicago," and would likely bolt city limits for Arlington Heights or Hammond.

State Rep. Curtis Tarver, D-Chicago, who chairs the House Revenue Committee, suggested the city might struggle to attract large projects, pointing to Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson's proposal to tax large businesses for each person they employ.

"I do not want this committee hearing hijacked by this notion of Chicago versus Arlington Heights and the Bears ... it is a tool for the entire state of Illinois," Tarver said of the megaprojects bill.

If the Bears do decide to leave Soldier Field for Arlington Heights, Buckner told reporters the team could have to pay some costs to leave the stadium the state paid to renovate in 2002.

"There is no Soldier Field renovation in 2001-02 without the Bears demanding one," said Buckner, whose district includes Soldier Field. "And so we can't gloss over the facts. We can't forget

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DEMOCRATIC SPECIMEN BALLOT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION
MARCH 17, 2026

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AMY E OHLSEN, COUNTY CLERK
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

FEDERAL

FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR
(Vote for one)

- KEVIN RYAN
- ROBIN KELLY
- JULIANA STRATTON
- RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHI
- STEVE BOTSFORD JR.
- BRYAN MAXWELL
- JONATHAN DEAN
- SEAN BROWN
- AWISI A. BUSTOS
- CHRISTOPHER SWANN
- Write-in _____

STATE

FOR GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
(Vote for one)

- (JB PRITZKER (CHRISTIAN MITCHELL

FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL
(Vote for one)

- KWAME RAOUL

FOR SECRETARY OF STATE
(Vote for one)

- ALEXI GIANNOULIAS

FOR COMPTROLLER
(Vote for one)

- KARINA VILLA
- STEPHANIE A. KIFOWIT
- HOLLY KIM
- MARGARET CROKE

FOR TREASURER
(Vote for one)

- MICHAEL W. FRERICHS

CONGRESSIONAL

FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS ELEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
(Vote for one)

- BILL FOSTER

FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS SIXTEENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
(Vote for one)

- PAUL NOLLEY

STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

FOR STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEEPERSON ELEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
(Vote for not more than two)

- ANNE STAVA
- JANET YANG ROHR
- PETER JANKO
- DANIEL HEBREARD

FOR STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEEPERSON SIXTEENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
(Vote for not more than two)

- KEVIN LAMM
- PATRICK CORTESI
- KIM ARMSTRONG

LEGISLATIVE

FOR STATE SENATOR THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
(Vote for one)

- SARAH B. MERTENS

FOR STATE SENATOR FORTY-FIFTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
(Vote for one)

- JOSEPH H. "JOE" BERNING

REPRESENTATIVE

FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SIXTY-EIGHTH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT
(Vote for one)

- DAVE VELLA

FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SIXTY-NINTH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT
(Vote for one)

- PETER JANKO

FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY EIGHTY-NINTH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT
(Vote for one)

No Candidate

FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY NINETIETH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT
(Vote for one)

- JOHN PING

COUNTY

FOR COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER
(Vote for one)

No Candidate

FOR COUNTY TREASURER
(Vote for one)

No Candidate

FOR SHERIFF
(Vote for one)

No Candidate

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE REGION

FOR REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (BOONE AND WINNEBAGO COUNTIES)
(Vote for one)

No Candidate

FOR REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (DeKALB COUNTY)
(Vote for one)

No Candidate

FOR REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (McHENRY COUNTY)
(Vote for one)

No Candidate

COUNTY BOARD

FOR MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD DISTRICT ONE
(Vote for not more than two)

No Candidate

FOR MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD DISTRICT TWO
(Vote for not more than two)

No Candidate

FOR MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD DISTRICT THREE
(Vote for not more than two)

- MIKE CARLYLE

JUDICIAL

FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FIRST SUBCIRCUIT (To fill the vacancy of the Hon. John S. Lowry)
(Vote for one)

- PAUL CARPENTER
- ERIN C. HANNIGAN

FOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SECOND SUBCIRCUIT (To fill the vacancy of the Hon. Eugene Doherty)
(Vote for one)

No Candidate

PRECINCT

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON BELVIDERE 1
(Vote for one)

No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON BELVIDERE 2
(Vote for one)

No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON BELVIDERE 3
(Vote for one)

- JESSICA MUELLNER

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON BELVIDERE 4
(Vote for one)

- MIKE CARLYLE

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON BELVIDERE 5
(Vote for one)

No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON BELVIDERE 6
(Vote for one)

- MICHAEL HART

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON BELVIDERE 7
(Vote for one)

- WALTER STEPHENS

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON BELVIDERE 8
(Vote for one)

No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON BELVIDERE 9
(Vote for one)

No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
BELVIDERE 10
(Vote for one)
KIM M. FISK

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
BELVIDERE 11
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
BELVIDERE 12
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
BELVIDERE 13
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
BELVIDERE 14
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

PRECINCT

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
BELVIDERE 15
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
BELVIDERE 16
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
BELVIDERE 17
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
BELVIDERE 18
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
BONUS 1
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
BONUS 2
(Vote for one)
ANDREA KOOISTRA

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
BOONE
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
CALEDONIA 1
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
CALEDONIA 2
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
CALEDONIA 3
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
CALEDONIA 4
(Vote for one)
TRACY RANGEL

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
CALEDONIA 5
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
FLORA 1
(Vote for one)
JOHN ALBERTINI

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
FLORA 2
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
FLORA 3
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
LEROY
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
MANCHESTER
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
POPLAR GROVE 1
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
POPLAR GROVE 2
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
POPLAR GROVE 3
(Vote for one)
No Candidate

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
POPLAR GROVE 4
(Vote for one)
No Candidate DEMOCRATIC

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
POPLAR GROVE 5
(Vote for one)
No Candidate DEMOCRATIC

FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON
SPRING
(Vote for one)
No Candidate DEMOCRATIC

Bears Deal

from page 3

the past. Got to find a way to deal with that and move forward the same time."

Buckner said lawmakers "have not gotten that commitment yet" from the Bears. While he declined to get into specifics, Buckner said that the team's earlier $25 million offer to Chicago was a nonstarter and that it would have to be something in line with the Cleveland Browns' agreement to pay $100 million to the city to leave their publicly owned lakefront stadium for new digs in the Cleveland suburbs.

What's in the bill?

Pritzker has insisted that this is not a "Bears" bill, but a "megaprojects" bill that the Bears would just happen to benefit from. This broadened lens is reflected in the updated language, which includes two new investment tiers aimed at smaller megaprojects.

The original bill required companies to put up a minimum investment of $500 million. But now those that invest $250 million and create 50 new jobs or $100 million and 100 new jobs would be eligible for the incentives. The jobs must be full time and permanent, which Buckner said likely excludes projects such as data centers.

The new legislation would still allow the Bears — or any other eligible company — to freeze their property tax assessment and negotiate a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes with local taxing bodies for up to 40 years. All local taxing bodies would have a seat at the table, with votes weighted in proportion to share of property taxes levied — meaning local school districts would likely carry the largest influence.

This annual "special payment" can't be any less than 10% of the base year property tax levy except for developers who invest more than $2 billion, a carveout that gives "more flexibility" given the "different realities" of larger projects, Buckner said. The Bears have pledged at least $2 billion towards stadium construction in Arlington Heights.

The bill tightens eligibility through amended language specifically prohibiting projects containing housing units from being certified as a megaproject. State lawmakers sought this narrowing to prevent the Bears from using the tax benefits for the development of a broader mixed-use stadium district planned for the 326-acre Arlington Park site.

In addition to back-end help on property taxes, the bill now contains provisions to help with front-end construction costs through a sales tax exemption on building materials like what Illinois already offers through its Enterprise Zone Program. This perk would be available for the first 10 years of a megaproject, though it could be renewed for an additional five years.

Union support

The bill also includes a requirement that a project-labor agreement must be agreed to before construction starts on a project, winning support from unions for the bill.

"Our state is on the razor's edge of losing the Bears and tens of thousands of good jobs for working people," a coalition of unions said in a statement. "The team's massive new development would generate more than $600 million in wages and revenue every single year. Losing the Bears would be an economic blow to Chicagoland working families and our entire state. We urge legislators to move swiftly so Illinois' loss is not Indiana's gain."

Twenty percent of contracts for the project would also have to go to minority-owned businesses.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Early Voting Hours

Early Voting for the March 17th, 2026, General Primary Election will begin on Thursday, February 5th, 2026, and end March 16th, 2026. Early Voting for Boone County residents will be conducted at the Boone County Clerk's Office, 1212 Logan Ave, Suite 103, Belvidere, IL 61008. The office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30AM to 5:00PM, except for holidays. The office will also be open on Saturday, March 14th, 2026, from 9:00AM to 12:00PM. The office will be closed on Monday, February 16th, 2026, in observance of Presidents' Day.

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

Amy E. Ohlsen
County Clerk & Recorder

Published in The Boone County Joural 02/03, 02/10, 02/17, 02/24, 03/03, 03/10

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

Cody Skaggs, et al, Plaintiffs,
v. Case No. 2025-SC-657
Joshua Johnson, et al, Defendants.
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION - SMALL CLAIMS
TO: Joshua Johnson d/b/a Willow Contracting Services

NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU that on September 18, 2025, a Small Claims Complaint was filed in the Circuit Court of Boone County, Illinois, against you and other defendants, seeking judgment in the amount of $10,000.00.

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED TO APPEAR before the Honorable C. Robert Tobin III, or any judge sitting in his stead, at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, on:

DATE: April 30, 2026
TIME: 9:00 AM
COURTROOM: 1
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING ID: #910 1450 6143

If you fail to appear at the time and place stated above, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief requested in the Complaint.

Dated at Belvidere, Illinois this 20th day of February 2026.
Pamela Coduto Boone County Circuit Clerk
D. KEVIN SOMMER #6186105
Attorney at Law
One Court Place, Suite 300
Rockford, IL 61101
(815) 965.4412
sommer.d.kevin@gmail.com

Published in The Boone County Journal Feb 24, March 3, 10, 2026

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

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: James Kieser, Deceased. CASE NO: 2026-PR-1

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given of the death of James Kieser on March 1st, 2025. Letters of Office were issued on January 28th, 2026, to: Betty Kieser who is the legal representative of the estate. The attorney is Christian Solares, 4855 E State St Ste 24, Rockford, IL 61108.

Claims against the estate may be filed within six (6) months from the date of first publication. Any claim not filed within six (6) months from the date of first publication or claims not filed within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to Creditors, if mailing 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 may be filed in the office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk-Probate Div. at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N Main St, Belvidere, IL 61008, or with the representative or both.

Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office-Probate Div., must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to the attorney within ten days (10) after it has been filed.

DATED: 02/18/2026
Betty Kieser, Executor
CHRISTIAN SOLARES #6325075
Attorney for Estate
4855 E State St Ste 24
Rockford, IL 61108
815/312-1703

Published in The Boone County Journal Feb 24, March 3, 10, 2026

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

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR LOAN ACQUISITION TRUST 2017-RPL1, C/O RUSHMORE LOAN MANAGEMENT SERVICES LLC, Plaintiff,
Vs. 2026FC8
Alton E. Parker, Jr., Lareda C Parker, unknown owners and non-record claimants, Defendants.

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU: ALTON E. PARKER, JR., LAREDA C PARKER

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 FORTY-ONE (41) AS DESIGNATED UPON THE PLAT NO. 4 OF RIVER REACH SUBDIVISION, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 43 NORTH, RANGE 4 EAST OF THE THIRD P.M., AND A REPLAT OF LOTS 21 THRU 27 PLAT NO. 3 OF RIVER REACH SUBDIVISION RECORDED FEBRUARY 19, 1976, AS DOCUMENT NO. 76- 461 IN PLAT INDEX FILE ENVELOPE NO. 10 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY ILLINOIS, SITUATED IN BOONE COUNTY, STATE OF ILLINOIS.

COMMONLY KNOWN AS 8778 QUAIL DR, BELVIDERE, IL 61008
PIN # 08-04-277-007
and which said Mortgage was made by:

ALTON E PARKER JR AND LAREDA C PARKER, HUSBAND AND WIFE, NOT IN TENANCY IN COMMON, BUT AS JOINT TENANTS , the Mortgagor(s), to Beneficial Illinois Inc DBA Beneficial Mortgage Co of Illinois as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of BOONE County, IL, as Document No. 03R17654; 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 April 2, 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"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.: 321642
I3282467
Published in The Boone County Journal March 3, 10, 17, 2026

NOTICE

Belvidere Community Unit School District 100 Washington & Belvidere High School Roofing Restoration Bid Package #03.

A mandatory pre bid contractor site walk through will be held at the project site on March 18th, 2026 at 10:00am. Failure to attend mandatory pre bid contractor site walk through will result in bid proposal disqualification. Pre bid meeting will begin at Belvidere High School located at 1500 East Ave., Belvidere, IL 61008.

All bids are due by Tuesday March 24th, 2026, 12:00 pm and a public bid opening will take place at 12:30 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.

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

Holly Houk
Clerk
Board of Education

Published in Boone County Journal 03/10

ASSUMED NAMES

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

No. DBA4265 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of RPF ELECTRIC that its location is or will be 10492 BELOIT ROAD in BELVIDERE, IL 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.

ROBERT FREEDMAN 10492 BELOIT ROAD
BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS 61008
ROBERTA FREEDMAN 10492 BELOIT ROAD
BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS 61008

I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & 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: February 19, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County
Published in Boone County Journal 2/24, 3/03, 3/10/26 - P

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

No. DBA 4267 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a SOCIAL AIRCRAFT TYPE CLUB business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of MIDWEST NAVIONEERS that its location is or will be 1004 BEECH BAY ROAD in POPLAR GROVE, in the County of Boone County, State of Illinois, and that the true or real name(s) of the person(s) owning, conducting, or transacting the same with the post office address or address of said person(s) is shown below.

Phone Number: 847-971-7717
CHRISTOPHER FITCHEN 1004 BEECH BAY RD
POPLAR GROVE, ILLINOIS 61065

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: February 23, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk and Recorder of Boone County
Published in Boone County Journal 03/03,10,17 P.

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

No. DBA4269 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a HANDYMAN business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of MOD-IFIED HOME IMPROVEMENT that its location is or will be 402 CLUB CIRCLE in BELVIDERE, IL 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: 224-288-8505
TIMOTHY MICHEAL MODRZEJEWSKI 402 CLUB CIRCLE
BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS 61008

I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & 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: February 27, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County
Published in Boone County Journal 3/3, 3/10, 3/17/26 - P

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

No. DBA4268 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a PUBLISHING business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of BELLIS PUBLISHING that its location is or will be 14054 QUEENANNS WAY in POPLAR GROVE, IL 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: 815-721-4900
DAISY R SHELLEY 14054 QUEENANNS WAY
POPLAR GROVE, ILLINOIS 61065

I, Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & 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: February 27, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk & Recorder of Boone County
Published in Boone County Journal 3/3, 3/10, 3/17/26 - P

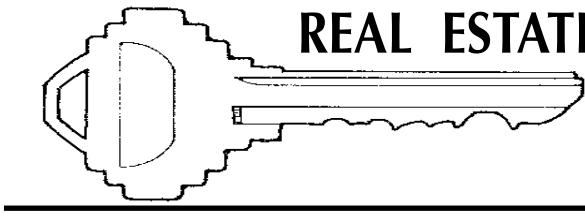
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE COUNTY
ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

No. DBA 4270 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a COTTAGE FARM STAND business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of THE FLOUR & FLOWER CO. that its location is or will be 155 W NORTH ST in CAPRON, 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: 815-764-7439
STACEY ANN RIVERA
155 W NORTH ST CAPRON, ILLINOIS 61012

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 5, 2026

Amy E. Ohlsen, Clerk and Recorder of Boone County
Published in Boone County Journal 03/10,17,24 P.



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

MORTGAGE CENTER L.L.C., Plaintiff,
-v.- 2024 FC 21
EDWIN H. RANDALL JR, KRISTINE L. RANDALL, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on June 11, 2024, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on February 27, 2026, at the Advocus National Title Insurance, 530 S. State, Suite 201, (Logan Avenue entrance), Belvidere, IL, 61008, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 18143 CAPRON ROAD, CAPRON, IL 61012
Property Index No. 02-35-300-002
The real estate is improved with a single family residence.
The judgment amount was $262,156.98.

Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in ''AS IS'' condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, contact WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., LPA Plaintiff's Attorneys, 180 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 2400, CHICAGO, IL, 60601 (312) 782-9676. Please refer to file number WWR 23-001179.

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

WELTMAN, WEINBERG & REIS CO., LPA
180 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 2400
CHICAGO IL, 60601
312-782-9676
Fax #: 312-782-4201
E-Mail: ChicagoREDG@weltman.com
Attorney File No. WWR 23-001179
Case Number: 2024 FC 21
TJSC#: 46-99

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Case # 2024 FC 21 6088-961469
Published in The Boone County Journal Jan 27, Feb 3, 10 SW

Bears Deal

from page 5

Concerns with the bill

A top concern for many is how property tax revenue the Bears wouldn't pay would be made up by other taxpayers.

Brian Costin, deputy state director for Americans for Prosperity, a conservative organization that advocates for limited government, told lawmakers the bill would shift a greater portion of property taxes on to residents.

State Rep. Rita Mayfield, D-Gurnee, said she has "a lot of problems with the bill" and worries how much property tax it will divert from local governments for up to four decades. She suggested the Bears' $2 billion stadium investment would cost local governments $600 million in revenue.

"They are being taxed under this bill for vacant land for 45 years," Mayfield said. "That's absolutely ridiculous. I can't see anyone voting for that and agreeing to that. It's just not plausible."

State Rep. Dan Ugaste, R-Geneva, also raised several concerns, including that school boards might have complete control over the weighted vote to approve incentive agreements and the $100 million investment threshold for a project might be on the lower side for a project described as "mega."

Those concerns were echoed by progressive state Rep. Will Guzzardi, D-Chicago, who said the smaller end represents "a big investment, but that's not a once in a lifetime investment."

He also worried about communities being "outgunned," noting that one person under the weighted vote structure could potentially be "sitting across the negotiating table from a multibillion-dollar corporation with no staff or resources available to help support them" in a negotiation that would have a decadeslong, community-wide impact.

State Rep. Sonya Harper, D-Chicago, expressed concerns about the potential of tax revenue that would otherwise go towards schools and other local services. She also pushed for incorporating a community benefits agreement that'd ensure a portion of the Bears' tax benefit be put into a fund for public needs.

"I just want to make sure that we are not more creative when it comes to helping billion dollar developments — millionaires and billionaires — than when it comes to helping the neighborhoods and everyday people who built this state, who built the city of Chicago, and who keep it running daily," Harper said.

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.

"We are committed to finishing the remaining site-specific necessary due diligence to support our vision to build a world-class stadium near the Wolf Lake area in Hammond, Indiana," the team's statement said.

'Not some confirmation that they're moving'

The team's statement — though short of a firm commitment to bolt Illinois for Indiana — caught Illinois elected officials off guard.

Gov. JB Pritzker, speaking to reporters Thursday morning following an event in Collinsville, said he was "very disappointed" that the Bears' statement did not "say anything about the advancement that's been made in the state of Illinois."

Pritzker said the team and state officials, who met for more than three hours Wednesday, had "mostly agreed on a bill" that would have been heard in an Illinois House committee Thursday morning. But the Bears requested a pause "to tweak a little, a couple of items in the bill." Team President Kevin Warren "chose not to be in that meeting" on Wednesday, Pritzker said, but top team officials were present.

The governor said Bears officials told his staff Thursday that the statement the team issued is "not some confirmation that they're moving to Indiana." He said they're waiting to hear from team officials about what they want to do next.

"We had eight people in that discussion involving the legislators, involving the governor's office, involving the Bears and their representatives," Pritzker said. "And so, again, lots of progress, but a surprise this morning to wake up and see that statement."

A source close to Illinois House Democratic leadership confirmed the extensive conversations, which "all sides," including the Bears, "agreed were productive."

A spokesperson for the Bears did not immediately respond to requests for comment on whether the team's primary focus is now Hammond rather than Arlington Heights, or whether the team asked Illinois lawmakers to postpone a vote in committee on Thursday.

Optimism in Arlington Heights

In recent weeks, proponents of the Arlington Heights proposal have been optimistic about getting a deal done.

Pritzker's office has convened discussions among the team, state lawmakers, local officials and other stakeholders around a package that could include tax measures and more than $850 million in infrastructure commitments long sought by the Bears.

House Bill 2789 — the so-called megaprojects bill — would freeze the Bears' property tax assessment at the Arlington Heights location and allow the organization to negotiate a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes with local taxing bodies for up to forty years. The bill language is expected to be amended, however.

While legislators have warmed to the idea, which wouldn't directly cost the state tax revenue since it involves property taxes that fund local units of governments, it's been low on Springfield's priority list compared to addressing things like cost of living.

Another obstacle is getting enough Chicago legislators to vote for a bill that makes it easier for the team to leave the city, where taxpayers are on the hook for more than a half-billion dollars remaining to be paid on the bonds that financed the renovation of Soldier Field. The team's lease at the Chicago Park District-owned facility runs through 2033.

Any package helping the Bears would likely need to include something for Chicago.

In the meantime, Hoosier lawmakers have advanced a framework that, in theory, would give the Bears more than they asked for.

Indiana move a lengthier process?

But state Sen. Mark Walker, D-Arlington Heights, who said he was not part of Wednesday's meetings with the team, was not deterred by the Bears' progress in Indiana.

"I think the Bears are taking the responsible position to consider all their options," Walker told Capitol News Illinois. "The fact that that committee moved that bill today was completely expected by us. So it nowhere near means they're close to a deal yet."

Walker said he believes the Bears still have a long way to go before deeming Hammond's site feasible.

"I don't think the Bears have any idea how long it's going to take in Indiana because they have to redo their rail line to make that available," Walker said. "They have to redo the highways. They have to redo water and electric. All of which we already have in Arlington Heights there at the site. Their infrastructure costs in Indiana are going to be slow and big."

Indiana's legislature is scheduled to adjourn Feb. 27. Both the Illinois House and Senate are scheduled to be in session for three days next week. But after that, the House is not due back until March 18 – the day after Illinois' primary election.

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.

Indiana

from page 1

to stadium construction in Arlington Heights, where the team already owns land that previously housed the Arlington Park horse racing track.

The Bears released a statement praising Indiana lawmakers, calling the bill's progress "the most significant step forward in our stadium planning efforts to date."

Letters to the Editor

Editor:

The school board has authorized the superintendent to deliver Perry school's fate to a random 400 person phone survey. This is leadership? Is a momentous decision now to be outsourced to an unidentified or unaccountable few? I would hope that they instead consider in toto how this affects our community, in dollars as well as in having an irreplaceable icon of our shared history torn out of our neighborhood and city. That matters little to our temporary hired or elected servants, but someone has to look out for our residents' posterity like our ancestors provided for ours. If you have lived in the community for five years or less you do not have the frame of reference to dictate to the community what they should find significant.

We met with Superintendent Schug and the school board in 2024 at the Perry Shool Gym for a public forum, and we were promised that we were heard loud and clear, and that the closure was off the table. In addition, the much-lamented roof was to be finally slated for repair. Now the school board has seemingly lost the plot. As can be seen from the attached FOIA response, the roof and very little else was repaired in the ensuing two years. Questions now demand answers - for what they are any longer worth.

1.) Why isn't the district keeping the promise they made to our community?

2.) Has it always been their intention to close Perry? After having voted to keep it open, why the vote again and so soon? Money was allocated to Perry-why is it an issue again?

3.) What exact budget shortfall is a closure expected to resolve?

4.) Is it because of cost overruns projected from the purchase, asbestos remediation and remodeling of the former Pope Chiropractic Clinic?

5.) How exactly will this polling be influencing the final decision?

6.) Did the superintendent wait for the board membership turnover to reintroduce the Perry closure?

7.) A majority of our community believes that Perry is being sacrificed to free up funding for the early childhood center pet project. Is that in fact correct?

8.) The condition of Perry has not been changed since the board vote approving its repair and continued usage. Why not, and if for financial reasons why are so many positions now added to the central office? Or the funding given such things as Nexus re: building consultation, communication upgrades, rebranding, remodeling of the board room and the proposed early childhood building.

9.) Should Perry be closed the number of dispersed Perry students comes nowhere near matching the number of students Caledonia and Washington will lose in early childhood students. What is the sense of running two buildings at lower capacity and building a multi-million dollar building? ($30 million plus?)

10.) Is the district cognizant of the potential Title VI Civil Rights Act exposure they create? Perry has a large minority student population that will not be spared a disparate closure impact and continuing inequities while their other schools have received $ millions in improvements. The district track record confirms their record of neglect.

The long game will require our sustained vigilance because trust is nonexistent as ours was just squandered. The attitude devaluing Perry is sure to continue and crop up within the transient element turning up from time to time in the superintendent's office or district's board room. We have seen its face now and probably will again. The adverse actions underway must make us consider what is lost when government again brings in outside paid experts to tell you what kind of community you want to be. Piece by piece, the appealing elements that stood out are gone, and soon thereafter also the well-paid experts that drove the demolition. And all we will be left with will be the debts for their efforts.

FOIA responce

We don't have a document to provide for this specific request, but listed below are the facilities/maintenance expenses for Perry for FY23, FY24, and FY25. An item to note is that, at this time, the only capital improvement costs incurred at Perry were for access control and door replacement and/or repair. The capital improvement costs for access control and doors were paid from the Health Life Safety funds (Fund 90), which does not break down expenses by building. They are combined in a district-wide account and therefore are not included in these totals.

2022-2023 = $63,009.97
2023-2024 = $52,936.62
2024-2025 = $48,060.88

Rory Peterson

OBITUARIES

Karen Beigh, 73, Harvard, February 26
Susan (Claeyssen) Bogle, 72, Cherry Valley, Feb. 26
David Brunk, 67, Marengo, March 1
Martin Gutt Sr., 58, Harvard, February 26
Eugene Johnston, 93, Belvidere, March 1
Elaine Martin, 76, Belvidere, February 25
Geraldine "Jerri Lou" Schardt, 81, Belvidere, March 3
Merle Schultz, 85, Belvidere, March 3
Nancy Taft, 79, Poplar Grove, March 1
Cindy Vandiver, 52, Capron, March 1
Shirley Wilcox, 81, Marengo, February 24
Ardell Womack, Belvidere, February 27
Donna Wyman, 67, Capron, February 26

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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 35 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

BOONE COUNTY JOURNAL
Est. 1996
real journalism for a real democracy

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Office	Amanda Nelson

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

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THE BOONE COUNTY JOURNAL
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news@boonecountyjournal.com

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.