

Today in  
**Flavor**

**EDITION READERS GET MORE**

Subscribers have access to this additional bonus content online at [bnd.com/edition](http://bnd.com/edition)



Dreamstime/TNS

Looking for dinner ideas? Find recipes and cooking tips for meals, drinks and desserts.

**In today's paper**

**SPORTS:** East St. Louis' state title proves the City of Champions isn't just about football. **1B**

**BND**

VOLUME 169  
No. 22

Mostly sunny  
-66°/42° See 14B

WEDNESDAY MARCH 18 2026

\$3

BELLEVILLE  
**NEWS-DEMOCRAT**

[WWW.BND.COM](http://WWW.BND.COM)

# E. coli in Cahokia Heights water spurs call for more testing

BY LEXI CORTES  
[acortes@bnd.com](mailto:acortes@bnd.com)

Illinois' two U.S. senators and a metro-east congresswoman are calling on water providers in Cahokia Heights to increase drinking water monitoring through additional testing after residents found E. coli in samples they collected from their kitchen taps.

The calls for action from U.S.

Sens. Tammy Duckworth and Dick Durbin and U.S. Rep. Nikki Budzinski are in response to recent community-organized testing results first reported by the Belleville News-Democrat and its partners, St. Louis Public Radio and the Illinois Answers Project.

The community testing detected E. coli in eight of the 118 samples collected from 23 homes over seven months, from June to December. Six of the

community's eight E. coli-positive samples came from the same home in the former city of Centreville.

Their findings contradict test results from the city's two water providers — private company Illinois American Water and the city of Cahokia Heights. Public records show the water providers' sampling outside homes has not detected E. coli in treated drinking water in the past 15 years.



JOSHUA CARTER Belleville News-Democrat

Cahokia Heights resident Arianna Norris-Landry runs her kitchen tap. Water samples collected from her home were included in new community-organized testing.

The utilities said in response to the community findings that their water meets regulatory standards.

Lawyers Nicole Nelson, Kalila

Jackson and Kennedy Moehrs Gardner and community organizer Maliaka Hill from the

**SEE E. COLI, 6A**



JOSHUA CARTER Belleville News-Democrat

This drone image shows three parcels owned by George Green along South 19th Street in Belleville on Friday. Neighbors have complained about "junk" in the yards and allege that Green is illegally operating an auto-repair business in a residential neighborhood.

# Resident may have to pay for city to clean up property

BY TERI MADDOX  
[tmaddox@bnd.com](mailto:tmaddox@bnd.com)

Time may be running out for a Belleville resident to clean up his yard, which has been filled with furniture, trash and vehicles in various stages of disrepair for years, according to neighbors and city officials.

George Green, 62, failed to

show up for his last municipal court date on Feb. 5 to give an update, St. Clair County Circuit Court records show.

At Green's next court date on Thursday, Assistant City Attorney Lloyd Cueto plans to ask the judge to allow city workers to go in and clean up his three parcels of property on South 19th Street and send him the bill. He also would be respon-

sible for paying more than \$4,000 in outstanding fines for alleged ordinance violations in the past.

"My understanding is that the property is not in compliance," Cueto said. "It may be worse than it was back in October."

In September, Green and city officials reportedly entered into an agreement in which he

promised to clean up the property by Oct. 9 in exchange for leniency on past violations.

As that deadline approached, code enforcers reported that Green had made some progress, so with the city's blessing, the judge gave him more time.

"We were trying to afford him the opportunity to do it on his own, without court or city intervention," Cueto said last week. "But we're pretty much past the point of making those overtures."

Green didn't respond to a request for comment on this

**SEE RESIDENT, 5A**

# Victim of parking lot shooting knew suspect, police say

BY TERI MADDOX  
[tmaddox@bnd.com](mailto:tmaddox@bnd.com)

An apparent argument led to a fatal shooting on Sunday afternoon in the parking lot of a small strip mall at Belleville Crossing shopping center.

The 20-year-old victim, who worked at Qdoba Mexican Eats, knew the gunman, according to news releases from Belleville police on Sunday and Monday. Police didn't name any of the parties involved.

"Interpersonal drama and the opportunity to settle an old score led to tragedy and a young life lost," Acting Police Chief Mark Heffernan stated in one of the releases.

On Sunday, St. Clair County Coroner Calvin Dye Sr. identified the victim as Montavion Conrad, 20, of Belleville. He was pronounced dead at Belleville Memorial Hospital at 4:17 p.m.

Police were dispatched to the strip mall at 3:49 p.m. They rendered aid and secured the scene, then began their investigation and went looking for the suspect, who is now in custody, a release stated.

The strip mall is located near the intersection of Illinois 15 and Frank Scott Parkway. It includes Qdoba, Wing Stop, West Belleville Nail Spa and an AT&T store.

The director of operations at the Qdoba restaurant declined to comment Monday on the murder. Adnan Bajramaliu, vice president of operations for parent company North Fork Fresh Mex, emailed the following statement:

"We are heartbroken by the loss of our team member, Montavion Conrad, in this tragic incident. Our thoughts are with his loved ones, and we are cooperating with local authorities as they continue their investigation."

According to the news releases, preliminary investigation found that:

**SEE POLICE, 5A**

# Man accused of killing grandfather in their Belleville home

BY TERI MADDOX  
[tmaddox@bnd.com](mailto:tmaddox@bnd.com)

The St. Clair County state's attorney's office has charged a Belleville man with first-degree murder in the death of his grandfather.

Armani E. Floyd, 20, of Belle-

ville, is being held at the St. Louis City Justice Center and awaiting extradition to Illinois, according to news releases from Belleville Police Department on Monday.

"(The grandson), who had been staying at the residence, fled the scene when family arrived to check on the victim

after he did not attend church in the morning," Acting Police Chief Mark Heffernan stated in one release.

The victim was Arthur L. Sheard, 78, of Belleville, according to police. Sheard is listed as the owner of a brick and masonry ranch at 206 Union Ave. in county property

records.

The release didn't give a cause of death. St. Clair County Coroner Calvin Dye Sr. said the victim died of a stab wound.

Police reported on Sunday that officers were dispatched to a home in the 200 block of Union Avenue at 11:11 a.m. for a report of an "unknown disturbance." Along with emergency medical personnel, they attempted life-saving measures on a male victim but determined he was dead.

**SEE ACCUSED, 5A**



We're dedicated to delivering the journalism you rely on. Discover the stories that matter to you inside. Subscribers, explore more stories and features like puzzles and games at [bnd.com/edition](http://bnd.com/edition).

FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE  
QUESTIONS, CALL US AT:  
800-559-6378

OR REACH US ONLINE AT:  
[bnd.com/customer-service](http://bnd.com/customer-service)



7 95480 75025 4