



## 'Made in America' vape products gain ground

BUSINESS, 5A

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The Northwestern Wildcats logo on the campus of Northwestern University, a day after a U.S. official said \$790 million in federal funding has been frozen for the University while it investigates the school over civil rights violations in Evanston on April 9. VINCENT ALBAN/REUTERS

## Official warns of investment scams on Meta

**Corina Curry**  
Rockford Register Star  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul issued an investor alert April 6, warning all Illinoisans about the prevalence of fraudulent investment schemes on Meta platforms, including on Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp.

Raoul's office issued a news release late Monday afternoon, saying scammers are "increasingly using deceptive advertisements and "deepfake" technology to lure investors into high-stakes scams to defraud them of their savings."

"There is a worrying trend of bad actors using social media to purposely lure consumers into investment groups intent on scamming them out of their hard-earned money," Raoul said in the release. "I recommend all Illinoisans who are regularly on social media platforms learn about these scams and review our tips to avoid becoming a victim."

Raoul then offered advice on how to spot and avoid "pump and dump" scams, confidence scams and fraudulent cryptocurrency schemes and encouraged anyone who may have been a victim of these types of scams to report it to the Attorney General's Consumer Fraud Bureau or call one of the Attorney General's Consumer Fraud Hotlines: 1-800-386-5438 in Chicago, 1-800-243-0618 in Springfield and 1-800-243-0607 in Carbondale.

According to Meta, the company launched new tools on Facebook, Messenger and WhatsApp to help protect its more than 3.5 billion daily users against scams.

"We aggressively combat scams across our platforms with strong default

See SCAMS, Page 3A

# Illinois graduate schools ranked

## U.S. News & World Report unveils top picks

**Tom Ackerman**  
Springfield State Journal-Register  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Thinking of going to graduate school? If so, you may be interested to know which colleges in Illinois ranked in the latest U.S. News & World Report. Illinois colleges can be found nearing

the top of national lists. The publication released rankings on April 7.

Rankings are available for several types of schools, but we took a look at business, law, medical research, engineering, master of nursing, and education schools, and how Illinois schools match up.

### Best business schools

1. University of Chicago (Booth), Chicago  
#3 in Best Business Schools
2. Northwestern University (Kellogg), Evanston

See SCHOOLS, Page 2A

## What do eight new EV chargers mean for Freeport?

**Nida Tazeen**  
The Journal Standard  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The city has installed eight electric vehicle chargers in downtown Freeport.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned for 3 p.m. April 10, at State Ave-


nue and Main Street to mark the completion of the project, according to a community announcement.

The city received a \$320,000 2025 EV Charger Grant through the Illinois EPA's Climate and Equitable Jobs Act program for the project, as well as \$520,000 from ComEd for interconnect

installations.

The Level 3 chargers will be highly visible on maps for those seeking the service, potentially attracting tourists and travelers to the area. Before these state-funded chargers were installed, there was only one charger visible in Freeport, located at a local dealership.


*This story was created by reporter Nida Tazeen, NTazeen@usatodayco.com, with the assistance of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Journalists were involved in every step of the information gathering, review, editing and publishing process. Learn more at cm.usatoday.com/ethical-conduct.*




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