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FREE

Nolley Challenges LaHood On His Votes that Supported the War

Press Release, Paul Nolley

Editor's Note: We have printed a number of news releases supplied by Congressman Darin LaHood's office. Most of what has been furnished has concerned his visits with constituents in the district, rather than his work in Washington. We feel that it is only fair to give Paul Nolley, who is opposing Congressman LaHood in the November election, an opportunity to be heard.

Yesterday, for the third time, the U.S. House of Representatives approved a War Powers Resolution directing President Trump to end the war in Iran or seek congressional authorization to continue it.

This was the sixth time the House has voted on a War Powers Resolution related to this war, and the third time one has passed. With each vote, more Republicans have joined Democrats in calling for steps to end this unnecessary and unauthorized war of choice.

Illinois' 16th District Congressman Darin LaHood has repeatedly suggested that he wants to "wind down" the war in Iran. Yet this is the sixth time he has voted against taking responsibility for doing so.

Meanwhile, the price of diesel recently hit an all-time high of more than \$6 a gallon. That means some semi drivers are looking at upwards of \$1,000 for a single fill-up. These prices have risen amid the continued war in Iran, and Americans are footing the bill throughout our economy.

Rural communities like those that make up much of the 16th District are being hit especially hard because diesel powers just about everything on a farm: tractors, combines, irrigation pumps, and more. Adding to those pressures are the higher costs and uncertainty created by President Trump's tariffs, which LaHood also supports.

"This war of choice in Iran is an absolute disaster, and everyone knows it. It's dragging on with no end in sight while the American people suffer and our service members remain in harm's way," Paul Nolley said. "I would have voted yes on the War Powers Resolution. Darin LaHood says one thing in the district and then does the complete opposite in Washington. To understand where he really stands on this, or any other issue, watch what he does, not what he says."

Illinois EPA Releases 'Comprehensive Climate Action Plan' to Reach 'Net Zero' Emissions

Report calls for new investments and regulations touching nearly all sectors of the state's economy

Peter Hancock *Capitol News Illinois*

Illinois has made substantial progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in recent years, but it is not yet on track to meet its goal of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050.

That's the conclusion of a new Comprehensive Climate Action Plan released this month by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

To reach that goal, the report suggests Illinois will need to enact significant changes across virtually every sector of its economy, including transportation, building construction, manufacturing, agriculture and waste disposal.

"Illinoisans are seeing the extreme heat and storms climate change has brought
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The League of Women Voters Recognizes Bill Robertson

The League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford Second Annual Champion of Democracy Fifty-Year Voter Award was presented to Bill Robertson (on left). He is pictured with Belvidere Mayor Clint Morris and 2025 Champion of Democracy Fifty-Year Voter Ann Castro.

The League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford Champion of Democracy Fifty-Year Voter Award was recently presented to Bill Robertson of Belvidere. The ceremony began with the Belvidere North High School A Cappella singing the National Anthem. Mr. Robertson spoke about his history of voting, why voting is important to him, and his service to community. Mayor Morris congratulated Mr. Robertson for his service and reinforced to the guests how their votes make a difference.

Mr. Robertson has a rich history of voting along with other civic involvement including serving on the Belvidere Township Board for 15 years, as Township Supervisor for nine years and on the County Board for three years. Robertson first started voting in West Franklin in Southern Illinois. He moved to Belvidere in 1969, where he started the Industrial Technology Program at the Belvidere High School and assisted in other areas in the State.

Illinois EPA

from page 1

to our doorstep this summer,” Illinois Climate Advisor JC Kibbey said in a statement announcing the report. “We are feeling the high, unpredictable costs of fossil fuel every time we reach for our wallets. This plan shows the great progress we’ve made on climate and clean energy — and how much more we have left to do.”

In 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded Illinois a \$430 million grant to implement programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. That money came through the federal Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program, which was an element of then-President Joe Biden’s signature Inflation Reduction Act.

The Comprehensive Climate Action Plan is intended to provide a roadmap for Illinois to reduce its carbon footprint to as little as 72% below its 2005 baseline. It also outlines two scenarios under which Illinois could virtually eliminate all carbon emissions.

Those would involve a combination of incentive

packages and regulatory changes that would affect nearly every sector of the economy. But doing so, the report suggests, would produce \$21 billion a year in net economic benefits.

Current policies

According to the document, Illinois cut its net greenhouse gas emissions by 32% from 2005 to 2023. That was due mainly to a shift in electric generation toward natural gas and renewable sources such as wind and solar power.

The transportation industry also saw significant reductions due to improved fuel efficiency standards and the gradual adoption of electric vehicles.

Those trends are expected to continue into the future as long, the report states, as Illinois adheres to its current policies such as the 2021 Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, which calls for the complete elimination of carbon-emitting power production by 2050, and the state’s Electric Vehicle Rebate Program, which offers incentives for lower-income consumers to switch to electric vehicles.

But they will not be enough to reach the goal of net-zero emissions by 2050, according to the report. At best, without any additional policy changes, the report estimates net carbon emissions will only fall to 133 million metric tons by 2050, a 53% reduction below the 2005 baseline.

Path to further reductions

The document outlines a laundry list of additional actions Illinois could take to reduce its carbon footprint even further, starting with providing rebates and other incentives to convert all forms of commercial vehicles, including medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, to electric.

It also proposes new regulations on residential and commercial buildings. Those include adopting clean heat standards that would require a 22% reduction in emissions from natural gas by 2035, offering subsidies to install heat pumps in residential homes, adopting all-electric construction codes for new construction and phasing out gasoline-powered lawn and landscaping equipment by 2035.

It also proposes additional regulations for industrial activities such as requiring net zero emissions from cement production by 2050 and requiring reductions in emissions intensity of cement, glass, iron and steel used in public construction.

The plan also proposes stronger methane monitoring and abatement regulations for landfills and additional incentives for farmers to adopt practices that reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

The report estimates that adopting all the measures outlined in the plan would reduce the state’s carbon footprint to 79 million metric tons, or 72% below 2024 levels.

The document also outlines two scenarios for

achieving a complete “net zero” footprint by 2050, both requiring high levels of energy efficiency and replacing fossil fuels with electrification or other kinds of renewable fuels.

One plan, called the “moderate efficiency and flexibility” scenario, assumes full electrification of buildings by 2050 with 32% of households using hybrid heat pumps. It also assumes a rapid expansion of electric vehicles.

The “high efficiency and flexibility” scenario places greater emphasis on reducing energy demand. It calls for shifting the focus of new residential development to multifamily buildings instead of single-family homes to reduce heating and cooling loads. It also calls for higher density development and increased reliance on public transportation to reduce the overall number of vehicle miles traveled on roads.

Costs and benefits

The report acknowledges that adopting the policies it outlines would require substantial new investments from the state, private industry and consumers. Those include costs for new infrastructure, vehicles, heat pumps and alternative fuels, to name a few.

But the report says those investments will also yield long-term cost savings from reduced fossil fuel consumption, greater efficiencies, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and improved health and air quality benefits.

It estimates the improvements in air quality alone would lead to between 392 and 631 fewer premature deaths per year. That translates to between \$8.8 and \$13.8 billion in avoided healthcare costs and increased worker productivity.

“Including the monetized benefits of reduced (greenhouse gas) emissions and health benefits, the total annual net benefit of the Increased State Action scenario reaches \$21 billion by 2050,” the report concludes.

“Since adoption of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, Illinois has been a national leader in addressing carbon emissions, particularly from the energy and transportation sectors,” Illinois EPA Director James Jennings said in a statement. “The (Comprehensive Climate Action Plan) builds on these past successes by identifying a path for Illinois to achieve significant reductions in climate change-causing greenhouse gases and meet the state’s long term climate goals.”



Socorro “CoCo” Bernier, 86, Belvidere, September 12
Kenneth “Kenny” Burg, 66, Chery Valley, Sept. 9
LaVena “Jean” McQueen, 95, Harvard, September 12
Lorrayne (Held) Warner, 98, Belvidere, September 16
Clifford “Cliff” Simons, 83, Formerly of Marengo, Sept. 16
Judith Smith, 75, Belvidere, September 18
Kenneth “Swingin” Uden, 69, Marengo, September 12
Terry White, 80, Belvidere, September 10
Sandra Zahurones, 81, Formerly of Belvidere, Sept. 17



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419 S. State St • Belvidere, IL 61008
Phone: (815) 544-4430 Fax: 544-4330
www.boonecountyjournal.com
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.

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What is the Cause of This And How Do We Fix It?

Bob Evans Rockford University

Just recently we observed the 25th anniversary of the September 11 attacks. For all their tragic consequences, those attacks at least fostered unity. We must remember how those terrible events literally brought us together.

That was then. This is now. Not only has that fleeting unity dissipated; we have in fact become increasingly and bitterly divided.

Observe how our political debate has degenerated. Strictly speaking, we hardly even debate any more. If we disagree, you are worse than incorrect. You are a defective, nay, dangerous person. One conjures up a vision of two people standing on opposite sides of the Grand Canyon, hurling imprecations at each other.

Americans proudly profess their political independence. Voting studies, however, reveal that most voters vote a straight party ballot most of the time. We tend to "toe the party line."

The parties themselves are more ideological and single minded than before. Republicans tend to be one dimensional and stridently conservative. Democrats tend to be one dimensional and stridently liberal. As a result, party policy platforms verge on the irreconcilable. One poll actually revealed a disturbingly high percentage of parents professing dismay at the prospect of a son or daughter marrying someone from the "other" party.

Some observers profess relief at the prospect of declining violent crime rates. But we must look beneath the surface. It appears to be the case that more incidents of violence reflecting political, religious, or ethnic animus.

Economic conditions certainly deepen our depression; but can we honestly attribute causation completely to economics? Technology facilitates the communication of our displeasure, but does it actually create it?

We can document our troubling predicament. We can measure our condition. What we must do, however, is to explain the causes of our condition so that we can, while there is still time, address them.

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Illinois Asks for FEMA Help After August Storms

Trump administration denied state's last request for help after 2025 storms

Ben Szalinski Capitol News Illinois

Illinois is asking the federal government for help recovering from August storms that left a trail of destruction through Chicago's south suburbs and several Central Illinois counties.

Gov. JB Pritzker requested a presidential major disaster declaration from the Federal Emergency Management Agency on Tuesday for eight counties hit by tornadoes, high winds and flooding in mid-August. He also extended the state's disaster proclamation for another month to continue making extra resources available to impacted communities.

"I will always fight to secure all available federal resources needed most by our communities, especially when the evidence gathered through the damage assessment is clear to pursue it," Pritzker said in a statement. "Given the scale and severity of destruction in communities across our state, I fully expect our request for FEMA aid to be granted."

The governor's request covers Champaign, Cook, Ford, Fulton, McLean, Tazewell, Vermilion and Will counties. It comes after the state completed a preliminary damage assessment and determined the areas should meet the threshold for federal assistance and the damage is beyond the state's ability to handle by itself.

On Aug. 11, a storm produced tornadoes and wind gusts approaching 100 mph in Southern Cook County and Will County, according to the National Weather Service. Many of those same communities were slammed by tornadoes and high winds on July 27 and were still recovering.

More storms on Aug. 13 brought significant wind damage to McLean County, where the Normal Fire Department said it set a new record for most calls during a 24-hour shift. Many communities in Central Illinois reported flooding from another round of storms on Aug. 14.

If FEMA approves Pritzker's request, the agency's individual assistance program would be available to residents in counties impacted by the storms. The program provides grants for temporary housing or home repairs, loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other help for business owners. Local governments would also be able to use FEMA's public assistance program to repair infrastructure and receive reimbursements for debris removal and emergency responses to the storms.

No guarantee

It's no sure thing the federal government will approve Illinois' request.

A Politico analysis earlier this year found Democrat-led states saw just 23% of their disaster requests granted in the first year of Trump's second term, compared to 89% for their Republican counterparts. Under the past six adminis-

trations — including Trump's first term — states led by either party saw similar rates of approval, between 70% and 90%. The analysis also found the administration takes twice as long to issue decisions on requests from blue states.

The federal government denied Illinois' most recent requests for FEMA assistance in 2025 after parts of Chicago and the suburbs were hit hard by storms and flooding. The agency determined that both of these events did not qualify for federal aid.

Illinois also leads the nation in tornadoes, with 210 confirmed so far this year. Though many communities have been hard hit, the state has not asked FEMA for help until now. Instead, Pritzker asked for and received help from the U.S. Small Business Administration after six storm events this year.

President Donald Trump's administration has sought to raise the threshold for events to qualify for FEMA disaster assistance. A review council recommended earlier this year that the agency raise the threshold for events to qualify as a federal disaster by 50%, which would've saved the federal government \$1.5 billion in disaster relief between 2012 and 2025, according to NPR.

August's storms also ushered in some political hot air. Pritzker's Republican opponent, Darren Bailey, quickly visited communities impacted by the storms to declare Pritzker abdicated his duty by attending State Fair festivities on the same day instead. The governor visited storm-impacted residents in Lansing later that week, but Bailey said Pritzker should've already asked for FEMA's help.

A state disaster declaration is "the kickoff of our attempt to get federal money," Pritzker said at an Aug. 14 news conference. "That's the signal. We take that document, that disaster declaration, and essentially present it to the federal government, saying, 'We've declared a disaster, it's time for you to deliver.' And so it doesn't need to happen on Day 1."

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.

15 Residents Filed Complaints Against Homeland Security for Midway Blitz Harms

The complaints are the first step to seeking monetary damages from the agency

Maggie Dougherty Capitol News Illinois

Fifteen U.S. citizens and legal residents alleging excessive force, wrongful detainment and other harms at the hands of federal immigration agents during last year's Operation Midway Blitz have taken the first step to sue the Department of Homeland Security, their attorneys announced Thursday.

"Those masked federal agents used our citizens, our clients, as punching bags," said attorney Antonio Romanucci. "We are holding ICE accountable for the rights that federal agents violated here in Chicago, and we hope these actions lead to not only change here, but systemically across the country."

Joining attorneys at a news conference announcing the move were three individuals who came face-to-face with DHS agents last fall.

Oak Park Township Trustee Juan Muñoz and Harvard data scientist Kyle Frankovich didn't know each other before they found themselves cellmates, zip-tied on the ground at a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement processing center in Broadview on Oct. 3, 2025.

The two had both been observing and filming agents from the designated "Free Speech Zone" outside the center, which became a site of repeated clashes between protestors and federal agents last fall.

The two were detained for hours before being loaded into a black van and dropped off at a nearby gas station.

"No charges, no paperwork, no explanations," Frankovich said. "As a victim and witness of egregious violence by federal agents, I demand accountability."

Muñoz, who was thrown to the ground and detained by then-Border Patrol Commander Greg Bovino, said he repeatedly told agents he was an elected official, hoping they would realize they had made a mistake in detaining him.

"Part of me believed that those words may protect me, where my name made me vulnerable, that they would cause someone to pause, to question, to recognize that something had gone terribly wrong," he said. "They did not."

Delayed action

While state and local leaders recently marked the one-year anniversary of Midway Blitz with renewed calls for accountability, no criminal charges have been brought against the agents accused of brutalizing Chicago area residents.

In lieu of prosecutions, plaintiffs are suing agents under the Federal Tort Claims Act, a civil law that allows people sue to federal agencies to recover compensation from property damage, injury, death or emotional distress caused by negligence of federal employees.

Attorneys representing the residents said they are seeking "significant sums of money for each individual," but declined to provide more specificity as to the amounts.

Federal law enforcement agents are exempt from the law that allow civilians to sue state and local law officials for civil rights violations, leaving torts claims as one of the few pathways to seek accountability — though agents cannot be named individually.

And, torts claims take time. Those hoping to sue must first send an administrative complaint to the agency responsible and give the agency six months to investigate and respond. Only after the agency denies the claim, or fails to respond, can complainants move to file suit.

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Midway Blitz

from page 4

Attorneys for the residents say they hope the complaints will put pressure on local law enforcement and prosecutors to take criminal action against accused agents and said they expect more filings in the coming weeks.

This week's round of complaints follows others submitted earlier this year, including those filed collectively by 18 former residents of a South Shore apartment building who were detained at gunpoint and restrained with zip ties amid a military-style nighttime raid.

Five others who filed torts claims sued in July over agents' alleged misuse of tear gas and aggressive detention tactics.

Lasting harms

Evanston resident Jennifer Moriarty, herself a Chicago-area trial attorney, was one of the people detained last Halloween after Border Patrol agents allegedly caused a car accident, before engaging in a violent confrontation with bystanders. She also joined attorneys at Thursday's news conference.

Moriarty previously testified to the Illinois Accountability Commission, a state body tasked with documenting misconduct by federal agents, about how she came upon the scene with the intention of filming agents.

Before she could even pull out her phone, she said, an agent grabbed her by the neck and threw her to the ground, before getting on top of her and struggling to handcuff her.

She was put in an SUV with two other people, including a young man who Moriarty said repeatedly sought medical help for his injuries, which was denied by agents. They were driven around for hours, she said, before being brought to an FBI building.

Like Muñoz and Frankovich, Moriarty and the two others with her were released without charges or given reason for their detention, she said.

"The rage that I have for our government unleashing forces on its own citizens is insurmountable," Moriarty said. "The rage at the cruelty, and the giddiness that the agents carried out their tactics with, and the rage that they acted with a complete sense of impunity for the crimes that they were actively committing."

To this day, Moriarty says the sounds of horns honking, helicopters overhead, and whistles blowing still trigger emotional reactions. Sleep, she added, is a luxury she "can no longer afford."

Muñoz, the son of immigrants, said the fear and uncertainty have stayed with him and his family, and he now carries a copy of his passport wherever he goes. Like Moriarty, he said sleep is a challenge.

"My heart races when I think about what happened and how easily they took my freedom," Muñoz said. "And I understand even more deeply the fear that generations of immigrant families have carried. I'm tired of carrying what happened that day."

Human props

When he was forced to the ground by multiple agents, Frankovich said he sustained injuries, including several chipped teeth, a torn muscle in his

side, and "significant and lasting" nerve damage in his left arm.

But beyond the physical harm, Frankovich says he endured another exploitation when agents used him and other protestors as "props" for DHS social media and recruiting content.

Frankovich said he observed civilian content creators embedded with agents. Later, they learned that Bovino and then-DHS Secretary Kristi Noem were also on site.

"She (Noem) and her entourage paraded past our group of detained protestors in a reverse perp walk, clearly intending to humiliate us," Frankovich said. "Later, I learned that clearly identifiable photographs of my arrest and detainment were used in official DHS and ICE recruitment materials."

DHS did not respond to requests for comment by the time this story was published.

Each of the plaintiffs at the conference called for accountability. Muñoz said his determination to bear witness to what he saw at Broadview was strengthened, despite the fear.

"I grew up in rural communities across this country, where immigration raids happened, families disappeared, and what always followed was silence. I remember how painful that silence was," Muñoz said.

"Today, I'm speaking because we can't be silent anymore."

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.

'Illinois Remembers': State, Local Leaders Reflect On Midway Blitz One Year Later

Pritzker says it's 'near impossible' to complete investigation into federal ICE shooting without cooperation from feds

Maggie Dougherty *Capitol News Illinois*

State and local leaders joined immigrants' rights advocates in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood on Tuesday — the first day of Hispanic Heritage Month and the day before Mexican Independence Day — to reflect on the year since federal agents descended onto the city amid a targeted federal immigration enforcement campaign.

Four days after the official launch of the now-infamous "Operation Midway Blitz," U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents fatally shot Sil-

verio Villegas González, a Mexican citizen, in suburban Franklin Park after he dropped his two young sons off at school and daycare.

The operation stretched on through the winter, creating a city blanketed in fear, as many immigrant communities put their lives on hold — doctor's appointments, school, jobs — for fear of encountering federal immigration agents.

Rabia Amin's life was upended by more than just fear last September, when her father Asif Amin Cheema was detained by federal agents on his way to work at the Humbolt Park sandwich shop, Best Sub 2, he had owned and operated for three decades.

"He worked, he provided for our family, and he built a business and a life in the community that he called home," Amin said. "In a matter of seconds, that life was taken away from him."

Amin said her father was hospitalized while in custody because of his treatment, before ultimately being deported to Pakistan in January, "as if the 30 years of sacrifice meant nothing."

Her family has struggled with his separation and with trying to keep his business afloat. They are grieving, Amin said, but resilient. And, she said, they will continue fighting to demand accountability for what their family and others like them endured.

Gov. JB Pritzker echoed the calls for federal agents and Trump administration officials who carried out the campaign to be held to account.

continued on page 6

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LEGAL NOTICES

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

In the Interest of: Jordan Howell, A Minor
TO: Shurue Martin
Case Number 2026JA1

PUBLICATION NOTICE

ALL UNKNOWN FATHERS and TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
Take notice that on
5-18-26, Tricia L. Smith, Boone County State's Attorney,

filed a Petition for adjudication of wardship abuse and dependency petition under the Illinois Juvenile Court Act in the Circuit Court of Boone County, entitled "In the Interest of _ Jordan Howell, a Minor". A hearing will be held on the following date(s), or as soon thereafter as the cause(s) may be heard, at the Boone County Courthouse, located at 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008: October 15, 2026 3:00 PM in Courtroom 4

The Court may declare the Minor to be a ward of the court at the above-listed hearing(s).

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS PROCEEDING TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH THE POWER TO CONSENT TO THE MINOR'S ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH THE POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

Unless you appear, you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of Amended Petition for Adjudication or a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights.

Unless you appear at the hearing(s) and show cause against the Petition, the allegations of the Petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an Order or Judgment entered.

Date: September 1, 2026

PAMELA CODUTO, CIRCUIT CLERK

By: Kristina Pearson

Deputy Clerk

Published in The Boone County Journal Sept 8, 15, 25, 2026

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LENORE NAPIER, DECEASED. Case No. 2026PR44

CLAIM NOTICE AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Notice is given of the death of LENORE NAPIER of 929 Raffaello Vw., Mount Holly, North Carolina. Letters of Office were issued on August 25, 2026, to MARY NAPIER-GARCIA of 929 Raffaello View, Mount Holly, NC, whose attorney is Robert C. Becker, Jr., 213 West Main Street, Genoa, Illinois 60135.

Heirs, including WILLIAM V. NAPIER JR, address unknown, within 42 days after the effective date of the original order of admission any heir or legatee may file a petition with the court to require proof of the will by testimony of the witnesses to the will in open court or other evidence. You also have the right under Section 8-1 of the Probate Act to contest the validity of the will by filing a petition with the court within 6 months after admission of the will to probate. Heirs against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at the Boone County Court House, 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, or with the representatives, or both, on or before March 1, 2027, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

The estate will be administered without Court supervision unless an interested party terminates independent administration by filing a petition to terminate under Section 28-4 of the Illinois Probate Act.

PAMELA CODUTO (Clerk of the Circuit Court)

Published in The Boone County Journal Sept 8, 15, 25, 2026

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

THE ESTATE OF: MARJORIE CERNOCH, Deceased
Case No.: 2026PR28

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given of the death of Marjorie Cernoch. Letters of Office were issued on July 31, 2026 to Carrie Wagner of Caledonia, Illinois, who is the legal representative of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Sharon R. Rudy, 124 N. Water Street, #305, Rockford, Illinois 61107.

Claims against the estate must be filed on or before April 2, 2027, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975 as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk-Probate Division at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 or with the estate's legal representative, or both.

A copy of any claim filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office, Probate Division, must be mailed or delivered to the legal representative and the attorney for the estate within ten days after it has been filed.

Carrie Wagner, Representative

DATED: 9/15/2026

By: Attorney Sharon R. Rudy

Attorney Sharon R. Rudy, P.C.

124 N. Water Street, #305

Rockford, IL 61107

(815) 962-1910

service@sharonrudylaw.com

Published in The Boone County Journal 15, 22, 29, 2026

EPA Conducts Five-Year Review of

Parsons Casket Hardware Co. Superfund Site, Belvidere, Illinois

U.S. Environmental Protection Facility (EPA) is conducting the fifth five-year review of the Parsons Casket Hardware Co. Superfund site, 424 Fairview Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois. The review should be completed by May 2027.

The five-year review at the Parsons Casket Hardware Co. site gives the public an opportunity to comment about site conditions or concerns.

Superfund law requires regular checkups of sites that have been cleaned up - with waste managed on-site - to ensure the cleanup continues to protect people and the environment. This is EPA's fifth review of the Parsons Casket site.

Parsons Casket Hardware Co. made decorative metal fittings for caskets on site from the early 1900s until 1982. Facility operations included the use of hazardous chemicals. Poor storage practices and spills led to soil and groundwater contamination.

Starting In 1982, Illinois EPA removed corroded and leaking hazardous waste drums stored at the factory. By 1985, Illinois EPA removed 4,800 gallons of waste, 166,500 gallons of liquid waste and 1,230 cubic yards of sludge.

Sampling indicated that groundwater under the Parsons Casket Hardware Co site was contaminated with nickel, chromium, and chlorinated volatile organic compounds, covering approximately 30 acres. The nearby Kishwaukee River was not affected by the site.

Illinois EPA finished soil cleanup in 2002. Since then, EPA has monitored groundwater to determine if there is any residual contamination at the former factory. EPA's groundwater cleanup will involve treating the contaminated groundwater by injecting material to enhance degradation of contaminants.

For more information:

Online: <https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csinfo.cfm?id=0500189>

How to Comment

Please contact us regarding comments or concerns you may have about the Parsons Casket Hardware Co. Superfund site.

Glenn Lautenbach, Remedial Project Manager

312-353-8892 (lautenbach.glenn@epa.gov)

Francisco Arcaute, EPA Community Involvement

312-886-7613 (arcaute.francisco@epa.gov)

You may also call EPA toll-free at 800-621-8431, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., weekdays.

Published in The Boone County Journal September 22, 2026

Early Voting Hours

Early Voting for the November 3rd, 2026, General Election will begin on Thursday, September 24th, 2026 and end Monday, November 2nd, 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, October 31st, 2026 from 9:00AM to 12:00PM.

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

Amy E. Ohlsen

Boone County Clerk & Recorder

Published in The Boone County Journal Sept 22 to Oct 27

NOTICE OF BID LETTING

The Village of Timberlane will be accepting sealed proposals for snow and ice control and removal for the village roads with a total of 10.1 +/- miles and 20.7 +/- lane miles. Bid proposals are due to the Village of Timberlane on October 9, 2026, by the close of business via mail to Village of Timberlane, P O Box 56, Caledonia, IL 61011 or via email to president@villageoftimberlane.org and will be opened on October 15, 2026.

A.) Bid shall specify an hourly rate cost for ice removal product, and an estimate for time per snow fall, minimum yard capacity of dump trucks to be utilized, and minimum length (in feet) of plows, and additional required equipment available to be utilized.

B.) Successful Bidder must comply with IDOT standards for snow and ice removal.

C.) All bids shall be submitted in writing.

D.) Village reserves the right to waive technicalities and reject any or all proposals.

E.) Prior to submitting any bid, all bidders must contact Steve M Rapp, Village President at 815 985-4514 or president@villageoftimberlane.org regarding further requirements and to receive a bid letting package.

September 17, 2026

By Order of the Village of Timberlane

By: Steve M Rapp, Village President

Published in the Boone County Journal on September 22, 2026

ASSUMED NAMES

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

No. DBA4248 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a BEVERAGE AND FOOD DISTRIBUTION business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of JW BLAZE DISTRIBUTION that its location is or will be 540 Rockton Road in Roscoe, in the County of Winnebago 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: 815-988-5932

CYNTHIA MARIE BEMIS 540 ROCKTON ROAD

ROSCOE, IL 61073

I, Laura Bettis, Chief Deputy Clerk of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do the hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office.

Dated: September 17, 2025

Laura Bettis, Chief Deputy Clerk

Published in Boone County Journal 09/22,29 10/06 -P

One Year Later

from page 5

"Accountability means documenting what happened, listening to people who experienced it. It means refusing to allow fear, misinformation, or the passage of time to erase the truth," Pritzker said. "Let me say this to any agent or to any administration official who thinks that we've forgotten about their cruelty: it will not go unchecked. It will not. Illinois remembers what happened."

Documenting the 'Blitz'

Last October, Pritzker created the Illinois Accountability Commission to investigate alleged misconduct by federal agents and create a public record of the harm inflicted upon Illinoisans.

Commissioners heard testimony from medical experts and witnesses about agents' use of chemical weapons against protestors and bystanders, from historians and legal scholars about the erosion of legitimacy caused by agent misconduct, and from families, medical doctors and educators about harms specific to children.

They also heard testimony from Marimar Martinez, the Chicago teacher's aide who survived being shot five times by border patrol agents last October, before eventually issuing a 204-page report with recommendations for accountability and harm reduction.

The commission, which did not have legal authority to subpoena records or compel testimony, collected evidence from body camera footage, security camera and social media videos, and interviews with witnesses for investigations into 16 major flashpoints between agents and the public.

Ultimately, the commission turned the evidence over to local law enforcement as referrals for prosecutions of agents it reasonably believed had broken the law.

Retired U.S. District Judge Rubén Castillo led that commission, which he said made "tremendous inroads," but also expressed frustration with the lack of prosecutions, particularly for the shootings of Villegas González and Martinez.

Castillo was part of a coalition that sought to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate alleged abuses by federal agents, in the absence of action by Cook County State's Attorney Eileen O'Neill Burke.

Burke has argued that her office does not have the legal authority to initiate investigations without a request from law enforcement, and a judge sided with her in May, denying the petition for a special prosecutor.

'Near impossible' to investigate

continued on page 7



One Year Later

from page 6

Illinois State Police have been investigating the shooting of Villegas González after Franklin Park police officials requested help. A special ISP unit launched an investigation into the shooting in May.

But asked about it Tuesday, Pritzker said the investigation has faced challenges with obtaining enough evidence, and that federal officials have been uncooperative in turning over body camera footage or making agents available to testify.

Unlike the well-documented shooting of Martinez, Pritzker said fewer people were aware and walking around filming federal agents before Villegas González was killed.

“There is very little video. The video exists on body cameras of federal officials who were at that killing. They have not provided that to our investigators,” Pritzker said. “So, it makes it near impossible to complete an investigation when you know there’s evidence out there that you’re not able to receive because the Trump administration is unwilling to provide it.”

State Sen. Celina Villanueva, D-Chicago, said the impact of Midway Blitz was personal to her. She said she saw residents, public officials and Chicago police officers teargassed by federal agents.

“I saw the vacant expressions that they had on their faces, because for them we weren’t human,” Villanueva said. “It wasn’t made for TV. It was real-life trauma. People were stolen from their families. People were killed.”

But despite that, she said she was proud of rapid responders and those who stood up to protest and protect their neighbors.

“While this administration was busy showing America why hate will never make us great, it was our communities that showed America why love, compassion, unity and strength will always win,” Villanueva 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 and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

Illinois to Receive Up To \$768M In Meta Settlement Over Teen Addiction

Attorney General Kwame Raoul one of many state AGs who investigated, sued Meta

Hannah Meisel Capitol News Illinois

Illinois will receive up to \$768 million from a multi-state \$17.1 billion settlement with social media giant Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram — the culmination of a three-year legal battle brought by state attorneys general.

Nearly three dozen AGs, including Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul, sued Meta in 2023 over teen social media addiction, following a two-year investigation into decisions made by company executives to encourage more engagement on its social media platforms. The lawsuits alleged engineers greenlit more addictive features like infinite scroll and autoplay despite internal company research showing the harms of compulsive social media use on teens’ brains, in addition to misleading the public about the safety of its platforms.

“This is a monumental victory for online safety that will affect an entire generation of young people,” Raoul said in a statement. “After decades of putting profits before the health and wellness of children, this landmark settlement requires Meta to put our children’s safety and mental health at the forefront.”

The settlement, announced Wednesday, abruptly ended what was supposed to be the first of several trials spawned by the AGs’ litigation. Illinois was not one of the four states acting as plaintiffs in the federal trial kicked off last week in Oakland, California, in which Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg had been expected to take the witness stand.

Details of the settlement

Though the settlement still faces court approval, the \$17.1 billion agreed to is one of the largest state consumer protection settlements in history. Illinois will receive up to \$768 million over a 10-year period, which will be used for youth mental health and online safety training programs. In similar multi-state settlements with tobacco and opioid manufacturers, Illinois has used its share of settlement funds to enhance addiction recovery programs.

But the Meta settlement goes beyond money; the company agreed to strengthen its existing age verification systems for users in addition to a host of limitations for those between 13 and 18.

Meta debuted Instagram “teen accounts” nearly two years ago, which automatically placed privacy and content restrictions on users under 16 years, in addition to gentle reminders to get off the app after 60 minutes and a default “sleep mode,” which silences notifications between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

However, age verification isn’t iron-clad, and some limitations are easily turned off. Under the terms of the settlement, teens will have two-hour daily limits on Instagram and Facebook in addition to mandatory pauses after 15 minutes of continuous use, and again after 60 and 90 minutes.

The settlement will also supercharge “sleep mode” to a full-on nighttime block restricting teens’ access

to content feeds from 12 a.m. to 6 a.m. Muted notifications will be extended from “sleep mode” into weekdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. during the school year.

Meta will also implement stronger safeguards to block teens from accessing content related to eating disorders, suicide and other self-harm, in addition to restricting teens from access to so-called “beauty filters” and “like” counts.

The settlement also dictates that for the first five years of the agreement, an independent auditor will review Meta’s implementation of the changes and their effectiveness.

New Illinois law

Some of the settlement’s terms were already signed into law in Illinois earlier this summer, though the Children’s Social Media Safety Act isn’t set to take effect until 2028. The new law, pushed by Gov. JB Pritzker this spring, prohibits social media platforms from sending notifications to minors between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

But Illinois’ law also goes further, requiring social media platforms to confirm a user’s age through the operating system of the device — like a smartphone — on which they are using the account. It also prohibits companies from using a minor’s data to curate the content they are served on an app, a tactic deployed by nearly all social media platforms to make scrolling their feeds more addictive.

Under the law, violators face civil penalties of up to \$2,500 for each child for unintentional violations and up to \$7,500 per child for intentional violations.

State Rep. Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz, D-Glenview, the lead House sponsor of the Children’s Social Media Safety Act, said this week’s settlement is “an important first step, but not the last, in holding social media companies accountable for the real-world harm that has been a feature of these platforms, not a bug.”

She noted Meta’s challenge to TikTok and YouTube baked into the settlement: Meta will hold back 30% of the settlement — about \$5.3 billion — that it will pay out only if the other two platforms also pay roughly \$5.3 billion each to fund youth online safety programs and implement their own limitations on teens. Those include restricted night modes, age verification measures and daily one-hour time limits. If TikTok and YouTube adopt those same time limits for teens, Meta will also halve its daily usage limit to an hour.

“Notably, even Meta now says other platforms like TikTok and YouTube should be held to the same standard — proof that these protections are necessary, not optional, and that no company should be trusted to make that call on its own,” Gong-Gershowitz told Capitol News Illinois.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

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