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A Downtown To Be Proud Of

How does a community take responsibility for public spaces in which the owners of private property over generations diminish the appearance of a building until it is no longer suited to be a centerpiece of the community?

By David Larson

In 1900, the building in the photograph below was perhaps the first building to be constructed at that location on the west side of the 500 block of South State Street in downtown Belvidere.

Belvidere began on the north side of the Kishwaukee River. When the railroad came through in the early 1852 a stop was created on the south side of the Kishwaukee River, nearly all development shifted to the Near South Side until the early 1960s when the far north and south side began commercial strip development, which continues today. That development (and its associated type of ownership) has diminished the singular role that the central business district played in supplying the community with goods and services.

Sometime in the early 20th Century, the building we see in the photograph was either removed or modified beyond recognition. Due to poor construction or a fire, the original building's architectural beauty was lost. Its replacement will be left to the public to decide its worth as suitable to reflect the core, original city of Belvidere. This pattern is not unique to this location nor is it unique to Belvidere. Yet, there is a style expressed in that original building, which was established here by 1900. That architectural style defines the near north and south sides of Belvidere.

Does the city have a plan—a real plan—and how much progress has it made during the present mayoral term? The city does have a committee that meets monthly to discuss issues like this. There is a formal, 10-year plan in place gathering

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500 block of South State Street in the 1950s



500 block of South State Street in the 1970s



500 block of South State Street today

Bill Named for Chicago Domestic Violence Victim Allegedly Shot and Killed by Husband this Summer

By Hannah Meisel Capitol News Illinois

As lawmakers prepare to return to Springfield later this month for their annual two-week fall veto session, advocates are pushing for a measure that would require law enforcement to take guns away from people hit with domestic violence orders of protection.

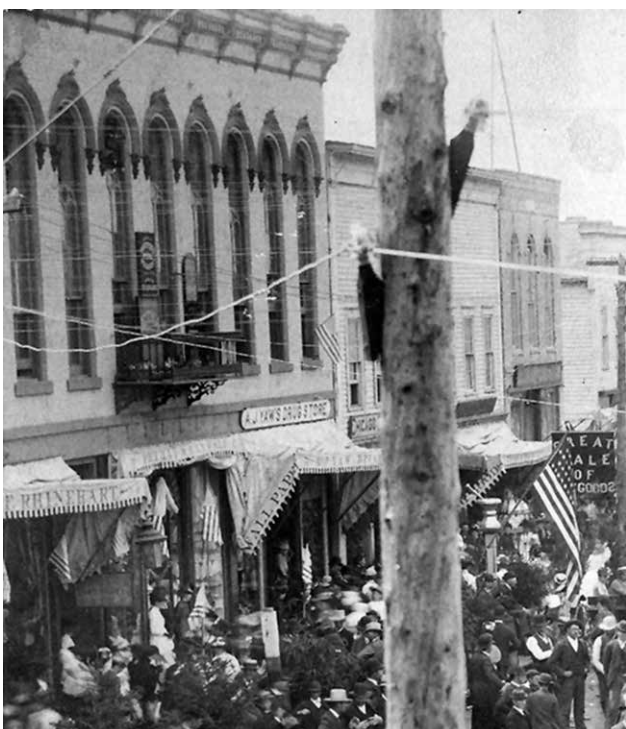
In May, Democrats in the Illinois House passed a bill including that provision, but the Senate didn't take up the proposal before the end of the General Assembly's spring session. A little

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IOU Club's Halloween Parade is On!

IOU Club's Annual Halloween Parade will be Monday Oct 30th. It is open to all businesses and individuals who would like to dress for the occasion. The goal this year is for every child in Boone County to walk in the parade. The Parade forms at N. State and Perry St. at 6pm. and starts at 7pm.

This year the IOU Club is celebrating its 100th year and the 99th year since the first parade. Following the parade there will be FREE Ice Cream and Hot Dogs at the Community Building, a warm dry place to gather, sit, and enjoy the evening after the parade. "Come one, come All...there is plenty of food," said IOU Club member John Wolf.



500 block of South State Street in the 1890s

Downtown

from page 1

dust—and will probably be doing so for the next 20 years at a minimum—if the past is any guide to the future.

Would a political leader be recognized for efforts in this direction, or shunned by voters for wasting the public’s money? Does the public have the ability to make good choices in this regard?

How do we solve problems?

During the timeline presented here, politics and economics have changed significantly. Recent memory contextualizes politics in the form of one dominant party, which is only partially true. In the early period, the Republican party didn’t even exist and does not appear to have become dominant in Boone County until after World War II. Not until the late

50s or early 60s were city elections partisan.

The city does not own the properties that compose the central business district, but it does make and enforce the building and zoning codes that the owners must abide by. The property tax and sales tax revenues from the owners’ investments in maintaining a conforming design enhances the revenue that the city receives.

When 19th Century architectural elements are maintained, all property values in the city benefit. Therein lies the public interest. Where does the property owner feel it is in its interest to invest? The circumstance becomes murky as a private-public enterprise. Cities have calculated that the public good comes from long-range planning both in private and public partnerships when the future does not seem to have a market solution. Large corporate investments in Belvidere commonly receive tax breaks and gifts from state and local governments, professed to be for the benefit of the community in the long term. Like education, the condition of the core city is something that better quality, higher paying corporations look at when picking a location.

Economics have changed. All of the turn-of-the-century-buildings were built by local merchants, who invested in square footage as well as aesthetics. At the time, the style was unique, yet similar, and created a mosaic that architecturally defined this community. Unfortunately, much of that beauty has been removed or covered in the last 100 years. In the past, an individual built a building and conducted a business. The building created a monument around which the identity of the community has formed. A familiar place with a past that reaches beyond anyone’s memory. Where the city began and the health of that area matters. New construction in spaces that do not meet the criteria should be designed to blend into the community.

Today, the local economy is not dominated by successful local merchants who built unique buildings. Mega corporations with local managers build disposable, cookie-cutter buildings in strip developments along stroads (a road that becomes choked with commercial development—East State Street in Rockford, for example) where space and limited-time investments control decisions. What will become of those buildings in 100 years?

The corporate model, rather than renovating consistent, aesthetic, traditional buildings within the core city construct branded, semi-temporary buildings. Would we even want them to be renovated? Belvidere needs to develop a sense of direction, and resist its lackadaisical sense of sanctimony. If not, what will the 500 Block of South State Street look like in 100 years? The city is embarking on the development of a comprehensive plan to begin to answer these questions. Knee-jerk, thoughtless desires will only contribute to the same-old same-old. Let’s rise to the occasion and begin to tackle a problem that has only been talked about for the last 50 years.



Julianna Faith Middleton, affectionately known as “Juli”, passed away on October 11th, 2023 after a courageous battle with cancer. Former resident of Belvidere and Cherry Valley, she left this world surrounded by her children and son-in-law in Plano, Texas where she resided.

Juli was born in Evanston, IL on June 16th, 1958 to Herbert and Patricia Middleton. As many know, Juli could accomplish anything she set her mind to do with her spunky spirit and astounding creativity.

A celebration of life will be held in December 2023 in Illinois with further details to be arranged. We invite you to share your memories and upload photos of Juli on her memorial page, view service details, and read her full obituary at <https://meritm.funeraltechweb.com/tribute/details/2036/Julianna-Middleton/obituary.html#content-start>

Quidnunc



What which kind of growth would you like in 50 years? Fast Food and Truck Stops growing around the tollway?

Park like streetscape around the river with restored turn of the century buildings?

OBITUARIES

- Joellen Boland, 67, Belvidere, October 12
- Judy “Oma” Drewelow, 75, Harvard, September 26
- Linda Kennedy, 70, Harvard, October 10
- Julianna Middleton, 65, Plano TX, October 11
- Robert Purvis, 71, Belvidere, October 15
- Robert Shacklee, 84, Belvidere, October 10
- Betty Wurtz, 84, Harvard, September 22

REAL JOURNALISM FOR A REAL DEMOCRACY

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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.

State Supreme Court Weighs Another BIPA Lawsuit, Lawmakers Mull Child Data Privacy Framework

Health care industry argues it is exempt from biometric privacy liability

By Andrew Adams Capitol News Illinois

In Springfield on Thursday, the medical industry went to court.

The Illinois Supreme Court heard oral arguments in a pair of class action suits brought by two suburban nurses, Lucille Mosby and Yana Mazya, who allege their employers violated the state’s Biometric Information Privacy Act, a landmark 2008 law that gives Illinois residents the ability to sue companies that misuse biometric data, such as fingerprints or facial scans.

It’s the same act that formed the basis of several high-profile lawsuits that have led to massive penalties or settlements, such as the \$650 million Facebook agreed to pay its Illinois users after it was alleged to have misused biometric data.

The nurses allege that, by requiring the use of fingerprint scanners to open medicine cabinets,

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Privacy

from page 2

Northwestern Medicine, UChicago Medicine and Becton, Dickinson and Co. – the company that makes the medicine cabinets – violated BIPA.

According to court filings, the hospital systems did not collect written releases allowing them to use the fingerprint data, nor did the hospitals provide information about how the biometrics would be stored or eventually destroyed. They also failed to obtain consent to disclose the fingerprint data to third-party vendors that host it.

But lawyers for the defendants argued the use of biometrics to manage medicine falls under an exemption to the law because it counts as, in the words of BIPA, “health care treatment, payment, or operations under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.”

The exact wording of the law, and the definition of “under,” faced scrutiny from lawyers on both sides of the case as they argued about the intersection of BIPA and the federal HIPAA law.

“If the defendant is correct, that means the General Assembly decided that as much as 10 percent of the Illinois workforce should have no biometric privacy protection whatsoever, simply by virtue of working in the health care field,” the nurses’ attorney, Jim Zouras, told the court Thursday.

Beyond the specifics of the case, the hospitals’ lawyers also focused on its potential industrywide impact. In their legal brief filed ahead of arguments, they said health care providers would potentially face “catastrophic liability.”

In a February decision against fast food chain White Castle, the Supreme Court ruled that each separate violation of BIPA – meaning every time the company required an employee to sign in using biometric data – represented a separate violation of the law. With penalties of \$1,000 or \$5,000 per violation included in BIPA, White Castle estimated the ruling could eventually cost the company \$17 billion.

That level of liability could be disastrous if applied to the medical community, the defendants argued.

“Biometrics are industry standard at this point,” Matt Wolfe, a lawyer for BD, told the justices Thursday. “Over the last 15 years, this type of technology has become extremely widely used in the health care setting.”

A lower court agreed with the nurses in 2022, with Justice Sharon Oden Johnson of the First District Appellate Court writing lawmakers “did not exclude health-care employee biometric information” from BIPA protections.

The case has drawn the attention of both the wider medical industry and the business community.

Several major advocacy and trade groups filed amicus briefs in the case, generally supporting the exclusion of health care workers from BIPA protections. These include the Illinois Health and Hospital Association, the Advanced Medical Technology Association and a coalition of private hospitals including Springfield-based

Memorial Health, Northshore University Health System and Rush University System for Health in the Chicago area.

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce also filed briefs warning of potential “annihilative liability” for hospitals if the court rules in the nurses’ favor, referencing a line from a dissent written by Justice David Overstreet in the White Castle case.

While most of the amicus briefs supported the hospitals’ arguments, the American Nurses Association filed an amicus brief supporting the plaintiffs.

“To exempt hundreds of thousands of healthcare workers from coverage without explicit language from the legislature to that effect would be contrary to BIPA’s purpose,” the organization’s lawyers wrote in their brief.

The justices will now take the arguments into consideration, although there is no timetable for a decision being filed.

Lawmakers consider broader framework

While the high court considers the state’s existing privacy regulations, lawmakers are thinking about broader privacy frameworks. A Senate committee met in Chicago on Tuesday to discuss an unrelated proposal that would create a framework for data privacy focused on strengthening protections for minors online.

The hearing, held by the Senate Judiciary Committee, was to discuss a proposal from Sen. Sue Rezin, R-Morris, to implement an “age-appropriate design code.” The proposed policy would require companies that offer online services “likely to be accessed by children” to assess the impact of their product on children and explain privacy policies in language that children would understand.

Under Rezin’s bill as it is written currently, businesses would be liable for civil penalties of up to \$2,500 per affected child for negligent violations of privacy protections and up to \$7,500 per affected child for intentional violations.

The proposal would also place new privacy and data restrictions on companies, limiting their ability to profit from and share data collected from or about minors. This has drawn support from some youth activists, who say a policy like this could help curb the harmful effects of social media.

“I’m here to speak on behalf of my generation for the harm we’ve experienced,” Zamaan Qureshi, co-chair of the advocacy organization Design It For Us, told lawmakers Tuesday. “Some of our generation have developed depression,

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Thoughts on the Current Idea of Pity

The First Plague of Human Intelligence and morality.

An Idea that has tormented the morally righteous since the beginning of time, pity. Is it a virtue or a vice? Too often pity is used interchangeably with compassion or empathy. When in reality pity has qualities more akin to belittling. And to fan the flames many people do it without realizing how destructive it is. Pity creates victims, sets up power dynamics, and inhibits growth.

Pity makes people out to be victims of life, and by living as victims, they are excused of fixing themselves. As the saying goes, “They had traumatic childhoods,” suggesting that it is still an excuse for their actions years later. In arrogance they have immensely offended the person with a traumatic childhood. After all, what right does someone have to strip someone else of their sense of responsibility? To be held accountable is to be seen as a person who can comprehend his actions. This is what people who practice pity do. Consciously or not, they set up power dynamics.

We like to pity people because it makes us feel as if we are practicing a virtue. Pityable people cannot be held responsible because something tragic has happened to them. They are unable, therefore, to comprehend their actions. The problem with this is that people look down on others whom they see as their intellectual or emotional inferiors, thereby silently setting up a power dynamic.

In the end this is the root problem. “Pity preserves things that are ripe for decline,” stated Nietzsche, the world renowned German philosopher. Pity denies the sufferer a chance to move on because all he can see is pain. Showing pity is not the answer, but rather having empathy. To empathize with people is to be put into their position, forcing both people involved to face reality head on. Relationships with empathy will be stronger than those with pity because the former will evolve, whereas the latter will simply solidify suffering.

Pity creates victims, sets up power dynamics, and inhibits growth. Repeatedly it has proven itself time and time again to be a vice, yet we continue because it easily and selfishly satisfies our desire to be morally righteous. Instead, we should strive to empathize with those who are suffering, because only then can suffering evolve into emotional, spiritual, and intellectual growth.

Jocelyn Torres



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Violence

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over a month later in early July, Chicago resident Karina Gonzalez, her 15-year-old daughter Daniela and 18-year-old son Manny were allegedly shot by Gonzalez' husband Jose Alvarez after she was granted an order of protection against him.

Karina and Daniela died from their wounds, while Manny escaped and survived. On Thursday, he sat stoically as lawmakers and advocates explained the urgency of passing a clarification to current law at a downtown Chicago news conference.

"Their murder is horrific and should have never happened," said State Sen. Celina Villanueva, D-Chicago, noting the shooting happened just a few blocks from her district office in Little Village on the city's southwest side. "Manny, I'm sorry."

Under existing law, when petitioning a court for a domestic violence order of protection, a victim can ask for 18 specific "remedies," including the revocation of the alleged abuser's Firearm Owner Identification (FOID) card. But state law is less than clear on how a FOID card should be surrendered – or forcibly taken by law enforcement if need be.

Once a FOID card is revoked due to an order of protection, any firearms a person owns are supposed to be transferred to someone else with a valid FOID card for the duration of the protective order. But Amanda Pyron, executive director of Chicago-based domestic violence advocacy organization The Network, said sometimes guns are transferred to someone who lives with the abuser, meaning the guns are never "actually relinquish(ed)."

Additionally, Pyron said the firearm remedy is being applied inconsistently across Illinois. A 2022 report from The Network found that in 2021, nearly 11,000 Illinoisans had their FOID cards revoked, but only 4,000 actually filed paperwork with the Illinois State Police showing firearms had been transferred to another FOID card holder. The report stipulates that not all of the 11,000 revocations were due orders of protection but noted that domestic violence is the number one reason for FOID cards being revoked in Illinois.

State Rep. Maura Hirschauer, D-Batavia, who sponsored the measure this spring, said it's critical that the law is clarified so law enforcement is given a clear directive that firearms must be confiscated within 48 hours of a victim being granted a domestic violence order of protection against their abuser. It would also explicitly allow a judge to issue a search warrant for those weapons when law enforcement goes to serve the order of protection.

Hirschauer said Illinois' current order of protection process is "failing too many domestic violence survivors."

"An order of protection is a key tool to help survivors, especially as they try to leave a violent relationship," Hirschauer said Thursday. "When an order of protection is granted with the firearm remedy, that gun needs to be removed from the home immediately. We cannot have any ambiguity about this process. The stakes are too high."

Advocates on Thursday cited a 2003 study that found that in domestic violence cases, an abuser's access to a firearm was associated with a five-fold increased risk of homicide.

According to reporting by the Chicago Sun-Times, Gonzalez was granted a domestic violence order of protection against Alvarez in June. The next day, Chicago Police were called to their home on a domestic disturbance call but didn't search for his name in the statewide law enforcement database where orders of protection are registered. Alvarez willingly gave police his FOID card, but closed the window he was speaking to officers through when they officers tried to give it back.

When Cook County sheriff's deputies went to officially serve Alvarez his order of protection the day after police visited the house, he wasn't home, according to Sun-Times reporting. Law enforcement never verified that he gave up his gun, and Gonzalez and her children moved back in with Alvarez a few days later after he promised to go to rehab.

Roughly a week later, Alvarez allegedly shot the three of them. He was charged with two counts of first-degree murder, along with one count of attempted murder and a single count of aggravated discharge of a firearm. His next court date is in November.

In May, Hirschauer shepherded her broader bill through the House, which also would have created a task force to study the feasibility of requiring gun owners to carry liability insurance and included a provision to expand a probation program for first-time offenders charged with illegal gun possession. The probation program was stripped out and passed with bipartisan support in the last hours of lawmakers' spring session.

Read more: As assault weapons ban faces challenges, lawmakers consider more gun restrictions

But after Gonzalez' murder this summer and in the midst of National Gun Violence Awareness Month in October, Hirschauer and advocates say lawmakers should prioritize passing the order of protection portion of her stalled bill.

However, she and Villanueva acknowledged there were still technical hurdles to work through before offering a final version of the proposal in veto session. They include questions like how the Illinois State Police – the entity that oversees FOID cards – interacts with local law enforcement, and how local police are supposed to handle the storage of firearms they confiscate from someone with a domestic violence order of protection.

During debate on the bill in the House this spring, Republicans like State Rep. Patrick Windhorst, R-Metropolis, himself a former state's attorney, called the proposal an unfunded "additional burden" on law enforcement. State Rep. C.D. Davidsmeyer, R-Jacksonville, claimed the bill would create "an opportunity for people who don't want someone to have a gun to go after them."

Veto session begins Tuesday, Oct. 24.

OP-ED

Court Actors Must Implement SAFE-T Act for Crime Survivors

By Amanda Pyron

Executive Director, The Network

In mid-September, Illinois will move one step further in the pursuit of justice by exchanging risk for wealth as a determinant of safety when making pretrial release decisions. As someone with 25 years of experience as an advocate for survivors, most spent working in our federal criminal legal system that has long operated without money bail, I know risk-based decision making can keep survivors of gender-based violence and the public safe.

Since the Pretrial Fairness Act was passed in 2021, opponents have used fearmongering and misinformation to derail its success. Over recent months, it has become clear that some public officials are still not ready for this new system, nor are they doing enough to prepare for these changes.

We routinely saw survivors used as pawns during the political debate over this bill, and sadly that continues. Misinformation continues to come from state's attorneys themselves or their allies in law enforcement who oppose the law. In a recent story published by WGLT, McLean County State's Attorney Erika Reynolds falsely claimed that some people charged with domestic violence couldn't be jailed under the new law. In fact, all people charged with domestic violence, both as a misdemeanor or felony, can be held in jail pretrial when there are public safety concerns. No one charged with an offense of domestic violence will be released without a hearing. Notice to survivors, along with an offer to petition for a domestic violence order of protection, is required before an initial hearing. These are all powers given to states' attorneys to keep survivors safe and informed of all their options at each stage of their case.

The Pretrial Fairness Act has been implemented on Sept. 18 after years of advocacy by organizations combatting gender-based violence. Our community specifically drafted

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OP-ED

Illinois: Don't Swap Money Bail for Digital Jails

By Alicia Virani And Kate Weisburd

Illinois has made history. With the implementation of The Pretrial Fairness Act, it is the first state to fully eliminate cash bond. This means that no one will be held in jail simply because they cannot afford to pay for their freedom. But this historic win for pretrial freedom is in jeopardy.

State court judges and a newly created agency — the Office of State Pretrial Services (OSPS) — are primed to replace the freedom provided for in the Pretrial Fairness Act with GPS-equipped electronic ankle monitoring (EM), a technology that has no proven track record and causes more harm than good. At the end of August, OSPS rolled out plans to substantially expand the use of monitoring in Illinois, setting the state up to have the largest number of people on monitors in the United States. Illinois faces a choice: remain a beacon of hope for pretrial justice reform or provide another example of a failed attempt at change.

To pre-ordain the expanded use of ankle monitors is a mistake. As researchers who study the use of electronic monitoring throughout the United States, we are concerned. No research shows that EM leads to better outcomes as compared to people being released without a monitor. The evidence from the pretrial EM program in Cook County, one of the largest and most rigorously studied in the United States, is unequivocal: Placing a person on an electronic monitor does not impact their likelihood of committing more crimes or make it more likely they will show up to court.

Instead, research shows that EM, particularly when combined with house arrest, directly undermines a person's stability when it is needed most. In addition to 24/7 location tracking, the rules associated with monitoring and house arrest make it difficult for people to seek or sustain work, keep their housing, visit relatives, attend church, meet with their lawyers, respond to medical emergencies or care for their children, to name just a few examples. Although not confined to a jail cell, monitoring, like jail, limits privacy, restricts liberty and disrupts family and financial security. The Pretrial Fairness Act provides some guaranteed movement for people on monitors, but it is not enough to ensure people can easily care for themselves and others.

The technology is also faulty. The monitors, which are meant to track and record people's movement in real-time, have a history of producing false alerts. In Cook County, one report noted that 80% of alerts from monitors were "false positives." These alerts erroneously placed a person away from their home when they were not. These technological "glitches" often led to rearrest for alleged violation of the rules, leading to more incarceration, the very thing the new law is supposed to decrease.

In a recent interview, an OSPS representative

said they are "not encouraging" judges to order electronic monitoring once the new law goes into effect. But by providing widespread access to flawed and ineffective technology, the agency is creating a self-fulfilling prophecy. California offers a cautionary lesson. After the state's bail practices were reformed, the number of people on monitors pretrial in Los Angeles increased dramatically and there was no net decrease in the pretrial jail population. San Francisco saw similar trends, raising concerns that monitoring is being used too much.

To be clear, under the new law, judges are required to release people who are deemed not a safety risk and not likely to flee. This means that most people released under the new law do not need monitoring because they are neither a safety or flight risk. Most people released pretrial are successful without any added conditions, and the most effective services a court can provide are simple, non-punitive ones: court reminders, transportation to court, child care assistance, and

referrals to voluntary community-based services.

People on pretrial release need support, not surveillance. The state is poised to spend hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars on monitors. These funds would be better spent on mental health services, jobs, affordable housing, and effective treatment for substance use. Rather than incarcerate people in their own homes, Illinois should work to improve people's quality of life and support their social and economic security.

The Pretrial Fairness Act is a model for other states seeking to eliminate the broken cash bail system. Yet by swapping cash bail for electronic monitoring, Illinois courts and the OSPS risk undermining years of progress and reform.

Kate Weisburd (she/her) is an associate professor of law at George Washington University School of Law. Alicia Virani (she/her) is the Rosaline and Arthur Gilbert Foundation director of the Criminal Justice Program at UCLA Law School.



Illinois Department of Transportation

Virtual Public Hearing

Scheduled by Illinois Department of Transportation

For improvements of US Business Route 20 from Shaw Road through the State Street/Appleton Road intersection in Belvidere.

The Illinois Department of Transportation will be conducting a virtual public hearing to receive input from the public regarding the proposed improvements of US Business Route 20 from Shaw Road through the State Street/Appleton Road intersection in Belvidere. This is a federally-funded project, and this virtual public hearing is being held in compliance with IDOT's required public involvement policy.

DATE and TIME

Wednesday, October 25, 2023
5:00 PM to 6:30 PM

ONLINE – VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING

To register for the virtual public hearing, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/RegisterUS20PH>

The Purpose of this virtual public hearing is for the public to refamiliarize themselves with the project since the second public information meeting and review the proposed improvements through a webinar presentation. Following the presentation there will be a virtual open comment forum. Materials will be posted to the project website the day of the hearing. Comments can be submitted via email, mail, or the study website and at the district office. In addition, **on October 30, 2023 from 1:00 – 4:00 PM, we will also be providing the opportunity to have your comments submitted verbally to an in-person Department staff member and a court recorder. This will be held at Rivers Edge Recreation Center, 1151 W Locust St, Belvidere, IL 61008.** The virtual presentation materials will also be available for review at this time. Comments received by November 25, 2023, will become part of the official outreach hearing record.

The proposed project would involve use of land at the Beaver Bluffs Conservation Area from the Boone County Conservation District and land from the Belvidere Park District within the Glenn H. Green Open Space Area. Approximately one half acre of right-of-way and less than one half acre of temporary easement will be required from the 71-acres owned by the Belvidere Park District (including the 3-acre Glenn H. Green Open Space area). Less than one acre of temporary easement will be required from 79.1-acre Beaver Bluffs Conservation Area. Land is needed for the reconstruction and widening of US Business 20 and will not adversely affect the park's activities, features, or attributes that make the property eligible for Section 4(f) protection. Through publication of this notice, the Department is requesting the public's views on the proposed use of parkland and on FHWA's intent to make a Section 4(f) de minimis determination.

The public hearing will be held in a virtual format with personnel from IDOT and representatives from our consultant team and will include a virtual open comment forum. If you are unable to attend the virtual public hearing, you may view the materials and video on the project website after October 25th at: <https://tinyurl.com/USBusiness20Study>

Persons with a limited internet access or that require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact Michael Kuehn, Studies and Plans Engineer, at the Illinois Department of Transportation, 819 Depot Avenue, Dixon, IL 61021 at least three (3) days prior to the hearing. The contact may be in writing, by telephone at (815)284-5351, or by e-mail at Michael.Kuehn@illinois.gov.

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LEGAL NOTICES

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

TAYLOR HOMEWOOD Plaintiff
-VS- CASE # 2023-GR-28
GREGORY & CINDY HOMEWOOD Defendant

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Notice is given to you, JOHANN STEELE, Defendant that this cause has been commenced against you in this Court asking for GUARDIANSHIP APPOINTED TO GREGORY & CINDY HOMEWOOD OF SON TRENTON STEELE and other relief.

Unless you file your response or otherwise file your appearance in this cause in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Boone County, Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, Illinois, 61008 on or before the 7th day of November, 2023 a Judgment or other relief as prayed for by the Plaintiff may be granted.

Dated: 10/03/2023
Pamela Coduto
Clerk of the Circuit Court
17th Judicial Court
Boone County, Illinois

Published in The Boone County Journal 10/05,12,19 (P).

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

In The Interest of: VINCENT & ADDILYN LUCAS, minors
No. 21-JA-29-30

Jacob Lucas, Father

ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Take notice that on JUNE 28, 2021, a petition was filed under the JUVENILE COURT ACT by Atty. Tricia Smith, State's Attorney, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, in the Circuit Court of Boone County entitled "In the Interest of Lucas, Vincent & Addilyn, minors; and that in the County Courthouse in Belvidere, Illinois, at 2:30 P.M. central daylight time on 11/02/23; or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared to be a ward of the Court under that Act. 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 POWER TO CONSENT TO 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 an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

Now, unless you appear at the hearing 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.

Dated: September 27, 2023
Pamela Coduto, CIRCUIT CLERK

Published in The Boone County Journal: 10/5, 10/12, 10/19 - C

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

CROSSCOUNTRY MORTGAGE, LLC, Plaintiff(s),
vs. Case No. 23 FC 65
JUSTIN MCCAY, AURORA BATTAGLIA, UNKNOWN OWNERS,
AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendant(s).
PUBLICATION NOTICE

The requisite Affidavit for Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you: JUSTIN MCCAY, AURORA BATTAGLIA, NON-RECORD CLAIMANT'S and UNKNOWN OWNERS, Defendants in the above entitled suit, that said suit has been commenced in the Circuit Court of Boone County, Chancery Division, by the said Plaintiff, against you and other Defendants, praying for foreclosure of a certain Real Estate Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:

LOT 6 (EXCEPTING THE NORTHERLY 31 FEET THEREOF) AND LOT 5 OF JACKSON HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION A PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 26, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED MARCH 5, 1957, IN BOOK 4 OF PLATS, PAGES 28 AND 29, IN BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS. SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Tax Number: 05-26-305-055
commonly known as 731 RICHARDSON ST BELVIDERE IL 61008; and which said Real Estate Mortgage was made by JUSTIN MCCAY AND AURORA BATTAGLIA, and recorded in the Office of the Boone County Recorder as Document Number 2022R03096; that Summons was duly issued out of the said Court against you as provided by law, and that the said suit is now pending.

Now, therefore, unless you, the said named Defendant, file your answer to the Complaint in the said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the office of the Circuit Court of Boone County, located at 601 N MAIN ST, BELVIDERE, IL 61008, on or before November 20, 2023, default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said Complaint.

LAW OFFICES OF IRA T. NEVEL, LLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
Ira T. Nevel - ARDC #6185808
Timothy R. Yueill - ARDC #6192172
Greg Elsnic - ARDC #6242847
Aaron Nevel - ARDC #6322724
Andrew Chu - ARDC #6285924
175 North Franklin St. Suite 201
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 357-1125
Pleadings@nevellaw.com
KP
23-02078
13231071

Published in The Boone County Journal Oct 19, 26; Nov 2, 2023.

Boone County Housing Authority proposes to increase the rent for project based vouchers at Pearl Place. All documentation for the increase can be requested during normal business hours at Boone County Housing Authority 2036 N. State Street, Belvidere, IL 61008 or by email from DAIfredson@NiReach.org. The public comment will begin on October 18th and run through November 16th, 2023. Written comments can be submitted until November 16th at 3:00 pm to DAIfredson@NiReach.org or 2036 N State Street Belvidere, IL 61008. A public hearing will be held at 2036 N State Street, Belvidere, IL 61008 on November 17th, 2023 @ 9:00 am.
Published in The Boone County Journal 10/19

The following amount must be paid no later than 5 p.m. November 2, 2023.

FULL payment of CASH or MONEY ORDER ONLY, accepted by APPOINTMENT at:

Danndi Storage
13537 IL Rte. 76
Poplar Grove, IL 61065

Or the contents of the below listed units, located at 13511 Harvest Way, Poplar Grove, IL.,

will be sold at auction or otherwise disposed of on or any day after November 3, 2023.

Jackie Lamb - Unit #75 - Amount due \$1161.12 plus advertising
Ashley Bakken - Unit #93 - Amount due \$772.12 plus advertising
Published in The Boone County Journal 10/19, 26

The following amount must be paid no later than 5p.m., October 27, 2023.

FULL payment of CASH or MONEY ORDER, accepted by APPOINTMENT at:

Belvidere Boone Self Storage
6276 Logan Ave.
Belvidere, IL 61008

Or the contents of the below units, located at 6252 Logan Ave, Belvidere, IL will be sold at auction or otherwise disposed of on or any day after October 28, 2023:

Crehan James - Unit 66 - Amount due \$780.00 plus advertising.
Toby Roush - Unit 18 - Amount due \$775.00 plus advertising.
Published in The Boone County Journal Oct. 19, 2023, and Oct. 26,

ASSUMED NAMES

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

No. DBA4163 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a COTTAGE FOOD business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of JANE'S SINFUL SWEETS that its location is or will be 122 W 5TH STREET, in Belvidere in the County of Boone County, State of Illinois, and that the true or real name(s) of the person(s) owning, conducting, or transacting the same with the post office address or address of said person(s) is shown below.

Phone Number: 779-207-8468
TAMMY ROBINSON, 122 W 5TH St., Belvidere, Illinois 61008

I, Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk And Recorder 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 27, 2023, Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder
Published in Boone County Journal 10/05,12,19

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

No. DBA4170 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a PAINTING business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of MBC PAINTING that its location is or will be 418 E. PERRY STREET, in Belvidere in the County of Boone County, State of Illinois, and that the true or real name(s) of the person(s) owning, conducting, or transacting the same with the post office address or address of said person(s) is shown below.

Phone Number: 815-319-9206
MARIO D BARRADAS, 418 E. Perry St., Belvidere, Illinois 61008

I, Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk And Recorder 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: October 09, 2023, Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder
Published in Boone County Journal 10/12,19,26 (P)

Survivors

from page 4

provisions in the law to require notice from states' attorneys offices to victims ahead of the initial hearings, when that hearing was previously exempted from the list of hearings requiring victim notification by states attorneys. We also drafted language to ensure offenses like sex crimes, trafficking and domestic violence are on the list of offenses that require police, prosecutors and judges to take extra time with these cases. With more time, survivor safety will be at the forefront of every decision, rather than having cases moved as quickly as possible. We also worked to ensure that all states' attorneys must file a petition to detain a defendant for any violation of protective order, knowing the potential lethality and safety issues at play when a protective order is violated. These are the critical provisions that, coupled with the end of wealth-based incarceration, will create a more survivor-centered pretrial system.

The time has come to ensure our court actors understand the law and will fully implement this law to protect survivors. Any failure to implement — including notice to survivors of initial hearings, provision of a protective order when requested, or completion of a risk

assessment when needed — will put individual survivors and communities at greater risk for repeated harm. By reducing pretrial jailing for most offenses, court actors can finally turn their attention to where it should be: on higher level offenses like domestic violence and sexual assault that affect public safety and survivors.

When our elected officials and law enforcement perpetuate misinformation about the law, they put survivors at risk by misstating their rights under this new system. Survivors deserve to know how exactly their county state's attorney and local law enforcement will enforce the new law, and ensure it upholds public safety for all people. It is imperative we set aside political differences and implement the law correctly so all survivors across Illinois can get the rights and opportunities afforded to them under the SAFE-T Act.

Illinois should be proud to be the first state in the country to abolish money bail, and center survivor-centered practices into its pretrial system. We call on states' attorneys and law enforcement to join us to prepare our communities and survivors for this new and improved system.

Amanda Pyron is executive director of The Network, an anti-gender-based-violence organization in Chicago that helped draft and pass the Pretrial Fairness Act.

Privacy

from page 3

eating disorders and attempted or taken their life due to social media.”

Rezin said the proposal is “almost identical” to a similarly named California law passed in 2022. That law was inspired in turn by another similarly named policy adopted in the United Kingdom.

The age-appropriate design code would also require companies to estimate the age of their users to a “reasonable level of certainty” and apply child-focused protections based on that estimated age. Alternatively, the companies could apply those protections to all users.

But Tyler Diers, a representative of the tech industry lobbying group TechNet, argued such a requirement would encourage web companies to collect more personally identifiable information than they already do, leading to increased risks from data breaches.

TechNet's members include Apple, Google and Meta — the owner of Facebook and Instagram — among other large tech companies.

On Monday, a federal judge in the Northern District of California granted a preliminary injunction in a lawsuit brought by tech lobbying group NetChoice that objects to California's age-appropriate design code law. The judge found the tech industry's argument that the law violates the First Amendment would likely prevail at trial.

When asked about the pending legal challenges to the ideas underlying her bill, Rezin said she expects to iron out some of those details in future legislation.

“The hearing was a first step in educating my colleagues on how social media companies are creating algorithms to addict minors because they view minors as a product they can advertise to, to make money off of,” Rezin told Capitol News Illinois.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government. It is distributed to hundreds of print and broadcast outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, along with major contributions from the Illinois Broadcasters Foundation and Southern Illinois Editorial Association.



Report: Illinois' Educator Workforce Weathered Pandemic, But Persistent Issues Remain

Shortages still exist in select regions, teaching specialties

By Peter Hancock & Andrew Adams
Capitol News Illinois

The supply of education professionals continues to improve in Illinois despite strains brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, but persistent issues remain in certain regions of the state and within some teaching fields.

That's the conclusion of a new report by the education advocacy group Advance Illinois, which was instrumental in the 2017 passage of the state's Evidence-Based Funding formula that overhauled the way state funds public education.

"This is really critical for children," Advance Illinois president Robin Steans said in an interview for the Capitol Cast podcast. "There's literally nothing more important that we do as a state than to make sure that we've got effective teachers in every classroom, in front of every child. And if we get that wrong, if there are gaps, if there is turn, if there is attrition, all of those things, negatively affect kids."

Even before the pandemic, Illinois was experiencing shortages of teachers, administrators and paraprofessionals, although the shortages weren't distributed evenly across the state or across all teaching areas. Then, as schools closed during the pandemic and later went to hybrid systems of remote and classroom teaching, there were concerns that even more educators would opt to leave the profession altogether.

However, the Advance Illinois report suggests the post-pandemic workforce remains largely intact.

It shows the number of teachers, assistant principals and paraprofessionals working in Illinois schools has been growing steadily since well be-

Teachers are less diverse than the students they teach

In Illinois, 83.1 percent of teachers are white, compared to 46.4 percent of students, according to state data from the 2022-2023 school year. And over the past 15 years, Illinois students have gotten more diverse at a faster rate than their teachers.

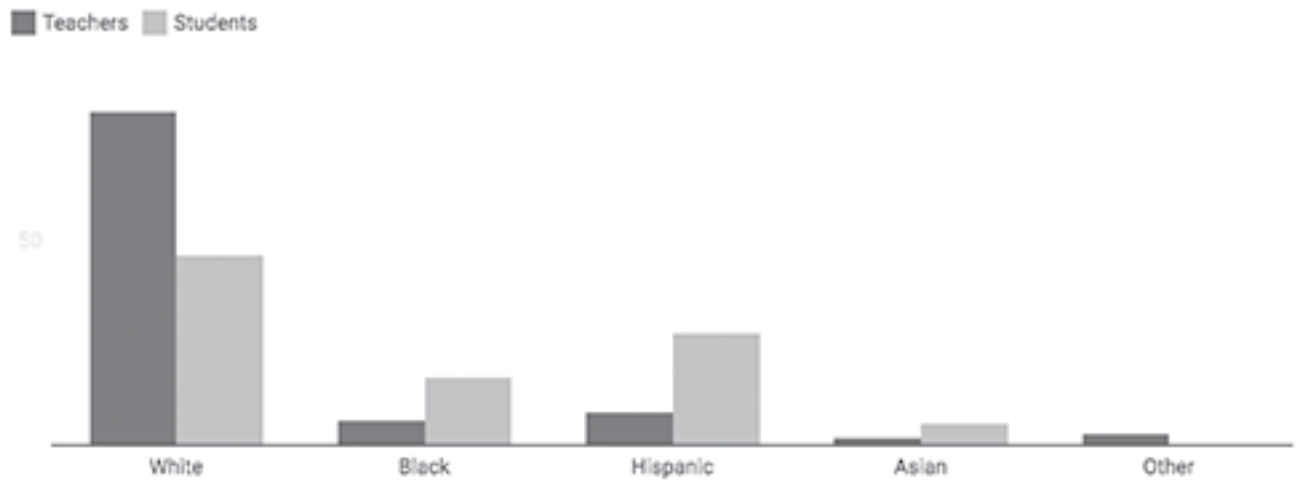


Chart: Andrew Adams, Capitol News Illinois • Source: Illinois State Board of Education • Created with Datawrapper

Teacher attendance fell significantly when schools returned to in-person instruction

Student attendance fell by 1.9 percent when schools returned to in-person instruction. Teacher attendance fell by 22.9 percent. This decrease placed strain on the state's substitute teacher workforce.

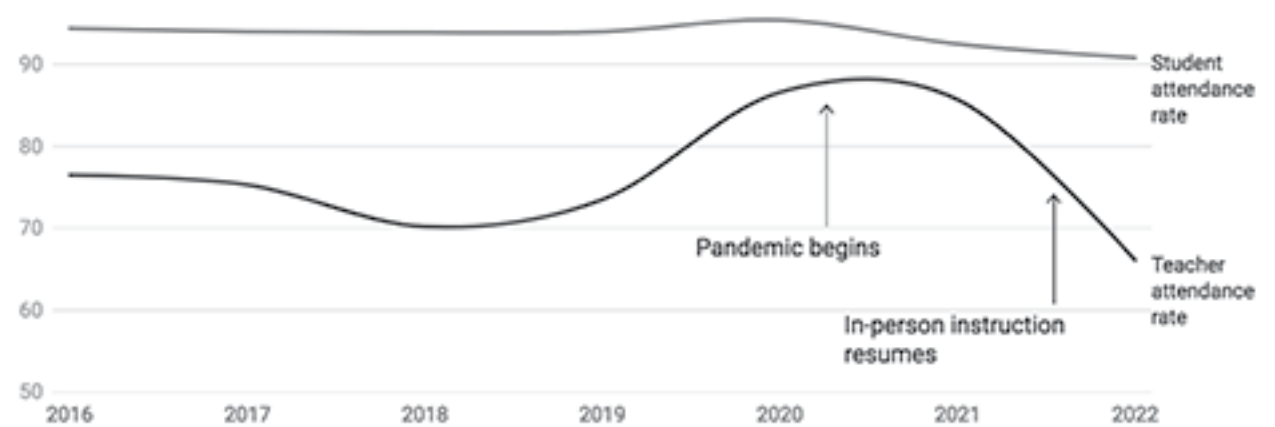


Chart: Andrew Adams, Capitol News Illinois • Source: Illinois State Board of Education • Created with Datawrapper

fore the pandemic and is now at its highest level in the past decade. And that growth has been seen in all regions of the state and across districts of different funding levels.

That finding is also reflected in the most recent state report card from the Illinois State Board of Education, which shows the statewide average student-teacher ratio was 17:1 at the elementary level, a 10.6 percent improvement from five years ago. At the high school level, the student-teacher

ratio was 18:1, an 8.4 percent improvement from 5 years ago.

Teachers also increasingly don't look like the students they teach. Fifteen years ago, there was a 31 percentage point gap between the percentage of white teachers compared to the percentage of white students. Last year, that number had risen to a 35-point gap, meaning that the state's student population is diversifying at a faster rate than the teacher workforce.

El Nino Adds Wrinkle To Winter Outlook

By Daniel Grant
FarmWeek

Now that temperatures in Illinois feel more seasonable for mid-October, at least for the time being, many people probably wonder what lies ahead for winter.

And, as always, there's no shortage of opinions on the subject.

Sources such as the Farmers' Almanac predict a "cold, stormy" winter season ahead. But the arrival of a strong El Nino, such as the one in place, typically tilts the pattern in Illinois toward a warm and mild winter, according to Chris Yates, chief meteorologist with WMBD and WYZZ in Peoria.

Yates discussed the weather outlook for the rest of fall and winter during a recent interview with FarmWeek.

"We're heading into a strong El Nino winter," he said. "An El Nino winter historically has been on the warmer and drier side and we tend to not have a lot of snow in the Midwest.

"There have been exceptions, specifically during weak El Nino events," he said. "But the stronger the El Nino, the warmer, drier and less

snowy winters tend to be around here."

That doesn't mean Illinois will avoid run-ins with the Polar Vortex or big snow events this winter. But a typical El Nino winter also contradicts the Farmers' Almanac outlook.

"Even if the forecast says it will be a warmer and less snowy winter, it doesn't mean it won't get cold," Yates said. "It will mostly certainly still get cold and it's still going to snow. There's no stopping that.

"But, at the end of the day, we'll probably be

warmer than average and less snowy than average if history repeats itself."

The typical El Nino pattern also contradicts recent observations from those who track the woolly black caterpillar. Folklore suggests the longer the black bands are on the woolly worm, the longer and more severe it will be for the upcoming winter.

"I've heard various things about the woolly worms this year," Yates told the RFD Radio Network. "From what I've heard, there's been a

Continued on Page 8

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State Officials Recommend Gas Price Increase for 4.1 Million Consumers

Final decision on rate increases expected before the end of the year

By Andrew Adams Capitol News Illinois

Utility customers throughout Illinois will likely see higher natural gas bills beginning in January after staff at the state's utility regulatory agency recommended rate increases for four gas companies.

Those recommendations – made by administrative judges at the Illinois Commerce Commission – next go to the appointed five-member commission itself. Over the next two months, the ICC will weigh whether to approve rate hikes for the 4.1 million customers of Ameren Illinois, Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas.

Estimates on the consumer cost of the rate increases, which go into effect in January, vary.

Nicor, which serves 2.2 million Illinoisans, estimates that their original request would increase customer bills by about \$9.28 per month. Ameren customers' bills are expected to increase by several dollars per month as well. Peoples Gas claims that, due to the falling price of natural gas, customer bills will remain at similar levels to last winter.

The proposed rate increases have drawn criticism from consumer and environmental advocates. Consumer advocacy groups, like Illinois PIRG, oppose the increases and have argued the utilities are spending money irresponsibly.

PIRG's director, Abe Scarr, said that he expects the commission to modify the recommendations "to be more consumer conscious, more climate conscious."

"The big question is what changes will the commissioners actually make," Scarr said.

Scarr and other advocates have been watching the commissioners closely throughout the rate case process for hints as to how they might rule. The commissioners are all relatively recent appointees of Gov. JB Pritzker, with three having joined the board in the spring.

One of the major concerns in the gas cases – and the infrastructure spending driving the rate increases – is the electrification of residential heating and cooking across the U.S. Advocates say this could lead to a future where companies create "stranded assets," meaning infrastructure that is no longer used.

But the gas companies have defended their requested increases by pointing to the fact that much of the infrastructure spending is required for safety reasons and by federal law.

"The company's cost of service is now increasing due to continued investments in our system infrastructure to meet new federal compliance-related regulations and industry best practices that help ensure system-wide reliability," Allison Gregoire, a Nicor Gas spokesperson, said in an email to Capitol News Illinois.

Higher prices, higher profits

The ICC has several levels to control the price of gas utility bills, with one of the most significant being setting utilities' "return on equity" – in other words, the profit that's returned to shareholders.

This has been a major point of contention throughout the 11-month rate case process, with advocates, companies, the state's attorney general, and the staff of the ICC all proposing different potential rates.

Ultimately, the administrative judges overseeing the cases sided with ICC staff on their recommended profit rates. For Nicor and Ameren, they recommended a 9.89 percent return to shareholders. For Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas – which are owned by the same parent company, the administrative law judge recommended a 9.83 percent return.

While lower than the companies' requested profit rates – all of which were above 10 percent – the recommended rates were higher than any proposed by consumer advocates.

The Citizens Utility Board, a nonprofit created by the General Assembly in the 1980s to advocate for consumers before the ICC, was part of a coalition of organizations that argued for a 9.5 percent profit rate for Peoples Gas and Ameren and 9.4 percent for Nicor.

"Too often, they (the ICC) side with utilities, especially when it comes to the profit rates for shareholders," CUB director Sarah Moskowitz said in an interview.

Utilities also say a wider profit margin allows them to more easily attract investments and conduct business transactions.

"The requested rate of return will give us access to affordable project financing with lower debt costs, and those savings will be passed on to our customers," Tucker Kennedy, Ameren's director of communications, said in a statement.

ICC's busy year

Beyond the gas rate cases, the ICC is also considering two complex cases that will determine the price of electricity for Ameren Illinois and Commonwealth Edison, the two largest electric utilities in the state.

These cases involve multi-year rate plans as well as a grid planning process, both of which were outlined in the 2021 Climate and Equitable Jobs Act.

These multi-year plans are expected to increase electricity rates for most Illinois utility customers over the next four years, with ComEd's plan increasing rates by \$200 per year by 2027 and Ameren's increasing rates by \$300 per year over that span. The ICC commissioners will likely lower these increases somewhat by the time they vote on a final order in these cases later this year.

The commission is also considering permitting two controversial pipelines that are designed to transport carbon dioxide for eventual sequestration in underground geologic structures in central Illinois.

In addition to ideological and political fights surrounding the pipelines, there is also an ongoing legal question of what role states should play in regulating CO2 transport. While the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Material Administration has the authority to determine safety, some states factor that into their regulatory structures.

This was one of the main concerns cited by South Dakota regulators when they quashed a permit application from Navigator CO2 for a pipeline that would have terminated in Illinois. Last week, Navigator withdrew its Illinois application from ICC consideration but noted it may reapply.



El Nino

from page 7

lot of black ones, which supposedly means a bad winter."

So, what's the history or track record of seasonal forecasts produced by the Farmers' Almanac?

Yates analyzed the Farmers' Almanac winter outlooks the past 10 years by comparing the actual precipitation, snowfall and temperature statistics from December through February each year. He reported the findings on his weather blog.

And, while it was spot on in consecutive years last decade, the Almanac's long-range predictions are about as accurate as a coin flip.

"They had some good years and hit the nail on the head in 2013-14 and 2014-15," Yates said of the Almanac winter outlooks. "But the forecasts weren't as good beyond that."

Yates gave six of the past 10 Farmers' Almanac winter outlooks below-average to failing grades and scored four as average or better for accuracy.

Near-term, much of Illinois could be about done with summer-like temperatures, which would be good for fall anhydrous applications. But Yates can't rule out a return of unseasonable warmth.

Looking ahead, one of Yates' top concerns remains a lack of moisture. Topsoil moisture in Illinois ranked 57% short to very short, 42% adequate and just 1% surplus as of Oct. 2.

"The dry weather has been good for harvest. We're not dealing with a lot of delays due to rain," he said. "But I imagine there are some concerns as we're dealing with severe drought in some parts of the state."

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.



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