On Roe anniversary, sides hold firm

Two activist families fight contrasting abortion battles in Illinois and Indiana

By Angie Leventis Lourgos

On Roe anniversary, sides hold firm for reproductive rights in the Midwest. Just over the state line in northwestern Indiana, another family is fighting a diametrically opposite battle to remove reproductive choice in a part of the country where they’ve recently been stripped. For years, Julie Storbeck and her husband, Paul, have gathered every Tuesday at the Porter County Courthouse to rally in support of abortion rights. She is president of the National Organization for Women, pro-reproductive rights group that has condemned the state’s near-total abortion ban, which went into effect in August.

Her daughter Hannah Trueblood, 20, has also taken up the cause of reproductive justice, often demonstrating against abortion at its last legs with the 1837 deadline approaching, when the state’s ban is scheduled to take effect.

“Curiosity” documentary series takes viewers behind the scenes of researchers’ lives—like the Age of Turtles, in which she plays a chef in 19th-century France.

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Turning to Anniversary, Page 10

DRAMATIC EFFECTS

By Adriana Pérez

As Chicagoans come up inside to avoid the bitter cold, patches of snow settle over the surface of Lake Michigan, making it look like a snow-covered landscape. Days later, the sun pokes out, illuminating a thin, sparkling layer of ice along the shoreline. A historically warm start to winter followed by a plunge to temperatures below zero last week finally closed this warming period. ‘We went from such a warm December to extreme cold. It was a crazy four weeks,’ said City of Chicago Chief Weather Physicist Steve Vavrus. ‘The lake is still responding to December; it hasn’t caught up yet with January, as its temperature is still above normal. It’s pretty warm lake reacting to some very cold air, and that’s really why we’re seeing this dramatic effect.’

The first 43 days of meteorological winter from December 1 to Jan. 12 were the third warmest in Chicago after 1890 and 1878. That mild stint fittingly capped 2023, which broke any warmest of the world’s hottest year. ‘This has been an unusual winter. It was record warm for much of the northern part of the country in December,’ said Steve Vavrus, a senior scientist with the University of Wisconsin at Madison. ‘January has been a bit cooler, which helps cool some of the warming trends.’

The first days of January, January 1 to 5, were the second warmest in Chicago history, trailing only in 1919. The cold snap didn’t last, and by the end of January, the lake had warmed up, and the temperatures stayed pretty warm too until last week, when a powerful blizzard moved through the region.

By Jeremy Gorner

In 2002, Edgar Naranjo was a 19-year-old drug dealer desperate for money. He hatched a plan to rob a flower vendor who he thought had a large supply of cocaine he could peddle for cash. His teenage accomplice broke into the vendor’s Northwest Side home, the vendor’s son, a Chicago police officer, shot and killed the younger intruder and wounded Naranjo, who was later arrested after escaping the scene.

In 2017, Naranjo wound up with a 40-year prison sentence under Illinois’ felony murder rule, a controversial law that allows murder charges to be filed against a person committing a felony, even if they didn’t kill anyone. In December, an appeals court sentenced Naranjo to half his lengthy prison term.

Citing this case shows what’s wrong with felony murder law

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BY A+E LIFE+TRAVEL

Chicago Tribune

Chicago's Ports

The team's core values in its last legs with the NBA trade deadline approaching, when the option remains open for the Bulls to consider trade options.

Naranjo freed after serving half of a 40-year sentence

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Crisis says his case shows what’s wrong with felony murder law

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