



# Companies use risky ads amid diversity rollbacks

BUSINESS, 8A

## THE STATE Journal Register

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# Proud Boys message removed

## Community strongly opposed billboard

**Molly Parker**  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

BREESE — After strong community opposition, including a county board meeting where dozens of people spoke against it, the Proud Boys billboard that

was put up near a high school in Clinton County was removed Tuesday. A representative from Lamar Advertising’s Collinsville office said the sign was taken down around noon. The company declined further comment. Clinton County Board Chairman Brad

Knolhoff said the county had no legal authority to regulate the billboard’s content, but he and many others contacted the company, expressing their outrage. “I would say the fact that so many people were reaching out played a large factor” in the decision, he said. “I’m very pleased that the billboard is down because of the animosity it was causing

and the angst in the community. It’s not healthy for the community.” The billboard, up only a few days, was located at Old U.S. Route 50 and St. Rose Road, about 1,000 feet from the entrance to Central Community High School. It listed a local recruiting phone number, but calls went to a voicemail

**See BILLBOARD, Page 4A**

# Pritzker signs bills into law

## New rules impact health care, driving and more

**Abreanna Blose**  
AI-assisted reporter  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Gov. JB Pritzker signed several bills into law on Aug. 15. The new laws cover a range of topics, from health care and education to public safety and consumer protection. Governor Pritzker issued vetoes on two bills, according to a news release. HB2682, which would have streamlined Family Violence Option screening into the standard TANF application process and increased Crisis Assistance benefits, was vetoed. SB0246, which would have allowed the State Treasurer to create a nonprofit investment pool and electronic payment processing program for 501(c)3 and 501(c)5 organizations, was also vetoed. According to the announcement, here is a summary of the bills signed by Gov. Pritzker:

- **HB3756:** Creates an Easy Enrollment process for the Illinois Health Benefits Exchange.
- **HB0079:** Allows retired sheriffs to work as school security guards.
- **HB1226:** Raises the minimum age for annual driving tests from 75 to 79.
- **HB1270:** Allows health care professionals to place their license in a fee-exempt, volunteer status.
- **HB1278:** Protects employees who record crimes of violence using employer-issued equipment.
- **HB1287:** Requires skilled care facilities to have an AED by Jan. 1, 2030.
- **HB1316:** Expands firearm violence reporting requirements on school grounds.
- **HB1331:** Requires the Department of Insurance to consider network

**See RULES, Page 2A**



A woman takes pictures of the waves Aug. 20 before Hurricane Erin’s near approach in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. PHOTOS BY ALEJANDRA CARDONA/REUTERS

# Hurricane Erin hits closest point to U.S.



A red “no swimming” warning flag waves Aug. 20 before Hurricane Erin’s near approach at beaches in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

## Storm unleashing powerful waves and rip currents

**Dinah Voyles Pulver, Thao Nguyen and Jeanine Santucci**  
USA TODAY

Hurricane Erin reached its closest approach to the East Coast and was beginning to move away from North Carolina early Aug. 21. Erin remained a large Category 2 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 100 mph as of 11 a.m. ET Aug. 21. It was located about 260 miles east of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, and was moving north-northeast at 18 mph.

The storm was expected to make a turn to the northeast and pick up speed. Its timeline for passing by the East Coast has accelerated some, and Erin is expected to slowly weaken until it reaches post-tropical cyclone status by Aug. 23, forecasters said. However, the storm continued to unleash powerful waves and rip currents, threatening beachfront homes and flooding roads as authorities urged people to stay out of the water.

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