

OBITUARIES

Susie Cain

Beverly Sue "Susie" Cain, 83, of Arcola, passed away at 9:58 A.M. on Friday, June 30, 2023, at her residence.

A celebration of Susie's life will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, August 12, at the Brad-O-Clen Cabin, 720 North County Road 125 East, in rural Arthur. A reception for family and friends will be held following the service from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Brad-O-Clen Cabin. The Edwards Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Susie was born on the 4th of July 1939, at home during the Oakland Fireworks. Her dad took her two siblings to the fireworks, and when they

returned, they were surprised to find out that she had been born. She was a daughter of Walter and Thelma (Kile) Stewart.

Susie was a 1957 graduate of Oakland High School.

Susie was supposed to have a date and meet the future love of her life, Cork, but he was a no-show. He had to work over and didn't have any way to let her know. So, being the nice person she was, she decided to give him another chance. But when that night arrived, she had been asked to play Bunco, so she blew him off. The third time was the charm, and they finally went out, and it must have gone well because Susie

married Collin "Corky" Cain three months later on August 1, 1964, in Oakland, and they were married for 49 and a half years. He passed away on October 26, 2013. She missed Cork more every day and finally got to join him after nine and a half years apart.

Susie absolutely thought that being a "Gaga" (Grandma) was the best thing ever. Then came the Great Grands and the Grandkids were replaced in the top slot for the best thing ever.

She also was always one to sacrifice herself for her family. Which was never more evident than her yearly trips to Louisville, Ky to be the leader and protector of her nieces as they went through the haunted houses on the Ghost Runs. Her nieces thought of her as a second mother, and Aunt Susie was very special to all of them.

She has had so many friends in her life. Age didn't matter to her. She bowled for years with a group of ladies who were 20 or more years younger than her. When she decided that she was not going to bowl anymore, her bowling team could not find anyone "younger" to replace her; the girls wouldn't let her "retire from the team," and they insisted she continue because she was such a fun person.

The first person Cork introduced her to in Arcola was Nonna Lytle. Nonna became and remained her closest best friend until Nonna passed away a few years ago.

Susie is survived by one daughter, Kim Cain of Arcola;



Cain

three grandchildren, Jordan Beck and his wife Marissa of Paris, Kody Beck and girlfriend Cassidy Dycus of Arthur, and Taylor Rosales and her husband Adam of Malvern, Ark.; three great grandchildren, Sophia and Tinley Beck of Arthur, and Coleman Beck of Paris; her brother, Tom Stewart and his wife Diane of Tuscola; sisters-in-law, Shirley Schweighart Waldrop, Wilma, Carleen and Clara Cain; and some very good friends, Peggy Allen, "Dum Dum" Donna Bender and Linda Wickersham.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Cork; three children, Dennis Cain, and Sabrina and Kathy Cain; a sister, Betty Zachary and her husband Bill; a niece, Angela Sulzer; a very good friend, Nonna Lytle; five brothers-in-law, Junior, Don, Ron, Calvin and his wife Vir-



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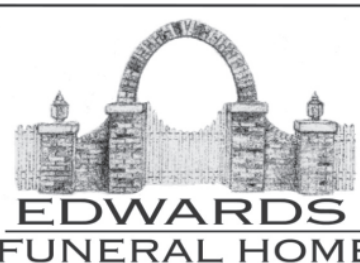
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GRAIN MARKETS

As reported by Total Grain Marketing - Arcola at 1:55 p.m., Monday, August 7, 2023.

Corn		Beans	
Cash	\$5.07	Cash	\$13.72
October'23 (futures)	\$4.61	October '23 (futures)	\$12.67



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IF IT'S PILSON IT'S POSSIBLE

Residents, activists ask state regulators to reject utilities' rate increases

By ANDREW ADAMS
Capitol News Illinois

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Members of the public rallied against potential increases to the price of natural gas and electricity at two recent public hearings before a state regulatory body that has the authority to limit those rate hikes.

The Illinois Commerce Commission is considering several rate hikes, including two sought by the utilities Peoples Gas and Ameren Illinois, who say they are needed to fund infrastructure improvements.

Activists and residents in the utilities' service territories, however, accused the companies of corporate greed and of disregarding the needs of the poor. Environmental advocates also shared concerns about the effects of natural gas on public health and the climate.

Representatives of Peoples Gas outlined their request at an ICC hearing held at a University of Illinois Chicago auditorium on Aug. 1. Their request, if allowed, would result in an approximate monthly increase of \$11.83 for residential gas prices. They also noted that they expect the market rate for gas to decrease, which could result in customers' bills remaining mostly stable next year.

The ICC has the authority to accept, reject or modify the amount of the increase and the other details included in the request, like how the utility plans to spend its money and the utility's profit rate.

"The primary driver of our rate request... is the investments we're making in our system," Peoples Gas President Torrence Hinton said Tuesday.

The hearing, which drew about 100 people, came about two weeks after the ICC hosted a similar hearing in Decatur on a proposed electric rate increase from Ameren. Both hearings were requested by AARP Illinois, a consumer advocacy organization that represents people over 50.

Dorian Williams, one of dozens of people who spoke against Peoples Gas' requested increase Tuesday, said the question wasn't about whether to invest in the infrastructure, but who would pay for it.

"It's my understanding that when a company maintains a product - in this case not the gas itself, but the infrastructure delivering that product - it is their task to maintain it," Williams said. "So if the infrastructure has been degrading and hasn't been maintained, if people haven't been employed at levels to keep it maintained, wouldn't that be considered negligence on behalf of the company?"

Others at the hearing asked the commission to consider the affordability implications of granting the rate increase. Scott Onqué is the pastor at St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church on Chicago's South Side and the policy director for Faith in Place, an environmental advocacy organization.

"Why spend money on the backs of the least to build an infrastructure that is dated and realistically at the end of its life," Onqué told regulators.

ginia, and Clifford Cain; and one sister-in-law, Maxine Cox, and her husband Bill.

She retired from Justrite Manufacturing in Mattoon after several years of service. Most recently, she worked at the Arcola Public Library.

Susie worked up until the day before she passed away

and never let anything slow her down. She had more friends than she ever realized. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends, but we know she is with everyone who has already gone to Heaven, and is entertaining and cracking them all up.

"I'm also alarmed that you have casually announced that this is just a \$12 increase. This is not affordable for folks like me. This could be the difference between eating or getting to work that month."

Peoples Gas has received criticism for its higher-than-average number of customers who are in debt to the company. In recent months, as many as one in five Peoples Gas customers have been more than a month behind on their bills.

Environmentalists also asked the ICC to reject parts of Peoples Gas' request, pointing out the environmental impacts of continued investment in natural gas. Natural Resources Defense Council advocate J.C. Kibbey said that the effects of climate change have been particularly visible in recent weeks, with Chicago seeing dangerous air quality due to wildfire smoke billowing down from Canada. Kibbey also pointed out that last month was among the hottest in recorded history.

"I know the commission can't solve all these problems today, but these incredible harms should make us even more skeptical about the record-breaking spending that Peoples Gas wants us to pay for and it can help protect us from unwise spending and higher gas bills," Kibbey said Tuesday.

Representatives of the Sierra Club and the People for Community Recovery also spoke at the hearing.

Schwartz noted in an email that Peoples Gas' investments

and research into things like "renewable natural gas" and hydrogen technology have reduced leaks in old pipelines and that since 2017, the company has reduced methane emissions by more than 1,300 metric tons.

While they were in the minority, some offered comments in support of Peoples Gas' requested increase. Donato Iocco, a Peoples Gas employee and vice president of Utility Workers Union of America Local 18007, noted that the increase would help continue the company's pipeline replacement program.

That replacement program had previously, for about a decade, been funded through the state's Qualified Infrastructure Plant program. Through that program, gas utilities recouped their costs on those projects through a formula-based process that allowed them to collect - and routinely increase - a customer fee without having to go through an 11-month rate case.

Now, with the QIP program set to expire, Peoples Gas is requesting funding to continue that program through the standard rate case process.

"I've been working on mains where it actually fell apart in my hand - caused a huge gas leak that I had to respond to, me and my crew," Iocco said.

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