

HI-LITER

~ including McHenry County News

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KELSEY ADAMS PHOTO HI-LITER/MCN

The crowd takes in a musical performance in 2022 during the McHenry Area Rotary's three-day music, food and craft brew fest that this year has been re-named from Blues, Brews & BBQ to Bands, Brews & BBQ. This year's fest will be Aug. 18-20 at Petersen Park.

Blues, Brews & BBQ is now Bands, Brews & BBQ

More diverse lineup still boasts top local blues artists, adds alternative rock, country, R&B and more

Cynthia Wolf
CONTRIBUTOR

The McHenry Area Rotary's chief annual fundraiser has a new name, new top sponsor and a special Sunday feature in the works that club members hope will draw record crowds for the three-day music, food and craft brew fest along the shore of McCullom Lake.

The decision was made going into this year to rename the fest from Blues, Brews & BBQ to Bands, Brews & BBQ. This year's fest will be Aug. 18-20 at Petersen Park.

"The change reflects our desire to appeal to a more diverse, inclusive audience," said Diana Mark, lineup chairwoman for the event. "But those who've been longtime fans should not fear that we're ditching the blues. We're not. With John Todd, Jimmy Nick, Ivy Ford and Kevin Purcell among those in the lineup, we aren't straying far from our roots."

Headlining opening night, on Friday, Aug. 18, after Todd and Nick will be Cadillac Groove, which performs a high-energy variety of southern rock, blues, funk, R&B, soul and more. The fest gates will open at 4:30 p.m. Aug. 18, with musical performances starting at 5 and concluding at 11 p.m.

Saturday's lineup starts with the indomitable, globe-trotting blues kitten Ivy Ford at 4 p.m., followed by The Simple Remedy, billed as "classic Nashville sound mixed with Motown soul." Taking the stage for the evening's final performance on Aug. 19 will be Too Fighters Chicago, a Foo Fighters tribute band.

Sunday's performers will be Wall of Denial, Kevin Purcell & the Nightburners and Two Beer Tommy. Wall of Denial is Chicago's premier Stevie Ray Vaughan tribute band, while Purcell's swamp boogie blues licks are well-loved by the fest's diehard fans, and Two Beer Tommy will bring a country rock conclusion to the musical weekend.

"As the lineup shows, we've also returned to three bands each day, so at \$10 for presale tickets and \$15 at the gate, it's a great value," Mark said.

The entire fest is presented this year by the McHenry Outdoor Theater – Golden Age Cinemas, whose owner, Scott Dehn, has been a longtime supporter.

"The McHenry Area Rotary does a great job coordinating this festival for the community to enjoy — and to raise money for worthwhile causes," Dehn said. "It's something I've been impressed with for years, and I'm thrilled to take a lead role."

Additionally, this summer's fest features a first-time Sunday all-performance sponsorship by Ray Auto Group and Jeeps on the Run, coupled with a Jeep show.

"We're excited to partner with our longtime friends at Jeeps on the Run to present all of the great music that fest-goers will enjoy at Bands, Brews & BBQ on Sunday," said Ray Scarpelli Jr., owner of Ray Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram and Ray Chevrolet, both in Fox Lake. "It's going to be a great time."

Don Tonyan and Denis Buch, McHenry Area Rotarians and festival co-chairmen, said sponsorships are a huge factor in the event's success, dictating how much money the club can allocate to charitable grants in the coming year.

"We're grateful to Scott Dehn, Ray Scarpelli, Mike Missak of Jeeps on the Run and others who've stepped forward, like Adams Auto Body and Volo Museum, to help us get a running start this year," Tonyan said. "We could not pull this off without them."

Buch said due to the past support of sponsors and fest-goers, the club has provided nearly \$300,000 in grants dating back to the fest's start in 2012. Recent recipients have included Feed My Starving Children, the McHenry FISH Food Pantry, Kids in Need of McHenry County, Youth and Family Services of McHenry County and Rotary Secret Santa.

For other information about the fest, visit www.mrbbb.com, find Bands, Brews & BBQ on Facebook or send an email to mchenryarearotary@gmail.com. Sponsorship details are available at mrbbb.com/sponsor.

After-school programs at risk of closure after state board says it miscalculated federal funding

Programs serve thousands of students in low-performing and high-poverty schools

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Thousands of elementary and high school students throughout Illinois could lose access to after-school and summer programs in the upcoming fiscal year but advocates are hoping that either the General Assembly or the federal government can keep that from happening.

The programs, known as 21st Century Community Learning Centers, are a federally funded through program administered by the Illinois State Board of Education that targets students in low-performing and high-poverty schools.

Many of the programs offer academic enrichment activities to help students meet state and local academic standards. They also offer literacy and other educational services to the families of students enrolled in the programs.

"Many of these students have child care responsibilities for younger siblings, mental health concerns, and are victims of domestic violence, just to name a few," said Kimberly David, associate director for Project Success of Vermilion County. "The relationships that our staff build with these students to help ensure that they stay the course and finish high school are very important. Several of our students have utilized our program time to apply for college and jobs with the encouragement of our staff."

David was among several people who turned out April 19 for ISBE's monthly board meeting in Springfield urging the board to ask the General Assembly to cover a funding

gap that is estimated at \$15 million by ISBE.

ISBE spokeswoman Jackie Matthews said the funding gap is the result of a miscalculation the agency made when it tried to estimate how much federal money would be available next year.

Each year, she said, ISBE awards grants to school districts and other community-based organizations that provide after-school, before-school and summer programming. The grants typically run for five years and at the end of that period, they can either be renewed or the recipient can apply again through a competitive selection process.

Under federal rules, recipients generally are not allowed to carry over unspent funds from one year to the next. But those rules were relaxed during the COVID-19 pandemic when schools were forced to close and no services were being provided.

Matthews said agency officials were unable to accurately estimate the impact that rule change would have and, as a result, it made commitments to distribute more funds in the upcoming fiscal year than will actually be available.

ISBE only discovered the error recently and, on April 10, it notified organizations whose grants expire at the end of this fiscal year that their grants will not be renewed and there will not be a new grant competition for them to enter.

"We recognize the late timing of this communication and ISBE's error in not appropriately forecasting grant funding," the agency said in the notification letter. "We

are committed to providing earlier notice going forward, so that grantees have ample time to plan and prepare for the conclusion of the grant cycle."

The advocacy group ACT Now Illinois, a coalition of after-school service providers, estimates that 12,000 students will lose access to programs as a result while roughly 550 after-school staff members will lose their jobs.

Teresa Dothard-Campbell, who runs a program for middle school students in East Moline School District 37, said her program will not be directly affected this year but she has heard from colleagues at other sites who are being affected.

"And I can tell you that it was very disheartening last week to sit around a table and to hear about the impact that not being able to be funded was going to have on the students in our community," she said. "In my program alone, we serve 475 students out of a student population of 1,100 students. We offer over 22 after-school clubs or before-school clubs. And we are enriched with bringing in community partners as well to be able to provide those experiences."

Advocates urged ISBE to seek additional funding through the General Assembly to prevent the programs whose grants are expiring from closing. But Matthews said the agency currently does not intend to do that. Instead, it is asking the federal government for permission to use pandemic relief funds to cover the amount that was over-allocated for next year.

McHenry Riverwalk business incubator opening in June

Thanks to the idea from the McHenry Area Chamber of Commerce and the students of McHenry High School for their building skills, the McHenry Riverwalk will be home to 10 small businesses taking advantage of a new business incubator program this summer.

The plan is to build an idyllic 'village' of 12'x12' and 12'x16' tiny shops that have a nominal cost to rent for the season.

The businesses, from June to October, will occupy 10 tiny shops being built at Mill-

er Point Park, just next to the Riverwalk on Boone Creek. This project will provide a physical retail experience to small businesses ready to take on the challenge of operating in a brick-and-mortar location. Selected businesses will have the opportunity to test their product in the McHenry market for a season while learning the ins and outs of operating retail storefront.

One of the requirements of the business owners will be to participate in multiple workshops that will help them grow

their business and prepare them for "what's next". Supported by the McHenry Area Chamber, the City of McHenry, and other shop owners, these businesses are in a strong position to succeed.

Incubators like this one yield results; according to the National Association of Business Incubators, 87% of incubated businesses are still open after five years, and 84% stay in the area where they started.

For more information visit <https://mchenrychamber.com/mchenry-riverwalk-shoppes/>

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LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

St. Francis Woods, found within Independence Grove Forest Preserve, is the first northern Illinois forest inducted into the Old-Growth Forest Network. The public is invited to a celebration on May 5 at 10 a.m. where officials will present a plaque to the Lake County Forest Preserves.

Part of Independence Grove gains national recognition

Public invited to celebration ceremony on Friday

St. Francis Woods, located within Independence Grove Forest Preserve in Libertyville, Illinois, has gained prestigious national recognition. St. Francis Woods is the first northern Illinois forest inducted into the Old-Growth Forest Network (OGFN). The network is a nonprofit organization working to connect people with nature by creating a national network of protected, publicly-accessible forests and a network of people to protect them. OGFN also educates about the extraordinary ecological and human wellness benefits of mature and old-growth forests and speaks out regarding immediate threats to specific forests.

The public is invited to a celebration at 10 a.m. Friday, May 5 at Independence Grove where officials will present a plaque to the Lake County Forest Preserves. The free event will take place at the trailhead near the parking lot at the North Bay Pavilion. Participants will walk through St. Francis Woods and learn what makes it one of the highest-quality oak woodlands in the county. Register to attend the event: LCFPD.org/old-growth-forest-celebration.

Visitors are invited to take a guided walk where leadership from OGFN and the Forest Preserves will share information about the ecology and cultural history of the site. The event will be held rain or shine. The Preservation Foundation, the charitable partner of the Lake County Forest Preserves, is sponsoring the event. Lake County Forest Preserves volunteers Vic and Ann Berardi nominated St. Francis Woods for the recognition.

The roughly 80-acre forest on the north end of Independence Grove is dominated by red and white oak. Other tree species present include hickories, basswood, black cherry and sugar maple. "Most of the trees there are under 200 years old," said Ken Klick,

restoration ecologist for the Lake County Forest Preserves; however, "there may be an ancient tree up to 400 years old. Generally, trees live to be about 150 years old in our region."

Founded in 2012 by Joan Maloof, OGFN has recognized more than 190 forests in 33 states. St. Francis Woods is the third Illinois forest to be recognized, joining Beall Woods State Park in Wabash County and Allerton Park-University of Illinois in Piatt County. The full list of forests in the national Network may be viewed at www.oldgrowthforest.net.

"St. Francis Woods has a fascinating history, and we're thrilled that the forest and its old trees remain a surviving part of that history for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations," said OGFN Network Manager Nick Sanchez. "We are excited to recognize Lake County Forest Preserves for their protection and careful stewardship of this forest. And a big thanks to our local volunteer county coordinators, Vic and Ann Berardi, for their work in exploring their local natural areas and nominating this beautiful old forest for the national network."

History

Surveyor George W. Harrison conducted the first land survey here between July 12 and 14, 1840. He walked through the forest and listed the trees in order of dominance: white oak, red oak, burr oak, hickory, elm, ash and walnut.

The property was formerly owned by people who wanted to use the land to help others less fortunate than themselves. In 1926, about 200 acres along the Des Plaines River was used to build a summer camp for children living in a Chicago orphanage. It consisted of 15 buildings, including a recreation hall, dormitories and an outdoor swimming

pool. Over the years, the camp was used by various organizations. The Catholic Church and Catholic Youth Organization bought the property and ran the St. Francis Boys Camp from 1954 through 1973. The camp was then opened to girls until it closed in 1979 when the buildings were demolished.

The Lake County Forest Preserves had been purchasing land north of Libertyville along the Des Plaines River throughout the 1970s, and in 1982 acquired the site of the former camp and restored it to its native state.

Forests have shaded this portion of the eastern slope of the Des Plaines River since the glacier melted about 9,000 years ago, Klick said.

"About 5,000 years ago, oaks and hickory spread into the area, aided by the Native People's use of controlled fire that shaped forests, prairies and savannas," Klick said. "When Euro-American settlers arrived, they wrote of the forest with beautiful descriptions. St. Francis is a rare place that preserves the look and feel of those ancient forests."

The quality soil represents 9,000 years of autumn leaves falling and decomposing. "It's all here at St. Francis Woods and we take its healthcare needs very seriously. Prescribed burns help maintain healthy trees and healthy trees support the web of life found among and below its branches," Klick said.

Invasive species, including buckthorn, garlic mustard and stilt grass, are removed before they destroy the forest floor vegetation, Klick added. "Volunteers do the good work of helping this place and engaging the next generation of stewards. St. Francis Woods needs our care so it can live on for generations to come and support the insects, birds, worms, spiders and mammals that rely on the power of photosynthesis to support their existence."

World Migratory Bird Day celebration May 7

Birding, crane talks and activities for kids and adults to learn more about birds

"Water: Sustaining Bird Life" is the official slogan of World Migratory Bird Day 2023. This international event celebrates migratory birds and encourages the protection of water resources and aquatic ecosystems that birds need to thrive.

Do you know what birds dine on? Can you name a bird just by knowing the size of its nest? These are just some of the fun activities in celebration of birds at World Migratory Bird Days (WMBD) to be held in northeast Illinois and southeast Wisconsin.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD), Friends of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) are once again bringing a world-wide celebration of birds to the Illinois-Wisconsin stateline region. Participants are invited to complete activities and win prizes: the more activities completed, the more prizes won at the second of two events this Sunday, May 7.

There is an opportunity to see birds up close early on the morning of May 7 when USFWS biologists will be capturing, leg banding and releasing birds at Four Seasons Nature Preserve in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

At 10 a.m. on Sunday, Stephanie Schmidt, Whooping Crane Outreach Coordinator from the International Crane Foundation will be speaking at Lost Valley Visitor Center in Ringwood, Illinois. She will be talking all about Sandhill Cranes and Whooping Cranes. In the 1940s both species reached drastically low population sizes. While their population numbers are growing, both Whooping Cranes and Sandhill Cranes continue to face threats. This talk is free, but registration is required by calling 815-338-6223.

The event schedule on Sunday, May 7 is:

- Bird Banding Station, 8:00-9:30 a.m. at Four Seasons Nature Preserve, N 1889 Co. Trunk H, Lake Geneva, WI
- Cranes! A talk by Stephanie Schmidt, Whooping Crane Outreach Coordinator for the International Crane Foundation, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. at Glacial Park's Lost Valley Visitor Center at Rt. 31 & Harts Rd, Ringwood, IL. This talk is free but registration is required by calling 815-338-6223.
- Activity Stations & Bird Passports, Noon – 4:00 p.m. at Glacial Park's Lost Valley Visitor Center at Rt. 31 & Harts Rd, Ringwood, IL

Locally, WMBD is a cooperative event between the IDNR, MCCD, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Friends of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge, Friends of Volo Bog, McHenry County Audubon, Lake County Audubon and Illinois Audubon Society, along with approximately 30 volunteers.

Low cost rabies, microchip clinic May 23

The Animal Control and Adoption Center is hosting a low-cost rabies vaccine and microchip clinic. This drive-thru event being held on May 23 from 1-4 p.m., has been reserved for dogs, and appointments must be scheduled online and in advance at [https://mchenrycountyscheduling.as.me/schedule.php?calendar-](https://mchenrycountyscheduling.as.me/schedule.php?calendar-ID=7958106)

ID=7958106.

This event is cash only, limited to McHenry County residents, and located at the McHenry County Animal Control and Adoption Center, 100 N. Virginia Street, Crystal Lake.

Call (815) 459-6222 with any questions, and please arrive at your scheduled time.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Pet of the week

Asha, is about 2 years old, spayed, up-to-date on routine shots (incl. rabies), tested negative for FIV, feline leukemia and heartworm and microchipped.

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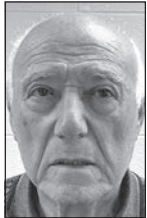
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Court & crime news

Antioch man ordered to be held without bond for fatal shooting of neighbor

On April 26, a Lake County Judge approved a no bond motion against an Antioch man charged with the fatal shooting of his neighbor.



Ettore Lacchei

Ettore Lacchei, 79, was charged with two counts of first-degree murder on April 25, after Lake County Sheriff's detectives executing a search warrant at his home recovered the firearm likely used to shoot victim, William Martys, 59. While conducting the search warrant, detectives also discovered Lacchei had sold his home and had plans to leave the country.

After charges were approved, Lake County State's Attorney Eric Rinehart said, "I am proud of the work of the Sheriff's Office, our First Assistant Lauren Callinan, and Chief of Criminal Jeff Facklam who worked closely with detectives on this investigation. When arguments between neighbors and social media disputes

turn into deadly attacks, we must not only seek incarceration for the offenders, but also find ways to use our courts, our law enforcement partners, and our community to keep firearms out of the hands of dangerous people. We will support the victims and seek justice in the courtroom."

On April 12, the Lake County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a report of an unresponsive man on a driveway in unincorporated Antioch. When Sheriff's deputies arrived on the scene, Antioch Paramedics were already on scene conducting lifesaving measures. Martys was transported to a hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Further investigation shows that while Martys was utilizing a leaf blower in his yard, he was approached by Lacchei and both men got into an argument that resulted in Lacchei shooting Martys in the head.

Lacchei is being held in the Lake County Jail. His next court date is scheduled for May 25, 2023.

Antioch resident arrested for hate crime

Following an extensive investigation by the Antioch Police Department and our federal law enforcement partners, the Antioch Police Department has made an arrest of an Antioch resident related to Hate Crime charges. Around 5:00 p.m. on April 28, the Antioch Police Department arrested 33-year-old Christopher Williams on charges stemming from a months-long joint investigation.

The investigation was launched after Williams made several statements of violence towards Jewish organizations. Initially, the threats were directed toward organizations nationwide. William then made repeated direct threats of violence toward congregates of the Sanctuary Messianic Synagogue, 1949 E. Old Elm Road, Lindenhurst, Illinois 60046.



Christopher Williams

Working with our federal partners and the Lake County States Attorney's Office, charges were brought forth against Williams for a Class 4 Felony – Hate Crime and a Class 4 Felony – Electronic Harassment.

Antioch Police obtained an arrest warrant with a \$700,000 bond. Shortly after the warrant was signed, Antioch Police officers took Williams into custody near his residence in the Antioch Clublands Subdivision. He was transported to the Lake County Jail to await his court appearance.

Antioch Police Chief Geoffrey Guttschow said these hateful acts have no place in our hometown community.

"This type of discrimination and threats of violent behavior will not be tolerated in our community where we foster the core values of respect and inclusivity," said Guttschow. "I would like to personally thank our federal partners, Lake County States Attorney, and my officers for their dedication to the safety of our Lake County residents."

Update: Driver charged in fatal

crash, not yet in custody

Sheriff's Traffic Crash Investigators conducted a thorough investigation into the deadly crash that took the life of Peter P. Kliora, who was 78 and lived in Beach Park.

Traffic crash investigators determined the driver of the Infiniti, Tabios J. Day, 32, of the 700 block of West Glen Flora Avenue, Waukegan, was drag racing another driver just prior to the crash. Crash investigators determined Day was traveling nearly 100 MPH prior to striking Kliora's Toyota.

On April 19, 2023, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office presented the facts of the case to a Lake County Grand Jury. The Grand Jury issued a True Bill of Indictment for the following charges: Reckless Homicide, Aggravated Reckless Driving Causing Great Bodily Harm and Aggravated Street Racing.

A Lake County Judge signed the arrest warrant and set a bond of \$350,000. The warrant is active and Day is not yet in custody.

Original release: Beach

Park Fatal Traffic Crash

On October 10, 2022, at approximately 1:15 p.m., Lake County Sheriff's Deputies responded to Sheridan Road and West Howard Street, Beach Park, for a traffic crash with injuries. Sheriff's deputies arrived and found two vehicles with heavy damage.

Preliminary investigation shows a Toyota Prius, driven by an adult male (identification pending), was making a left turn from Howard Street onto northbound Sheridan Road. At the same time an Infiniti M35, driven by a 32-year-old man of Waukegan, was traveling southbound on Sheridan Road, in the same area. Both vehicles collided in the intersection.

The driver of the Toyota had to be extricated from the vehicle and was subsequently transported to Vista East Medical Center in Waukegan, where he was pronounced deceased. The driver of the Infiniti was also transported to Vista East Medical Center with serious, but non-life-threatening injuries.

Some witnesses reported the Infiniti was traveling at a high rate of speed and recklessly prior to the crash.

Lake County Sheriff's arrest bulletin

The Lake County Sheriff's Dept. reported the following arrests in Lake County. Suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

April 1
Lee Thomas, 36, Waukegan, was cited for aggravated unlawful possession of a firearm, possession of crack cocaine, and possession of a defaced firearm;

Katarzyna Dybas, 33, Zion, was cited for possession of crack cocaine, and obstructing justice (destroying evidence).

April 3
William Servin, Jr., 26, Waukegan, was cited for battery;

Quenicia I. Swanigan, 25, Zion, was cited for DUI – alcohol, driving while license suspended and no insurance;

April 4

Odalis Rogel, 23, Waukegan, was cited for DUI – drugs, unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, open transportation of alcohol, and improper transportation of cannabis;

Elizabeth M. Tiskevich, 32, no permanent address, was cited for a warrant arrest: unlawful possession of a controlled substance, and forgery;

Christina M. Kalter, 33, no permanent address, was cited for a warrant arrest: retail theft, and possession of meth (Kenosha County);

April 5
Mark D. Fine, 22, Lindenhurst, was cited for attempted possession of a controlled substance;

Damen A. O'Campo, 22, Waukegan, was cited for driving while license suspended;

Annquiesha S. Jones, 30, Zion, was cited for driving

while license suspended and suspended registration;

April 6
Joshua Garcia, 29, Antioch, was cited for battery;

Kian Torres, 19, Waukegan, was cited for obstructing a correctional officer;

Mario Maldonado, 26, Waukegan, was cited for no driver's license;

Alberta Rios Garcia, 47, Waukegan, was cited for no driver's license and no insurance;

April 7
Juvenile, was cited for domestic battery;

Juvenile, was cited for battery;

Juvenile, was cited for battery;

Anthony J. Smith, 31, Waukegan, was cited for unlawful possession of ammunition by a felon;

Larry R. Barrett, 38, Zion,

was cited for DUI – alcohol;

Candace D. Danzy, 44, Milwaukee, WI, was cited for driving while license suspended, suspended registration and no insurance;

April 8
Jimmie L. Phillips, Jr., 66, North Chicago, was cited for driving while license suspended;

Guido P. Arquilla, 50, Antioch, was cited for DUI – alcohol;

April 9
Charika N. Wilson, 49, Waukegan, was cited for DUI – alcohol, aggravated speeding (68 mph in 35 mph zone) and no insurance.

April 10

Jasmin M. Arrieta, 27, Round Lake, was cited for driving while license suspended;

Hilary Colbert-Grant, 29, Waukegan, was cited for a warrant arrest: domestic battery;

Dandrick L. Jones, 24, Volo, was cited for driving while license suspended, and improper transportation of cannabis;

Fernando Arando, 41, Beach Park, was cited for DUI – alcohol, driving while license suspended, aggravated speeding (67 mph in 35 mph), and open transporta-

tion of alcohol;

April 11
Stacy R. McKiernan, 45, Hawthorn Woods, was cited for bringing contraband into a penal institution;

Xochilt J. Garcia-Rivas, 25, Zion, was cited for unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, improper transportation of cannabis, and open transportation of alcohol;

Viviana Suarez, 30, Mt. Prospect, was cited for no driver's license;

April 12
Ernest S. Garner, 39, Zion, was cited for retail theft, and obstructing identification.

Church holding pie sale May 13

The Altar & Rosary Society-CCW of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Richmond, will be holding its 15th Annual Day Before Mother's Day Pie Sale on Saturday, May 13, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and continuing until all pies are sold.

The homemade pies are baked by parishioners of St. Joseph's, and choices can range from rhubarb to blueberry

to cherry. Stop in early for the widest selection.

The church is located at 10519 Main Street, Richmond, IL, 1/2 block south of the intersection of Highways 12 and 173.

For more information, call the church at 815-678-7421 or visit their Facebook page or website at stjosephrichmondil.weconnect.com.

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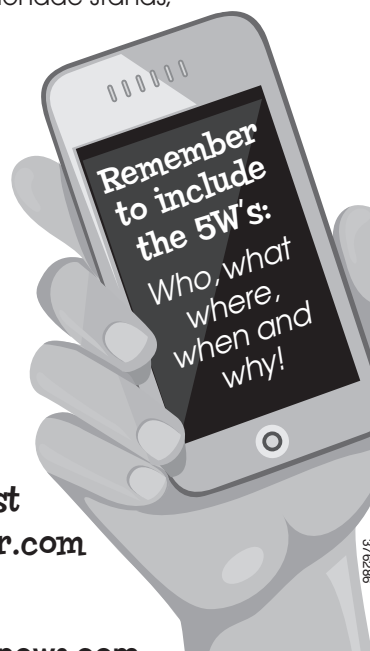
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Drug trafficker traveling with young child arrested

On April 27, the Lake County Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Group, a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) funded task force, concluded a narcotics investigation that resulted in serious charges for a man trafficking drugs.



Javier Franco

Following a several-month long investigation, members of the Sheriff's Special Investigations Group (SIG) developed information that the target of the investigation, Javier Franco, 26, of the 300 block of Oak Creek Drive, Wheeling, was traveling to deliver drugs to an individual in Lake County on April 27. SIG detectives and Vernon Hills Police conducted a traffic stop on Franco's vehicle in Vernon Hills. Sheriff's K9 Zeus was summoned to the traffic stop to sniff around Franco's

vehicle. K9 Zeus gave a positive indication for the presence of drugs in the vehicle.

SIG detectives searched the vehicle and located over 85 grams of cocaine and found Franco in possession of a 9mm pistol. Franco was traveling with his small child when pulled over. The child was cared for by detectives until a family member arrived to take the child.

At the same time as the traffic stop, SIG detectives conducted a search warrant at Franco's home in Wheeling. SIG detectives located another 550 grams of cocaine and two additional firearms.

The facts and circumstances of the investigation were reviewed with the Lake County State's Attorney's Office who approved the following charges: Armed Violence (Class X Felony), Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Deliver (Class X Felony), Three Counts of Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance (Class

X Felonies), Three Counts of Aggravated Unlawful Possession of a Weapon (Class 2 Felonies), Two counts of Child Endangerment (Class A Misdemeanors).

Due to crimes occurring in multiple counties, this case will be prosecuted by the Illinois Attorney General's Office.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "This is yet another impressive investigation and apprehension of a drug trafficker operating their business in Lake County. SIG, which is a collaboration of countywide and federal law enforcement, supported by HIDTA, took another three illegally possessed firearms off the street along with over a pound of cocaine during this operation."

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Chicago Field Division and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), both SIG member agencies, were a significant part of this investigation.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Items taken into evidence during traffic stop, search after K9 Zeus gave a positive indication for the presence of drugs in the vehicle of Javier Franco.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office also thanks Vernon Hill Police Department and Wheeling Police Department for their assistance.

The Illinois Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) was notified of the incident, due to the child being with Franco while he was delivering drugs, while armed with a firearm.

Franco remained held in the Lake County Jail pending his initial court hearing.

TRANSPORTATION

Automobiles

2008 CONVERTIBLE HARD TOP Chrysler Sebring. Mint cond, one owner, 50,000 mi. \$9,000 815-494-0938.

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