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**Daniel Florek from Wisconsin-based Vindictive Vinyl helped kick off the project in March and came to class on May 19 to help students install the winning designs.**

## MCHS students complete car wrap project to honor McHenry Moose Lodge

Two McHenry Community High School graphics students created car wrap designs to honor the McHenry Moose Lodge as part of a graphic design partnership that included graphics students producing the car wrap project from start to finish.

Both the hood and side door designs are expected to be displayed this summer at Moose Lodge 391 headquarters in Johnsburg, and are expected to be featured in the Cruising the Moose car show, which is held each Tuesday evening.

Ruben Melgarejo, a 2023 graduate, designed the hood wrap while Dennis Turcan, a soon-to-be senior, created the design for the car doors. Their designs were selected by members of the Moose Lodge out of submissions from the school’s Graphics 2 classes.

The assignment for students was to create designs that depict the variety of social and philanthropic work of the McHenry Moose Lodge, a charitable organization belonging to Moose International. Daniel Florek from Wisconsin-based Vindictive Vinyl came to class on May 19 to help students install the winning designs, and also helped kick off the project in March.

Graphics Instructor Matt Connor said the project is a good way to introduce students to working with customers and meeting their needs. “It also showed them how you need to adjust your design style to your customer’s style,” he added.

Meeting deadlines is also an important part of the project. Melgarejo and Turcan both said it took them a few weeks to research and develop their designs using hand sketches then PhotoShop. Then after designs were selected, the students began the process of printing out the vinyl wrap and installing.

“It’s amazing,” Turcan said of the project. “It’s a very cool process to wrap a car.”

Melgarejo said he learned that it is really difficult to wrap a car since it is not an entirely flat surface. Designs have to be modified to take that into account, and also that most people may not have a lot of time to study a car wrap out on the road.

He said he appreciated the help and input from other Graphics 2 students who contributed throughout the project. “We all had our own touches,” he said.

Connor and Moose officials are working on display ideas for the side doors and hood, with the Moose’s Cruise the Moose summer car show on Tuesdays as a possible display idea. For more information on the Moose Lodge, visit the organization’s website or Facebook page.

The car side doors and hood were donated by Route 12 Auto Parts and Salvage in Richmond. The hood will eventually come back to Connor’s classroom where it will be displayed next to last year’s project honoring the American Legion.

# Pritzker set to consider signing more than 500 bills in the next three months

By Jerry Nowicki  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Illinois lawmakers passed 566 bills through both chambers of the General Assembly in the recently concluded legislative session—all but one of them in May.

It sets the table for an approximate three-month bill-signing season for Gov. JB Pritzker. That’s because the state’s constitution gives legislative leaders 30 days from a bill’s passage to send it to the governor, who then has 60 days to sign or veto it.

If the governor takes no action in that time frame, the bill would become law automatically. Historically, the legislature has sent bills to the governor in batches, allowing his staff ample time to review the proposals.

The following are some of the bills that Pritzker will consider signing in the coming months.

**Noncitizen licenses:** A measure backed by Democratic Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias would allow residents of Illinois to obtain a standard driver’s license, rather than the “temporary visitor driver’s license” that is currently allowed under law. An applicant would be required to show their U.S. immigration documentation or, if they don’t have that, a passport or consular card. They would also have to prove they have car insurance.

A standard license can be used as identification, whereas a TVDL cannot. Advocates said that has made tasks such as buying alcohol or picking up a prescription challenging for many TVDL holders. Under House Bill 3882, noncitizens would still be ineligible to receive a federal Real ID certified license.

According to the secretary of state’s office, more than 300,000 people currently have a TVDL. Those would still be valid until their expiration date, but the state would not issue any new ones.

It passed the House 67-35 and the Senate 33-18.

**Noncitizen law enforcement:** House Bill 3751 provides that noncitizens can become law enforcement officers in Illinois if they’re authorized by federal law to work in the country or if action on their immigration status has been deferred under the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals pro-

cess.

Those individuals must meet all other state qualifications for being in law enforcement and must be authorized to possess a firearm under federal law.

The measure passed 37-20 in the Senate and 100-7 in the House.

**License plate readers:** Another measure backed by Giannoulias would prohibit any “user” of an automated license plate reader from sharing data collected by the device with out-of-state law enforcement officers who are investigating activities related to abortion care or someone’s immigration status.

Prior to sharing any data, an ALPR user—which includes law-enforcement agencies and other entities if they share the data with law enforcement—would first need a written declaration that the law enforcement agency would not use the data contrary to the bill’s language. If no such declaration exists, the user would be prohibited from sharing the data.

House Bill 3326 passed 39-15 in the Senate and 69-34 in the House.

**Native American repatriation:** House Bill 3413 would streamline the process through which Illinois returns Native American remains and materials to their communities. In part, it would create a procedure in which the Illinois Department of Natural Resources would consult with affiliated tribal nations when returning remains.

The measure was spurred by reporting from ProPublica which showed the Illinois State Museum has the second-largest collection of unrepatriated Native American remains in the U.S. As of 2022, the state museum had only returned 2 percent of the 7,700 remains it reported to the U.S. government.

HB 3413 allows IDNR to establish burial sites for Native American human remains and other artifacts that are closed to the public and protected by the state.

Additionally, it creates a fund in the state treasury that would be paid into by violators of the act and subject to appropriation to cover costs including reinterment, repatriation, repair or restoration of human remains.

It passed both houses unanimously. One lawmaker voted

“present” in the House.

**Probation drug testing:** Senate Bill 1886 would limit the circumstances under which a judge could order a person to refrain from cannabis and alcohol use and submit to testing while on probation. A judge could still mandate testing if the person is under 21 or was sentenced for an offense that included use of an “intoxicating compound.”

Testing could also still be required if the person is in problem-solving court or if the person has undergone a clinical assessment that includes alcohol or cannabis testing. Courts could also still require a person to abstain from cannabis and alcohol for 30 days between sentencing and the person’s participation in a clinical assessment.

The measure would also prohibit a court from banning cannabis use if it is prescribed by a medical professional and from assessing fees for mandatory drug or alcohol testing if the person is indigent as defined in state law.

It passed 75-40 in the House and 31-18 in the Senate.

**Child influencers:** Senate Bill 1782 aims to protect “child influencers” who are under the age of 16 and featured in at least 30 percent of money-making internet videos, or vlogs, published by a family member in a 30-day period.

Vloggers who feature children under the age of 16 would be required to keep records of the children’s inclusion in vlogs, proof of age and other documents. If they don’t, the child would have a right to sue in civil court.

If the vlog reaches a platform’s money-making threshold or generates at least 10 cents per view, the vlogger would be required to put a percentage of earnings into a trust fund for the child that is equal to half of the percentage of content that features the child. Percentages differ if multiple children are featured. It passed the House 98-17 and the Senate 57-0.

**Hotel worker protections:** House Bill 2220 would give hotel managers greater authority to remove disruptive visitors from their premises. That includes individuals who refuse to pay, threaten employees, violate laws or

*See BILLS, Page 6*



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# Pritzker puts final stamp on \$50.4 billion state spending plan

By Andrew Adams  
and Jerry Nowicki  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Gov. JB Pritzker signed the state's operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year last week, marking the first spending plan of his second term as governor.

The \$50.4 billion spending plan anticipates about \$50.6 billion in revenues for the fiscal year that begins July 1, making for a projected surplus of roughly \$183 million, according to the governor's office. That revenue estimate would be slightly below or roughly equal to what's collected in tax revenues for the current year, depending on June's final revenue collections.

The bill signing's venue, typically chosen to highlight an important aspect of the budget, was the Belmont Cragin campus of Christopher House in Chicago, a charter school that mostly serves low-income Hispanic families.

The signing was attended by a who's who of state Democrats, with the governor, House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, D-Hillside, Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, and various members of the legislature's Democratic leadership and budget negotiation teams.

Several of them highlighted the budget's investments in education.

"Birth-to-five services and kindergarten readiness are the foundation for the rest of our children's educational experiences," Pritzker said.

## 'Smart Start Illinois'

The budget includes funding to launch Pritzker's "Smart Start Illinois" early childhood education program. Earlier this year, he toured the state to promote the increased spending on pre-K and kindergarten, which includes \$130 million to fund a new system of contracts for early childhood

workers and upping state funding for early childhood block grants by \$75 million. "Smart Start" also includes added funding for early intervention and home visiting programming.

The budget also increases state dollars going to the K-12 funding formula by \$350 million—the amount called for annually in state law—and puts \$45 million toward a three-year pilot program to fill teacher vacancies and provide scholarships to future teachers. It's less than the \$70 million for that program that Pritzker included in his February budget proposal.

Higher education, a long-time budget priority of Pritzker's, will also see increased funding. These include a \$100 million funding increase to the state's Monetary Award Program, which provides need-based scholarships. It marks a 75 percent increase in funding for MAP grants since 2019. The budget also includes a \$15 million increase to the AIM HIGH merit-based scholarship program and a \$3.8 million increase to the Minority Teacher Scholarship program.

Despite praising Republican involvement in budget negotiations throughout the legislative session, Senate Minority Leader John Curran, R-Downers Grove, criticized the overall budget in a statement while noting it included some common ground between the two parties.

"We negotiated in good faith, and as a result, there are some joint priorities in this budget, specifically to support the developmentally disabled and invest in education," Curran said.

## No Republican support

No Republicans in either chamber voted for the plan. In the House, debate was more tense. Republican budget negotiator Norine Hammond, of Macomb, said the

GOP was essentially cut out from the budget process by House Democrats. She had previously noted Republicans participated in more frequent budget talks with the governor's staff.

"Another budget filled with broken promises, accounting gimmicks, and a lack of structural reforms to address the systemic outmigration of Illinois families," House Republican Leader Tony McCombie, R-Savanna, said in a statement.

McCombie also contradicted Curran's read of the budget and said that it "shortchanges" the direct service professionals, or DSPs, that serve disabled people in community settings.

A state-commissioned 2020 study of the industry recommended increasing DSP wages to 150 percent of the state's minimum wage, which is currently \$13 per hour and is set to increase to \$14 in January.

The budget includes provisions increasing DSP wage base rates by \$2.50 per hour, to \$19.50, beginning in January. That would still fall short of the \$4 per hour needed to meet the study's recommendation as of next year. Still, it marks a \$1 increase beyond what Pritzker had proposed in February.

Home workers who assist the elderly are also slated to receive a rate increase of \$24 million.

The budget also includes \$75 million for the Department of Children and Family Services. Pritzker's office said this is expected to pay for 192 staff positions, expanded training, facility improvements and scholarships to children in DCFS care.

Services aimed at preventing homelessness are set to receive an increase of \$85 million through the Home Illinois program, a multi-agency initiative that will provide housing and services to homeless people.

The more than \$350 mil-

lion in funding includes \$118 million for shelter and transitional housing services, \$50 million for rapid rehousing services, \$40 million in capital funds for permanent supportive housing units and \$37 million in funds to build new shelter units.

While Republicans have been critical of the budget, the House's lead budget negotiator, Rep. Jehan Gordon-Booth, D-Peoria, said compromise was an essential part of the process.

"The budget is a reflection of our priorities," she said. "It's a reflection of everybody getting wins, but nobody got everything."

Earlier last week, Pritzker noted the budget would exempt businesses from the first \$5,000 in liability under the corporate franchise tax, up from \$1,000. He called it a \$50 million tax cut that addressed at least one Republican budget priority. Pritzker and leaders in the General Assembly negotiated a phaseout of that tax in his only bipartisan budget passed in 2019, but Democrats ultimately reversed that action in a future budget year.

## Invest in Kids scholarship program allowed to expire

During debate last month, Republicans in both chambers were also sharply critical of the budget because it allowed for the expiration of the \$75 million Invest in Kids scholarship program for private school students. The program initially passed as part of a bipartisan agreement in 2017 with support from the school-choice movement and Republican lawmakers.

When asked, Pritzker said the conversation around funding that program is "ongoing," and "there's time still for that program to be considered," potentially in the fall veto session, before its Jan. 1, 2024, expiration.

Democrats on Wednes-

day also alluded on several occasions to a two-year budget stalemate between Republican then-Gov. Bruce Rauner and Democrats in the legislature that lasted from July 2015 into August 2017. During that time, the state did not approve a full budget, causing havoc in education and the social services industry, both of which rely heavily on state funding.

"It's no longer about how to keep the doors open and scrape by," Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton said of the budget process.

At the bill signing, Pritzker also addressed a state-funded health care program for noncitizens, which his administration at one time projected would cost over \$1 billion in the upcoming fiscal year.

The program offers Medicaid-style benefits to noncitizens age 42 and older who would otherwise be eligible for Medicaid if not for their legal residency status. It was launched in 2021 and expanded twice to its current size. Because the individuals enrolled in the program are not eligible for standard Medicaid, which is jointly funded by the state and federal governments, Illinois covers its entire cost.

A separate Medicaid-related bill, which Pritzker has not yet signed, will give him authority to rein in costs through the creation of administrative rules. His office has said options include limiting future enrollment, requiring copays from program participants, maximizing federal reimbursement and possibly moving participants to the Medicaid managed care system.

Pritzker noted that the program does not apply to asylum seekers, who are eligible for other federally funded benefits. He also said it is ultimately cheaper to provide preventative care to noncitizens rather than making them rely on emergency room visits to treat condi-

tions that have gone undiagnosed and untreated due to a lack of health care benefits.

Pritzker's February budget proposal accounted for about \$220 million in costs for the program, and the final budget did not include a measure sought by the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus that would have expanded it to noncitizens aged 19 and over. Those 18 years and younger are already covered under the Illinois AllKids program.

"We realized that if we could manage it properly, we could manage the program with the number of people that are in it now to about \$550 million," Pritzker said. "That's more than we expected, but not nearly as much as it might have cost if we didn't have the tools necessary."

The governor's office did not clarify whether that meant the program would be capped at current levels or if more people would be allowed to enroll in the upcoming fiscal year.

"We'll have more on what steps we'll need to take as we enter the new fiscal year and review costs," a spokesperson said in a statement.

Pritzker's signing included one change to the budget as it was approved by lawmakers last month. Lawmakers, agency directors and others in state government who would have received raises of 5.5 percent under an automatic pay formula will be capped at 5 percent to comply with state law.

"It is evident that the errors in the amounts to compensate all of these officers were inadvertent and that the General Assembly intended for the amounts set forth in Senate Bill 250 simply to implement the salaries provided by law," Pritzker said in his "reduction veto" message.

Under law, lawmakers do not need to accept the reduction, so the budget can take effect without issue.

# Ride Lake County celebrates one year of service

100 trips a day and 27,000 rides in a year for nearly 1,000 people - Ride Lake County is off to a terrific start!

Last year, Ride Lake County launched to provide a cost-effective and county-wide transportation option for seniors ages 60+ and people with disabilities. Within its first week of service, Ride Lake County provided 400 trips to residents. Since then, the popularity of Ride Lake County has only grown.

Service usage has increased by 50 percent since the launch, with 10,000 rides provided in the first six months and 17,000 rides provided in the last six months. To keep up with demand, Pace Suburban Bus has hired more drivers to increase the amount of Ride Lake Coun-

ty rides that can be provided each day.

"We are elated to see the incredible impact that Ride Lake County is having for Lake County residents," said Lake County Board Chair Sandy Hart. "Seniors and people with disabilities are now able to affordably travel across Lake County to wherever they need to go - doctor's appointments, work, shopping, and much more by calling 1-800-201-6446."

Ride Lake County was designed to expand transportation options for greater and easier access for important trips to work, shopping and medical appointments. Nearly 31 percent of all trips in 2022 took riders to work, while 30 percent of trips were for medical appointments.

"We are very encouraged to see that more people are using Ride Lake County since the service started just over a year ago," said Jennifer Clark, Lake County Public Works and Transportation Committee Chair and Board Member for District 15. "The service is proving its value by enabling riders to get to key destinations within Lake County and to select areas that border the county that are essential to everyday living."

Ride Lake County was created through dedicated efforts by the Lake County Coordinated Transportation Services Committee, and various communities, townships, transit partners and community groups. Previously, there was no cohesive paratransit system available

throughout the entire county.

## How it Works

Ride Lake County vehicles don't travel in a fixed route each day, instead it is a reservation-based program with rides scheduled in advance. Vehicles provide curb-to-curb service from the rider's desired pick-up and drop-off destinations, and all vehicles are wheel-

chair accessible.

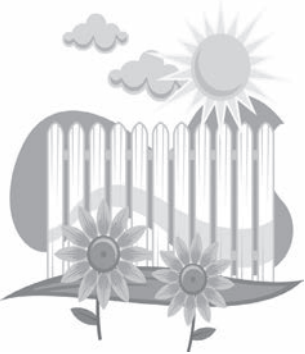
Before scheduling their first ride, residents must register through Pace by calling their call center at 1-800-201-6446. Residents can register as either a senior age 60+ or as an individual with a disability.

Riders can schedule a trip any day of the week from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., except for certain holidays. Riders can

reserve a trip as far as seven days in advance or as little as two hours in advance.

Ride Lake County is sponsored by Lake County and Pace Suburban Bus. The service is funded in part by grants from the Regional Transportation Authority.

For additional information about Ride Lake County, visit lakecountyil.gov/RLC.



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SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Members of local organizations are combining efforts to help prevent gun violence. Shown from left are: Patrick Owens, Dr. Kim Miller, Shawn Lewis, Carl Sheng, Eric Rinehart, Don Wardlow, Linsea Spiewak, Dr. Halleh Akbarnia, Sara Knizhnik and Matt Primack.

## Organizations join together to prevent gun violence

The Lake County Gun Violence Prevention Initiative (GVPI) and the Advocate Trauma Recovery Center at Advocate Condell Medical Center announced that they will work together to stop the cycle of gun violence in Lake County through an innovative collaboration that connects shooting victims with community resources and trauma outreach workers inside a hospital setting.

Advocate Condell Medical Center is the only Level 1 Trauma Center in Lake County. As a result, major gunshot injuries in Lake County are treated at Advocate Condell Medical Center. Trauma outreach workers help patients and families impacted by violence to counsel them through trauma and to connect them with free services such as: Individual therapy, support groups, psychiatric services, Social services workshops, and case management and referrals to community agencies to assist with: housing, employment, finances, legal advocacy or resources, and education.

Through this partnership, the Advocate Trauma Recovery Center’s trauma outreach workers will contact the violence interrupters when a gunshot patient arrives. The hospital staff and interrupters will work together 24/7 to identify patients, their family members or their friends who are at risk of future gun violence or who may engage in retaliation. The interrupters, known as the Lake County Peacemakers, will mediate disputes and connect those in need to the Advocate Trauma Recovery Center.

“This partnership will connect the Advocate Trauma Recovery Center’s existing trauma services for shooting victims with professional violence interrupters who are trained to prevent retaliation, to mediate disputes, and to connect at-risk survivors with community resources,” Lake County State’s Attorney Eric Rinehart said.

“We are grateful for this partnership with the Lake County Gun Violence Prevention Initiative. We understand that to be successful in ending the cycle of violence, we need to partner together,” said Dr. Kim Miller, director of the Advocate Trauma Recovery Center. “While our relationship with an individual may begin in a hospital, our whole-person approach to care does not end when the physical wounds heal. We meet our patients where they are, and provide comprehensive services to meet each individual’s emotional, psychological and spiritual needs.”

“Advocate Condell Medical Center has a long history of working in the community to treat the physical and psychological symptoms that gun violence has on our patients and families,” added Dr. Halleh Akbarnia, an emergency medicine doctor at

Advocate Condell Medical Center. “Our Trauma Recovery Center is committed to addressing the underlying trauma and social determinants of health that contribute to violence. By working closely with the Lake County GVPI community violence prevention program, we will be able to connect our patients with resources and services that can help them heal and thrive, and help break a vicious cycle this public health crisis can create.”

“We know that many shooting victims come from underserved communities and do not have access to long-term trauma care after a shooting. This lack of investment in Black and Brown communities is one of the drivers of violence. But if we can quickly connect them with interrupters who are already credible peace messengers from their community, we can stop the cycles of violence and retaliation,” said Shawn Lewis, peacemaker program manager.

In 2023, the Waukegan Township and nonprofit organization Coalition to Reduce Recidivism began hiring violence interrupters who are focused on the areas most impacted by gun violence in Lake County: Waukegan, North Chicago, and Zion. While the State’s Attorney’s Office serves as the leading organization for the overall prevention and outreach efforts, the interrupters are employees of the Waukegan Township.

The Lake County Peacemakers is one of dozens of community violence interrupter programs that have been formed over the last ten years in cities all over the country including Boston, Baltimore, New Orleans, and Chicago. Neighborhoods with interrupter programs have seen decreases in gun violence by 30-50%.

The Lake County Gun Violence Prevention Initiative was started in 2022 by the Lake County State’s Attorney’s Office and is one of only a few violence prevention programs that are housed in a prosecutor’s office. Initial funding was provided by the Lake County Board and was supplemented by larger funding awards by the Illinois General Assembly and, eventually, the United States Congress.

Rinehart added, “We would not be here without the support of our local leaders such as Lake County Board Chair Sandy Hart, State Representative Rita Mayfield, State Senator Adriane Johnson, and US Congressman Brad Schneider.”

Lake County Board Member and Chair of the GVPI, Sara Knizhnik, added, “This partnership between the GVPI and Advocate Trauma Recovery Center is a powerful example of how public and private entities can and must work together to address the gun violence epidemic in order to make all residents of Lake County, no matter where they live, safer.”

## Sgt. Kramer, fallen deputy Jacob Keltner awarded Medal of Honor

On May 31, 136 law enforcement officers from 41 Illinois agencies were honored in Springfield by Governor JB Pritzker and Illinois State Police Director Brendan F. Kelly for acts of heroism, bravery, and sacrifice at the Law Enforcement Medal of Honor Ceremony. McHenry County Sheriff’s Office was proud to have two Medal of Honor recipients, Sgt. Daniel Kramer and Deputy Jacob “Jake” Keltner.

The Medal of Honor is awarded to officers who have been killed or seriously injured in the line of duty or who have displayed exceptional bravery or heroism while performing their duties as a law enforcement

officer.

Sgt. Daniel Kramer received a medal in recognition of the bravery and heroism he displayed on June 16, 2020 while executing a homicide arrest warrant in Beach Park with the U.S. Marshals Service. Lake County Deputy Thomas Sieber was also recognized for his efforts that day, in conjunction with Sgt. Kramer.

Deputy Jake Keltner was honored for the ultimate sacrifice he made on March 7, 2019. Deputy Keltner was fatally shot in the line of duty while executing a search warrant. Sgt. Kramer accepted the award on behalf of Deputy Keltner and the Keltner family.

“The special souls we pay tribute to met the common daily challenge of enforcing our laws with uncommon bravery,” said ISP Director Brendan F. Kelly. “The Law Enforcement Medal of Honor Committee and the Illinois State Police honor these heroes, some who paid the ultimate price, in the pursuit of justice and the protection of public safety.”

“When we have men and women who go above and beyond their call of duty, and show this sort of bravery and courage, it exemplifies what ‘hero’ really means,” said Robb Tadelman. “We are very proud of Sgt. Kramer and Deputy Keltner, whom we miss terribly.”



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

From left: Sheriff Robb Tadelman, Sgt. Daniel Kramer, Deputy Thomas Sieber (Lake County) and Undersheriff John Bucci at the ceremony in Springfield on May 31.

## Friday night fish boil June 23

A Friday night fish boil fundraiser to benefit Hatchery Park will be held on June 23 at Horse Fair Park.

There will be all-you-can-eat boiled cod, BBQ chicken and ribs, and more prepared by Fitzgerald’s Genoa Junction. Food will be served from 5-8 p.m. and kids meals are also available. Pre-sale

express line tickets can be purchased at the village hall until June 22.

The Judson Brown Band will perform live music from 6-9 p.m and silent auction are at 7, 8 and 9 p.m.

Horse Fair Park is located at 8105 Blivin St., Spring Grove.

## You ought to be in pictures!

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*This is your chance to promote your organization or special event!*

**Remember to include the 5W’s:**  
Who, what where, when and why!





JIM WOJDYLA PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Fathers will be feted the weekend of June 17-18 at Volo Museum's Father's Fest. The event will feature axe-throwing, yard games and more on Saturday, with food trucks adding extra flair Sunday.

# Axe-throwing, remote-controlled car racing, and more sure to delight during Father's Fest at Volo Museum

Cynthia Wolf  
CONTRIBUTOR

Beer. Axe-throwing. Giant remote-controlled car racing for prizes. All against a backdrop of life-sized, screen-used movie trains, surrounded by myriad eclectic exhibits of everything from classic muscle cars to century-old music machines — and so much more.

Dad deserves this. The Volo Museum is ready to provide.

“This has always been a place for dads,” said Jim Wojdyla, marketing director for the museum at 27582 Volo Village Road. “But now it’s not just a place that appeals to car dads. It’s for dads of any age and any interest. And we’ve planned some special fun for dads on Father’s Day weekend.”

Father’s Fest is Saturday and Sunday, June 17-18, at the museum. On Saturday only, the Chicago-based Mobile Adventure Co. will bring

yard games (cornhole, ladders, disc golf, giant tower and more), a mobile axe-throwing cage, and a remote-controlled racing course sure to bring smiles and friendly competition. Activities are included with regular admission. On Sunday, a selection of food trucks will be on-site.

With the museum’s newly granted liquor license, domestic and craft brews are available, as well as hard seltzers, wines and more. On the current menu are: Bud Light, Coors Light, Corona Non-Alcoholic, Miller Light, Modelo, Anti-Hero IPA, Hazy Hero, Shiner Bock, Heineken Silver, Simply Spiked Lemonade, mango, black cherry and raspberry White Claw, cabernet, white zinfandel, spiked mudslides, tiki rum mai tais, a 16-ounce frozen pina colada or margarita or a yard cup frozen pina colada or margarita.

Prices range from \$7 for a domestic beer to \$21 for a yard cup. Visitors

also can choose to add a shot of rum, vodka, bourbon or kahlua to any drink for \$4.

The Grams Central Station also serves up delicious lattes, shakes, kiddie mocktails and more.

The Volo Museum’s summer hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays. Admission is \$22.95 per adult, \$20.95 per senior or military, \$12.95 for children ages 5 to 12 and free for children 4 and younger. Separate admission to the Jurassic Gardens dinosaur park is \$15.95 each; free for children 4 and younger. Combo passes for both attractions cost \$34.95 for an adult or \$24.95 for children ages 5 to 12, and are good for two consecutive days. Members are admitted free.

Admission to the new Titanic Museum is \$19.95, or \$14.95 in combination with any other ticket, or for members.

## • Bills (Continued from page 2)

posted hotel rules, or use “verbally abusive language.”

The hotel industry pushed for the changes, which also state the removed guest must be refunded for unused portions of their stay. It also states the language can’t be used to evict long-term residents or if the area is under a severe weather warning. It also may not be used to discriminate against a guest based on characteristics protected under federal, state or local law.

Hotel managers would be allowed to refuse accommodation to anyone who destroys or threatens to destroy hotel property or who is on the premises for the purpose of providing alcohol to an underage person or possessing a controlled substance.

It passed 108-3 in the House and 51-2 in the Senate.

**Full-day kindergarten:** House Bill 2396 would require Illinois elementary and unit public school districts to offer full-day kindergarten by the 2027-2028 school year. After that time, offering half-day kindergarten would be optional. Some districts would

be able to apply for a two-year waiver based on their level of state funding.

The measure would also create a task force to study the number of districts offering kindergarten, the number of students enrolled and several other factors. The task force is to be named by October, with an interim report due to lawmakers by June 30, 2024, and a final report by Jan. 31, 2025.

It passed 52-1 in the Senate and 85-24 in the House.

**New state flag commission:** Senate Bill 1818—numbered for the year Illinois entered the union—would create a commission to consider new state flag designs and make recommendations to the General Assembly as to whether the current flag should be replaced.

Members would be appointed by the governor and legislative leaders of both parties, as well as the secretary of state, the state board of education and the state museum. They would be unpaid other than a per diem reimbursement.

The commission would set “guiding principles” for a new flag, raise awareness for the

effort and create a submission process for new designs. By Sept. 1, 2024, they would select 10 of those designs, and by Dec. 3, 2024, they would report to lawmakers with their recommendations.

It passed 39-16 in the Senate and 72-40 in the House.

**Teacher licensure:** Senate Bill 1488 will temporarily suspend and create a task force to review one of the tests prospective teachers must pass to be licensed in Illinois. The test is known as the Teacher Performance Assessment, or “edTPA,” which would be suspended through Aug. 31, 2025, under the measure.

The edTPA is a performance-based assessment that requires applicants to submit a portfolio including lesson plans and tests they’ve administered while student teaching, along with examples of student work and other material. The portfolios are scored by outside teachers and teacher educators. It has been a requirement in Illinois since 2015 but was temporarily stalled by Pritzker’s executive orders related to the COVID-19 pan-

demic, which expired May 11.

SB 1488 would also establish a task force to evaluate teacher performance assessment systems and make recommendations to the State Board of Education and the General Assembly by Aug. 1, 2024.

It passed the House 84-19 and the Senate 55-2.

**School district cash reserves:** Senate Bill 1994, which passed both chambers unanimously, would require school districts to report their annual cash reserves and average three-year operating expenditures to the state. When reserves exceed 2.5 times the average three-year expenditures, the school district would be required to file a plan to the state board detailing how they plan to spend reserves down to 2.5 times their average expenditures or less.

Districts would not be required to spend reserves, but only to submit the plan detailing how they intend to do so over three years.

*Editor’s note: Capitol News Illinois reporters Peter Hancock and Nika Schoonover contributed to this report.*

# Get Hooked on Fishing this weekend with the Conservation District

Anglers of all ages and skill levels can cast a line with their family at McHenry County Conservation District’s free fishing event this weekend.

Join in on Hooked on Fishing, Saturday from 9 a.m. – noon at Rush Creek Conservation Area, 20501 McGuire Rd., Harvard, and Sunday, 9 a.m. – noon, Lake Atwood at The Hollows Conservation Area, 3804 US 14, Cary.

Everyone is welcome to at-

tend a fun morning of fishing, prizes and time in nature. Anglers can bring their own gear to the event or borrow from a limited supply. Equipment is provided on a first-come, first-served basis with preference given to children. No fishing license is required to participate.

This is a free event with registration required for each participant. Learn more and register online at [MCCD.me/HOF](http://MCCD.me/HOF).

## College news

### Helt named to Wisconsin Lutheran College Dean’s List

Rachael Helt, of Antioch, a senior at Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee, has been named to the college’s Dean’s List for the spring 2023 semester.

To be eligible for Dean’s List, a student must carry a semester GPA of 3.6 or higher.

### Brewer named to Dean’s List at Miami University

Reagan Brewer was named to the Dean’s list at Miami University in Oxford, OH, for the 2023 spring semester.

Miami University, students who are ranked in the top twenty percent of undergraduate students within their division for the spring semester 2023 have been named to the Dean’s list recognizing academic performance.

Brewer, from Antioch, is earning a B.S. in Education in Primary Education PK-5.

### UA names students

### to fall 2022 Dean’s, President’s lists

The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa recently announced students that were named with honors for the fall 2022 term.

The 2022 fall lists included these local students:

- Ella Maggio of Antioch was named to the Deans List
- Bridget Nauman of Antioch was named to the Presidents List.

### Rohmann honored on 2023 spring Dean’s List

Nicholas Rohmann of Antioch, is among the 1,300 students honored on the Lewis University Dean’s List for the 2023 Spring Semester.

Rohmann is studying Physics at Lewis University College of Aviation Science Technology in Romeoville, IL.

To be eligible for this honor, students must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours during the semester with a grade point average of at least 3.5.

## Lane closures to continue on Keystone Road near Richmond

Increased truck traffic should continue along Route 173 and Keystone Road, west of Richmond, as work was expected to start Monday. Flaggers are in place to control traffic as contractors assemble their mat road to access the job site.

Contractors will be assembling a timber mat road, near the intersection of Keystone Road and Broadway Road, to access

a gas pipeline for repair. Intermittent lane closures are expected to occur on Keystone Road in both directions between Burgett Road and Route 173. These intermittent closures will take place from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. as crews survey the area.

The work is expected to last 10 days to two weeks, weather permitting. For more information, contact Andrew Heine at 231-715-9389.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

## Pet of the week

**Tortellini, is about 5 years old, spayed, up-to-date on routine shots (incl. rabies), tested negative for FIV, feline leukemia and heartworm and micro-chipped.**

**While walk-ins are welcome, adoptions are by appointments only to ensure we have the staff available to help adopters. For information and/or to complete an online application, please visit [www.saveapetil.org/adopt](http://www.saveapetil.org/adopt).**







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