T-LITER ~ including McHenry County News

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Lake County Forest Preserves green practices applauded with esteemed award

VOLUME 12 • NUMBER 21

The Lake County Forest Preserves earned a prestigious award in the Best Green Practices category of an Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) contest.

"The IAPD Best Green Practices Award is presented to a park district, forest preserve, conservation, recreation or special recreation agency that has taken the initiative to incorporate and encourage environmentally friendly business practices association.

IAPD is a nonprofit service, research and education organization that serves park districts, forest preserves, conservation, municipal park and recreation and special recreation agencies. "The Lake County Forest Preserves is considered one of the elites in the state in green practices," IAPD leaders said.
"Over the years, we have

placed sustainability at the center of every aspect of our work," said Angelo Kyle, president of the Lake County Forest Preserves. "Our goal is to raise the bar and set the example for others."

"We're thrilled by this recognition," said Executive Director Alex Ty Kovach. "It's a testament to the talent and dedication of our hardworking staff and to the visionary leadership of our elected board of commissioners.'

For decades, the Forest Preserves has been committed to ensuring all 31,000 acres function at their highest ecological level, said Kovach. More recently, the agency dedicated itself to ensuring new and retrofitted facilities will be models of long-lasting, energy-efficient design. Four net-zero energy Forest Preserve buildings are complete, under construction or in the engineering phase.

Other initiatives range and policies," according to the from reducing mowed turf, transitioning to hybrid passenger vehicles, and introducing electric light-duty maintenance vehicles, to purchasing only compostable cups at the wildly popular Beer Garden at Independence Grove. The latter effort alone will divert an estimated 40,000 cups annually from landfills.

> District leaders have devised ingenious ways to recycle, from railroad ties to industrial boilers. "We are preserving the region's remnant native habitats, restoring former agricultural lands to high-quality natural areas, holding stormwater on the landscape to prevent flooding, improving water quality, and bringing safe, open, natural lands into Lake County's underserved communities, Kovach said. "All of these efforts set the stage for a green-



Preserves recently earned a prestigious award for its green initiatives. Shown above: A rendering of **The Ryerson Woods** Education Center, a netzero energy building, that is nearing completion. Left: Compostable cups are used at the Beer Garden at Independence Grove in Libertyville.

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As SAFE-T Act goes live, murder suspects previously eligible to post bond are held in jail

Hearings have been longer, more deliberative—resembling federal detention proceedings

By Beth Hundsdorfer and Hannah Meisel CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

In courtrooms around the state early last week, judges conducted the first hearings under a new system that determines whether a defendant will be jailed while awaiting trial based on dangerousness and risk of fleeing prosecution, rather than their ability

The abolition of cash bail was included in the SAFE-T Act criminal justice reform of 2021 and originally slated to take effect Jan. 1, though court challenges delayed its implementation until Sept. 18. In St. Clair County Circuit Court, where nearly 2,000 felony cases and more than 3,400 misdemeanors are filed annually, at least one person was released from jail to await trial on the second day the SAFE-T Act's bail reform provisions were in effect.

A woman accused of aggravated domestic battery for hitting her partner with a piece of wood was released on Sept. 19. A mother of a newborn, she was released after a detention hearing found she was not a flight risk or a threat to the public or a specific per-

St. Clair County held three detention hearings Sept. 18. All three were previously held on cash bail in cases filed before the SAFE-T Act went into effect. The new law entitled defendants held in lieu of bail prior to the Sept. 18 effective date to petition to have their cases moved to the new

Two of those defendants stand accused of first-degree murder and another was being held on firearms charges. The hearings resembled detention hearings held in federal court-which has not used cash bail as a detention method since 1984—with testimony focusing on whether the person is a flight risk or a danger to the public or a specific

"We are all going to make some interesting law," St. Clair County Judge John

In a basement courtroom in the Kane County Judicial Center—the county's St. Charles-based criminal courthouse—six defendants were called before Judge Salvatore LoPiccolo for initial appearance hearings Sept. 18.

Of the six, who'd all been arrested since Kane County's last-ever bond call ended around noon on Sept. 17, four were released after their initial conditions hearing. Two remained in custody until the afternoon detention hearings. at which prosecutors asked the judge to keep them in jail. Bond hearings have historically been quick affairs, often with no defense attorneys present for indigent defendants who wouldn't get assigned a public defender until later in their case. But detention hearings in Kane County on Sept. 18 took about 15 minutes each. Both the state's attorney and the public defender assigned to handle last week's hearings laid out their cases for whether the defendant should continue to be held in Kane County Jail or

All parties and the judge also had access to the defendants' criminal history, a practice that isn't new in either Kane or St. Clair county courts, but is a novel development in many counties that have been working with the Office of Statewide Pretrial Services, which has been staffing up to compile those reports for the better part of a

DETENTION FOR MUR-DER SUSPECT: O'Gara, in St. Clair County, presided over the detention hearing for Darrayvia Crump, who was charged with first-degree murder in connection with the shooting of Ivan Marshall in the back of an O'Fallon restaurant last year.

Crump did not fire the gun, Assistant State's Attorney Erica Mazzotti said during the detention hearing, but did drive the vehicle to the location even after one of her co-defendants said they O'Gara said as he began the were "going to rob the dude." first hearing in his courtroom Crump continued to drive

her two co-defendants to the more help," MacElroy said scene, making her legally accountable under Illinois law. Cheryl Whitley, Crump's attorney, said her client provided information that aided the investigation and would agree to home detention with a monitoring device.

O'Gara found Crump ineligible for release.

After the hearing, Crump was returned to the St. Clair County Jail where she will be held until her trial. She has been there since May 2022. Her bond was previously set at \$1.5 million, of which she would have needed to pay 10 percent, or \$150,000, to be re-

DETENTION FOR MUR-DER SUSPECT: In the second St. Clair County hearing, Assistant Public Defender Tom Philo, who represented Trevon Raymond, requested his release. Raymond is charged with first-degree murder in connection with the shooting death of Michael Triplett in East St. Louis on Sept. 21, 2021.

Months after the murder, Raymond was involved in a high-speed chase on the Stan Musial Bridge after shots were fired at an East St. Louis gas station. Raymond crashed his car, allegedly tossed a gun into the weeds and fled on foot. He was arrested, Assistant State's Attorney Dan Lewis said during the hearing, and ballistics later tied the recovered pistol to the murder.

O'Gara also denied his release, finding there were no conditions that would mitigate the risk to the public or Raymond's potential flight from prosecution. Raymond will now be held until his trial, set for late October. Previously, he could have freed himself by paying 10 percent of his \$1 million bond.

O'Gara told the defendants that they had the right to appeal his decisions and, if they could not afford an attorney, a public defender would be appointed for them.

St. Clair County Public Defender Cathy MacElroy filed motions for detention hearings under the SAFE-T Act for all the clients she represents who were jailed in lieu of bail prior to Monday. She anticipates there will be hundreds of hearings in the com-

as she moved between courtrooms with her arms full of files on Sept. 18.

In addition to the detention hearings, defendants that are detained must be tried within 90 days—30 days shorter than the previous 120-day speedy trial requirement. Extensions requested by the defense do not count against that timeframe, however.

DETENTION FOR FIRE-ARMS OFFENSE: In the third St. Clair County case, Bernard Cherry faced possession of a stolen firearm, unlawful possession of a firearm, aggravated unlawful use of a weapon, resisting a police officer and two counts of unlawful possession of a weapon by a felon. He was arrested in June. His bail was set at \$250,000.

He, too, will return to the St. Clair County Jail until his

St. Clair County Chief Judge Andrew Gleeson said Sept. 18 that he expected more hearings later last week. Three were held on Sept. 19, two of which resulted in detention for the defendants.

Gleeson said he set aside a courtroom for those hearings and reassigned a judge from traffic and misdemeanor court to preside over detention

The SAFE-T Act was a response to the cash bail system, which the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights found disproportionately impacts minorities. In St. Clair County, MacElroy said 30 percent of criminal defendants are

To the north in Madison County, they had their first detention hearing on Sept. 19. Matthew Kelly was accused of aggravated stalking and criminal damage to property. The judge ordered that he be held in county jail until his

RELEASE FOR VIOLA-TION OF ORDER OF PRO-TECTION: In Kane County, the two detention hearings were for violation of an order of protection and domestic violence charges—two areas where the SAFE-T Act sought to give judges greater authority to detain individuals if requested by the state's attorney's office.

Standing in an orange "It's day one and I can Kane County Jail uniform in already see that I will need the windowless courtroom,

Tudor Marcel Stoica was read concerns from law enforcethe charges against him after ment predicting fewer opporhaving been arrested the night before for allegedly violating may need drug or alcohol an order of protection from his 80-year-old next door neighbor. Assistant State's Attorney Christine Bayer pointed to Stoica's history of breaking that stalking/no-contact order, resulting in a few other pending cases against

Stoica was out on bond twice for those previous vio-

"He poses a danger and a threat to our victim in his case," Bayer told the judge. court system ... if we have to "Based on that, we'd ask that he'd be detained."

In response, the public defender listed mitigating factors, like the fact that Stoica has full custody of his 11-year-old son and that he's studying engineering at Northern Illinois University. In a prior life, Stoica was a "laparoscopic hernia repair specialist," he reminded the public defender.

After a bit more back-andforth, Judge LoPiccolo ruled that the state hadn't shown 'clear and convincing evidence that he poses a real and present physical threat to his neighbor," given that their verbal altercation didn't include any physical threats of

Afterward, Bayer asked that the judge order an alcohol-related condition on Stoica's release, as the police report had indicated Stoica had 'an odor of alcohol" when he was arrested. LoPiccolo

"I will order that you're not to consume alcoholic beverages and I'll take it one step further," he said. "I will order that you submit to random alcohol testing through pretrial services as well.'

The random alcohol testing order is an example of a condition Kane County Chief Judge Clint Hull said in an interview he expected to see less frequently under the SAFE-T Act, given the law's mandate that defendants be placed under the least-restrictive conditions necessary while still ensuring they show

While Hull said he's heard week.

and cabbage bowling.

will be an ATM on site

spaetzle and German potato salad.

tunities to reach those who treatment, he said he understands one of the SAFE-T Act's many goals is to limit judges giving "conditions just for conditions' sake."

"This is the biggest criminal justice change since the code was written in 1963, so there's a lot of things that we don't know," Hull said. "But I don't look at that as a negative. We're just gonna have to see what happens and I have complete confidence in the adapt, we will adapt under the confines of the law.

MESTIC VIOLENCE: The second Kane County detention hearing on Monday ended in continued detention of a man accused of a pair of Class A misdemeanor domestic battery charges—one of the so-called "detainable offenses" laid out under the new law, and the type of case Hull predicted would be the most common to appear in detention hearings.

In the charging documents, Adrian Jowers denied he put his girlfriend in a headlock during an argument over a Link card. In court on Sept. 18. Jowers stood as his criminal history was read, including a battery charge for allegedly punching a person on the street, and a Kendall County charge for reckless discharge of a firearm.

The public defender responded that Jowers' previous criminal history had no bearing on the domestic violence charge that brought Jowers to court on Monday and asked the judge to release him so he'd be able to continue looking for work and helping provide for his two children, with whom he doesn't live.

However, LoPiccolo said he was relying on Jowers' criminal history to make the determination "that no conditions or combinations of conditions can mitigate" Jowers' threat to public safety, especially to an identifiable victim, and ordered he be held in Kane County Jail. He'll appear in court again this



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Saturday from 4 - 9 p.m. at Horse Fair Park.

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Lake County takes steps to address opioid epidemic with settlement funds

County Board meeting, the Board authorized spending over \$1.5 million the county has received thus far through national settlements to address the effects of the opioid epidemic.

The County will initially use some of the funding to hire an opioid coordinator and implement an Opioid Education Program with the Regional Office of Education to provide education to schools across the county.

"The opioid crisis is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of Lake County residents and, tragically, families are grieving the loss of children, parents, and even grandparents every day. While we have actively been fighting the opioid epidemic for several years, the infusion of money into Lake County to directly combat this scourge will help us do even more," said Lake County Board Chair Sandy Hart. "An opioid coordinator, who will be focused on obtaining more grant funds and distributing funds to community groups who are, just the next step in our commitment to help those who are suffering."

In December 2021, the Illinois Opioid Allocation Agreement was approved by the Attorney General and population over 250,000 for the opioid settlement distributions. National settlements were reached with the Janssen group of companies and distributors in January 2022. Additional settlement agreements and litigation are currently pending in the federal court system that will add to the distributions.

Lake County is estimated to receive about \$215,000 per year for 18 years for a total of approximately \$3.9 million. As of July 2023, the County has received the first five years of payments totaling near \$1.5 million.

The funds must be used to address the opioid epidemic includes focusing on the misuse and abuse of opioid deflection and diversion iniing opioid use or related dis- to provide mini-grants to

of this public health crisis, is alleged effects of the opioid hance education regarding abuse crisis, including those injured as a result of the cri-

"Our staff has meticulously reviewed the guidelines we must follow, determining how to best distribby Illinois counties with a ute the dollars across Lake County and help those who are in crisis right now," said Paras Parekh, chair of the Health and Community Services Committee. "But this crisis does not end within this county's borders, so our focus must be how to work with our partners regionally and nationally to address this crisis across geographic boundaries. We recognize opioid-related deaths continue to rise. With these funds, we can clearly do more."

The opioid coordinator will manage the county's substance use-related activities, including funding, resource development, and service coordination; colthrough remediation. This laborate with internal and external partners, enhance products, treating or mitigat- tiatives; develop a strategy

substance abuse and treatment options.

Some of the initial funds will also be used to develop an opioid education program, housed by the Regional Office of Education. The program would include conducting NARCAN training within all school districts, professional development training, creation of age-appropriate lesson plans to be taught within the schools beginning in January 2024, as well as conducting presentations and resource fairs at schools.

"The Regional Office of Education is looking forward to supporting school districts with this funding and being es as there was in the entire cally and regionally."

legislation with NARCAN and drug education begins later this year," said Dr. Michael Karner, Lake County Regional Superintendent of Schools. "This funding will help provide local resources to our schools to address the ongoing opioid epidemic."

According to data shared by the Lake County Coroner's Office, the numbers are staggering. Within the first quarter of 2023, 43 of 53 overdoses were attributed to opioids. Of that, 38 of these contained fentanyl and 27 were solely fentanyl overdoses. In the first four months of 2023, there have been nearly four times the number of fentanyl overdos-

"While the devastation to individuals, families, and communities by the recent actions of a manufacturer, distributors, and providers has led to the opioid settlements received to date, this settlement does not undo the damage that has been done," said Mark Pfister, Health Department's Executive Director. "These settlement funds will be used to further assist those with substance use disorders and prevent further loss of life. We are committed to seeking out and receiving additional opioid settlement funds that have been provided to the State to build additional treatment capacity both lo-

First 2023 human case of West Nile virus in Lake County reported The Lake County Health calyptus, 2-undecanone, or for severe illness from West

Department and Community Health Center is reporting the first human case of neuroinvasive West Nile virus in Lake County for 2023. A Lake County resident in their 60s became ill in early

"Nobody likes to get sick, especially from something as little as a mosquito bite, said Health Department Executive Director Mark Pfister. "By taking steps to protect ourselves from mosquitoes, we can keep potentially severe illness at bay.

So far in 2023, 144 out of 676 (21%) batches of mosquitoes have tested positive for West Nile virus.

Follow the "4 Ds of Defense" to protect yourself and your family from mosquitoes:

 Drain: Drain standing water from items around your home, vard, and business. · Defend: When outdoors,

use an EPA-approved insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eu-

IR3535 and reapply accord- Nile virus. ing to label directions.

yourself all day and night, and wear repellent outdoors during these prime times for can also call the Health Demosquito activity.

Dress: Wear long sleeves, pants, and closed toe shoes when outdoors to cover your

Most people infected with West Nile virus have no rus. symptoms of illness. However, some may become ill usually three to 15 days after the bite of an infected mosquito. These symptoms include fever, nausea, headache, and muscle aches. In few individuals, neuroinvasive illness such as meningitis (inflammation of tissue surrounding spinal cord) or encephalitis (inflammation of tissue surrounding the brain), or even death, can occur. People older than 60 years and individuals with weakened immune systems and/or multiple medical conditions are at higher risk

Find more prevention tips · Dawn to Dusk: Protect and information on West Nile virus at www.Fight-TheBiteNow.com. Residents partment's West Nile hotline to report areas of stagnant water, report locations of dead birds, and obtain more information on the signs and symptoms of West Nile vi-

The West Nile hotline number is (847) 377-8300.



McHenry Community High School's Upper Campus celebrated Mexican Independence Day and the start of Hispanic Heritage Month with a gathering that featured Principal Jeff Prickett performing a traditional 'grito' before school on Sept. 15. The grito, which is Spanish for shout, is part of the history of Mexican Independence Day which originated on Sept. 16, 1810. The MHS program was coordinated by the school's multilingual department and the Latin American student organization. It was one of several events planned throughout the month to recognize Hispanic Heritage Month.

College news

Lindstrom named Intercollegiate Athletic Association academic honor roll

Annika Lindstrom, of Antioch, was recently named to the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) 2022-23 Academic Honor Roll. During the 2022-23 academic year, Lindstrom was a member of Albion's volleyball team.

The MIAA Academic Honor Roll recognizes student-athletes who maintain a 3.5 grade-point average for the academic year and earn a varsity letter in an

MIAA-sponsored sport. Lindstrom is a junior at Albion College.

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The Lake County Forest Preserves encourages homeowners to plant native trees and shrubs during the fall. The OAKtober Native Tree & Shrub sale takes place October 1 in Ryerson Conservation Area from 9 a.m.

OAKtober Native Tree and Shrub Sale planned for Sunday at Ryerson Conservation Area

is holding its popular OAKtober Native Tree & Shrub Sale from 9 am-2 pm, Sunday, October 1 at Ryerson Conservation Area in Riverwoods.

"Fall is the best time to plant trees and shrubs," said Director of Education Nan Buckardt. Plant metabolism is slowing and this lessens the stress for the newly planted tree. "Choose your favorite plants from their extensive planting list that includes oak, hickory, hawthorns, dogwood, hazelnut and more. The OAKtober woody plant sale offers native tree and shrub species with genetics adapted for our region." The

full list of species offered can be found at: https://www.lcfpd.org/assets/1/18/ OAKtober_2023_Plant_List.pdf.

Native plants naturally thrive in Lake County's soil and weather, requiring less time, effort and expense to maintain. They also play a critical role in increasing biodiversity—the variety of species living in a particular habitat. These indigenous plants help by providing food and homes to native birds, butterflies and other wildlife. Because of their variety, low maintenance, and environmental benefits, native plants have become increasingly popular among professional landscapers and gardeners in recent years.

and Strategic Plan, we want to engage local residents as conservation partners to enhance the landscape and blur our boundaries," said Angelo Kyle, president of the Lake County Forest Preserves. "Gardens with native plants provide an important bridge between residential and nearby natural areas. What you do on your own property can make a big difference.

"As in previous years, the net profits support our educational programming," Buckardt said.

Ryerson Conservation Area is located at 21950 North Riverwoods Road, Riverwoods, IL.

County approves natural hazards mitigation plan risk of loss of life and proper- more than 600 responses to District, the McHenry Town-

McHenry County has updated its plan to mitigate natural hazards after almost a year of work and an unprecedented level of public input.

The County Board at its Sept. 19 meeting approved the update of the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan, which assesses natural and man-made hazards that may affect local communities and identifies strategies to reduce their impact. Having a mitigation plan allows local governments to be eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency funding to help cover mitigation measures to lessen the committee, and we received

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ty from future disasters.

The plan, which must be rewritten every five years and reviewed annually between rewrites, can be found at https:// bit.ly/3Rjgm8q.

"We can't stop natural disasters from happening, but we can plan our response to minimize the cost in lives and property," McHenry County EMA Director David Christensen said. "So many people came forward to ensure that this plan was the best it could be. Many local governments and agencies sent delegates to the review

our public survey – that's three times more than the responses we received for our 2017 plan."

Besides McHenry County Government, participating entities were the municipalities of Algonquin, Barrington Hills, Bull Valley, Cary, Crystal Lake, Fox River Grove, Harvard, Huntley, Johnsburg, Lake in the Hills, Lakewood, Marengo, McHenry, Port Barrington, Richmond, Ringwood, Spring Grove, Wonder Lake and Woodstock: the townships of Alden, Chemung, Dorr and Hebron, as well as the McHenry Township Fire Protection

ship Road District; and the McHenry County Conservation District, the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County, Northwestern Medicine, the United Way of Greater McHenry County, McHenry County College, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, the US Army Corps of Engineers,

and the University of Chicago. The McHenry County EMA's website, www.mchenryaware.com, offers valuable tips for people to be prepared when disaster strikes and reduce the risks to themselves and their property.

Pet of the week

Pete, is about a year old, neutered, up-to-date on routine shots (incl. rabies), tested negative for heartworm and on preventative and microchipped.

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.

MCCD announces upcoming events

Thursday, Sept. 28, 4:30-5:30 p.m, Lost Valley Visitor Center, Savanna Conference Room, Ringwood.

Learn about the adaptations and natural histories of some of McHenry County snakes from Wildlife Resource Center staff and a live animal ambassador! We will also explore more with a craft and hike to follow. Ages 8+, children ages 13 and under must be accompanied by an

Twilight at the **Farmhouse**

Thursday, Sept. 28, 6-8 p.m., Powers-Walker House, Glacial Park, Route 31 & Harts Road.

Enjoy the twilight ambiance of this 1850s homestead Hackmatack National Wildby candlelight among the ever-changing colors in the Lost Valley Marsh. Historical characters will demonstrate how early settlers spent their days at dusk. Free, all-ages event. No registration required.

Migrating Monarchs

Saturday, Sept. 30, 1-2:30 p.m., Prairieview Education Center, Crystal Lake

Learn about the annual life cycle of Monarch butterflies and how they survive their 2,500-mile migration each year, plus what you can do to help them along their way. Weather permitting, a walk in the prairie will follow. Ages 8+.

Kishwaukee Brewing Fun-raising kick-off

Saturday, Sept. 30, Kishwaukee Brewing Company, Woodstock.

Joing the McHenry County Conservation Foundation at Kishwaukee Brewing in Woodstock for a night of camaraderie, raffles, and Hungry Hungry Hippos tournament. The evening kicks off the October special: \$1 from every pour of their Sandhill Lager will be donated to the McHenry County Conservation Foundation.

Talk & Trek: Autumn Wildflowers

Saturday, Sept. 30, 10-11:30 a.m., Lake in the Hills Fen, Lake in the Hills

Join a naturalist as they explore some of the last wildflower blooms of the season. Learn new species, what makes them unique, and how they contribute to their ecosystem on this 2 mile hike. Ages 14+.

Stories & Explore!

Friday, Oct. 6, 10-11 a.m., Stickney Run, McHenry.

Enjoy stories about the season while relaxing inside the shelter. We will read books about Autumnal life for the first half and then do a little exploring outside around Stickney Run. Bring a blanket or a pillow to relax on while you listen to the stories. Ages 2-6 with an adult.

The Big Sit

Sunday, Oct. 8, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m., Lost Valley Visitor Center. Glacial Park.

Don't miss this year's bird-a-thon, The Big Sit, an annual and international birding event held in celebration of National Wildlife Refuge Week! Stop by for a few minutes, stay a few hours or join the whole sit.

Hosted by Friends of life Refuge and McHenry County Audubon Society with support from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and McHenry County Conservation District. Free, all-ages event. No registration needed.

OAKtober Planting Parties

Members of the public are invited to join two big woods "Oaktober" planting parties at Marengo Ridge Conservation Area, 2411 N. Route 23, Marengo.

• Saturday, October 14, 1-3

Help reforest the heart of Marengo Ridge by planting 350 oak trees and shrubs. This tree planting will complete a 27-acre reforestation project within the 818-acre woodland

• Tuesday, Oct. 17, 9 a.m.-1

Take a guided educational 0.75 mile hike through the scenic trails of Marengo Ridge and learn about woodland management best practices at this popular site. The hike will conclude with the planting of 240 trees.

Free for all ages event. No registration required.

Introduction to Volunteering

Thursday, Oct. 26, 6-7:30 p.m. Prairieview Education Center, Crystal Lake.

Come out and hear about the different volunteer opportunities available throughout the year! No prior experience needed for most positions, just a willingness to learn.

For more information or to sign up for programs please visit the McHenry County Conservation District website at MCCDistrict.org.

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

Aug. 13

Waukegan, was cited for DUI alcohol:

Apolinar Albarran, 33, Waukegan, was cited for DUI alcohol, no driver's license and open transportation of al-

Shane Farris, 52, Lake Villa, was cited for DUI – alcohol;

Elvis E. Ortiz, 34, Wauconda, was cited for operating watercraft under the influence.

Solomon Gomez, 39, North Chicago, was cited for a warrant arrest: DUI;

Aug. 17

Roberto A. Gallegos, 31, Zion, was cited for battery;

Geronimo Espinoso, 31, Courtney M. Farris, 39, East Peoria, was cited for bat-

Peter V. Williams, 22, Waukegan, was cited for a warrant arrest: aggravated battery;

Jessica L. Durham, 40, Grayslake, was cited for bat-

Justin T. Ohlmann, 27, Lake Villa, was cited for a warrant

Stephen D. Robinson, 42, Lakemoor, was cited for driving while license revoked.

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Court & crime news

Officer involved shooting under investigation

Crime Task Force is conducting an officer involved shooting investigation that occurred Tuesday, Sept. 19 in Round Lake, during a hostage

At approximately 6:35 p.m., Round Lake Police Officers were dispatched to a residence in the 700 block of North Park Road, Round Lake, for an unknown problem. A 911 caller reported police were needed but hung up before emergency telecommunicators could ask additional questions. Officers arrived and located a woman outside of the home. The woman outside of the home told officers there was a woman in the basement of the home, who needed help.

Round Lake Police Officers arrived at the residence and knocked on the door. The homeowner answered the door and allowed officers inside. The homeowner told officers there is a man (later identified as a 33-year-old) and woman (later identified as a 30-yearold) who live in a downstairs basement apartment of the

Round Lake Police Officers approached a basement door and could hear what sounded like people in the basement. The police officers attempted to speak to the couple through the door, in an attempt to determine the problem. Around the same time, a police officer on the outside of the home looked through a basement window and saw the man holding a knife to the woman's neck. Round Lake Police Officers attempted to deescalate the situation, however, the man continued holding the knife to the woman and refused to put the knife down or let the victim go.

Due to the nature of the situation, the Northern Illinois Police Alarm System (NIPAS), a regional SWAT team, was requested to the scene. Members of NIPAS arrived and attempted de-escalation techniques and negotiations, to rescue the hostage and peacefully resolve the situation. As the victim and man were Spanish speaking, Spanish linguists were on-scene to lead the communication

the man grew increasingly agitated and refused to drop the knife or follow any of the instructions requested by NIP-AS, placing the victim at substantial risk of being killed or seriously injured. Two members of NIPAS discharged their firearms, striking the sustained major injuries and

Members of NIPAS were able to rescue the victim from the man's grip, following the shooting. Police officers provided aid to the man, until nearby paramedics arrived. The man was transported to an area hospital with critical injuries, but is expected to survive. The victim sustained minor injuries during the attack and was evaluated by paramedics, but declined transport to the hospital.

The two officers involved in the shooting were transported to area hospitals for evaluation, per protocol.

The initial woman police encountered outside of the home was an acquaintance of the victim, who the victim attempted to contact while being attacked by the man.

Per state law, the Lake County Major Crime Task Force is conducting an independent investigation into the officer involved shooting. Evidence, including two knives, were collected from the scene.

Charges against the man who took the victim hostage are pending.

Fatal traffic crash under investigation

Lake County Sheriff's Traffic Crash Investigators are investigating a fatal crash that occurred in Long Grove September 19 at approximately 10:10 a.m..

Lake County Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to Route 53 (Hicks Road) approximately ¼ mile north of Lake Cook Road, Long Grove, for a head-on traffic collision. Sheriff's deputies arrived and found a box truck and semi-truck collided head-

Preliminary investigation shows the driver of a 2021 Isuzu box truck, driven by an adult male, was traveling northbound on Route 53. For an unknown reason, the Isuzu crossed into the southbound

of a southbound 2016 Freightliner semi-truck, driven by a 49-year-old man of Dixon. The semi-truck was hauling a loaded trailer. The box truck and semi-truck collided

The driver of the box truck was pronounced deceased at the scene. An adult male passenger in the box truck was transported via ambulance to Advocate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville with critical injuries. The driver of the semi-truck was transported via ambulance to Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights with serious injuries.

The Lake County Coroner's Office responded to the scene and an autopsy is being scheduled for the driver of the box truck. The identities of the occupants of the box truck are pending.

The crash remains under investigation by the Lake County Sheriff's Office Technical Crash Investigations

Fatal shooting under investigation by Lake **County Major Crime Task Force**

Lake County Major Crime Task Force Investigators and North Chicago Police are investigating an early morning homicide that occurred on Victoria Avenue in North Chi-

On September 22, at approximately 6:05 a.m., North Chicago Police Officers responded to a report of shots fired in the 1000 block of Victoria Avenue, North Chicago. Officers arrived and found an adult woman fatally shot.

Preliminary investigation shows the victim left a residence in the area and returned to a vehicle parked in a driveway on 11th Street. Shortly after sitting down in the vehicle, an unknown person(s) approached the victim and shot her. She sustained major injuries and was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Based on the information gathered thus far, it appears this was a targeted shooting. The shooter(s) fled from the scene immediately follow-

Remember

to include

the 5W's:

Who, what

where,

when and

why!

0

North Chicago Police requested the assistance of the Lake County Major Crime Task Force to assist in the investigation. Additional information will be released by the Lake County Coroner's Office. The victim has not yet been positively identified.

The investigation remains ongoing at this time.

Attorney General Raoul charges two Lake County men with gun running and unlawful sale of firearms

Attorney General Kwame Raoul today charged two Lake County men with allegedly trying to sell illegal firearms, some of which were stolen, in Lake and Cook counties this summer.

Raoul's office charged Cesar Morales, 25, of Waukegan in Lake County Circuit Court, with three counts of gunrunning, Class X felonies punishable by up to 40 years in prison; one count of unlawful sale or delivery of firearms, a Class 1 felony punishable by up to 15 years in prison; three counts of armed violence, Class X felonies punishable by up to 30 years in prison; and two counts of unlawful delivery of a controlled substance. Class X felonies punishable by up to 30 years in prison.

Raoul's office also charged Agustin Prado, 28, of Waukegan with two counts of gunrunning, a Class 1 felony punishable by up to 15 years in prison; and two counts of unlawful sale or delivery of firearms, Class 2 felonies punishable by up to 14 years in prison.

Both Morales and Prado are detained in the Lake County Jail. The next court date for Prado is Sept. 22 and for Morales Sept. 27, both in the Lake County Circuit

"Illegal gun and drug sales fuel gang activity and make our neighborhoods less safe," Raoul said. "These charges are the result of a collaborative effort between my office, federal entities and local law enforcement agencies to address gun trafficking and violence in our communities."

Raoul's office alleged that between June and July, Morales and Prado allegedly worked together to illegally sell six firearms and an ounce of cocaine in Lake and Cook

ing that between June and August, Morales illegally sold 10 additional firearms. Of the 16 firearms illegally sold, five were reported sto-

Attorney General Raoul's office will co-prosecute this case with the Lake County State Attorney Eric Rine-

"I want to thank the Sheriff Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) for its comprehensive investigation in this case,' Rinehart said. "Our office looks forward to co-counseling this case with the Illinois Attorney General's Office. Our office will handle the detention hearings, and these are exactly the type of defendants who should be detained awaiting trial. Because of the SAFE-T Act, these offenders will be detained without being able to use their own cash or have criminal associates post cash bond on their be-

The investigation was conducted by ATF and Lake County Sheriff's Office.

"Our continued partnership is a force multiplier among law enforcement agencies, specifically the Lake County Sheriff's Special Investigations Group, which continues to investigate cases that hold those accountable for the gun crimes committed in Lake and Cook County," said ATF Special Agent in Charge Christopher Amon of the Chicago Field Division. "I commend the Illinois Attorney General's office for their commitment to charging these cases which make a difference in our communities."

"Every day our Special Investigations Group, made up of federal, state, and local law enforcement partners, investigate the most violent and egregious criminals operating in Lake County," said Lake County Sheriff John D. Idleburg. "Again, through their hard work and collaboration with stakeholders, two more gun and drug traffickers have been arrested and are facing serious charges. I am thankful to our team and Attorney General Raoul's office, for everything they continue to do, keeping our community safe."

The public is reminded that the defendants are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

cases for Raoul's Statewide Grand Jury Bureau.

Sheriff's Office investigating attempted vehicular hijacking and robbery

Lake County Sheriff's Detectives are investigating an attempt vehicular hijacking and robbery that occurred during the overnight hours in Beach Park.
On September 23, at

approximately 2:05 a.m., Lake County Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to the 10100 block of West Talmadge Avenue, Beach Park, for a robbery. Sheriff's deputies arrived and located the victim, a 40-year-old man of South Dakota. The victim had injuries to his head and was transported to an area hospital for treatment.

Preliminary investigation shows the victim was summoned via a mobile ride share app to an unknown address to pick up three passengers. When the victim and suspects arrived at the destination address in the 10100 block of West Talmadge Avenue, the three attacked the victim and attempted to take his vehicle. The victim fought back, started yelling, and honking the car's horn. The victim was then struck in the head with an unknown object and the three stole his cellphone before fleeing on foot.

A sheriff's canine team responded to the scene to conduct a track, however, the track concluded without locating the offenders. The victim's cellular phone was located approximately three miles away from the scene, on the side of a roadway.

Evidence technicians collected evidence at the scene that will be further examined in an attempt to identify the offenders. Sheriff's detectives continue to actively investigate the crime.

Some safety tips for ride share drivers include:

• Always verify your rider

• Know the area you are pro-

viding rides

• Do not help riders with luggage or other items

· Park vehicle in a manner that allows you to drive

away quickly · Pay attention to rider rat-

• Do not pick up riders with

'phantom profiles' · Utilize a dash camera that

Deputy Chief Andrew records rider



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McHenry County Sheriff's arrest bulletin following arrests in McHenry County were reported by the McHenry County Sheriff's Department. Suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Asim Ahmed, 37, Wheeling, was cited for hate crime and harassment through electronic communications:

Kristen J. Delboccio, 39, Wauconda, was cited for computer fraud and theft obtains/exerts unauthorized control over property of the owner over \$500:

Angel D. Perez, 27, Crystal Lake, was cited for reporting false alarm or complaint via 911 call;

Eliseo Tolentino-Mondragon, 26. Harvard, was cited for A-2 domestic battery/physical

Aug. 9

Cara M. Ullrich, 44, Round Lake Beach, was cited for violation of bail bond – violates condition of release when victim is family or household member:

Monty L. Shannon, 46, Pingree Grove, was cited for 3 counts of sexual predator or child sex offender presence in public park building or public park:

Aug. 10

Richard F. Cosson, 54, Lakewood, was cited for violation of child murderer & violent offender against youth registration act;

Aug. 11

Uriel G. Florez-Martinez, 29, Lake in the Hills, was cited for aggravated domestic battery, A-5 aggravated domestic battery/strangle, unlawful restraint, domestic battery, and interference with reporting of domestic violence:

Laura C. Zamora, 28, Chicago, was cited for retail theft >\$300, and 2 counts of possession of a controlled substance; Michael F. Walach, 62,

Kenosha, was cited for drug induced homicide, and manufacture/delivery of controlled substance – schedule I, II narc- any other amount;

Tiffany M. Mielke, 39, McHenry, was cited for contempt of court;

Aug. 12

W. McGuinn, Charles 51, Lakemoor, was cited for grooming - distribute photographs depicting sex organs of child, indecent solicitation of a child, (1) battery, (2) bat-

Aug. 13

Paul W. Tockey, 60, McHenry, was cited for A-2 battery/physical domestic contact and A-1 domestic battery/bodily harm.

Aug. 15

Gordon W. Schwantner, 40, Fox Lake, was cited for A-1 domestic battery/bodily harm, A-2 domestic battery/ physical contact, and possession of a controlled substance;

Ruben Meneses, 43, Wonder Lake, was cited for sex offender registration – failure to register new address, employer, school;

Gregory A. Williams, 39, Lakemoor, was cited for aggravated fleeing/attempting to elude peace officer - involves disobedience of 2 or more traffic devices, driving while license suspended, improper passing/left/no passing zone, and improper lane change without signal;

Aua. 16

Nathan E. Livingston, 36, Oakwood Hills, was cited for DUI - alcohol:

Bresney J. Ortiz-Sanchez, 18, Crystal Lake, was cited for 3 counts of retail theft possess displayed merchandise – exceeding \$300;

Aug. 17

Stephanie L. Sanstad, 40, Spring Grove, was cited for possession of controlled substance and 3 counts of possession of drug paraphernalia;

Bo Zhao, 50, Temple City, was cited for theft - obtains/ exerts unauthorized control over property of the owner 10k<100k;

Cheyenne N. Elitzer, 28, McHenry, was cited for driving while driver's license suspended or revoked, improper lane usage, and operation of uninsured motor vehicle;

Lauren E. Aussem, 31, Nashville, was cited for DUI alcohol: Aug. 18

Rydell M. Bryant, 35, Woodstock, was cited for 2 counts of driving while license to operate motor vehicle is revoked:

Aaron Almendarez, 35, Alsip, was cited for retail theft - possess displayed merchandise exceeding \$300, and retail theft – possess displayed merchandise - exceeding \$300 with prior;

Christopher M. Coleman, 39, Round Lake Beach, was cited for domestic battery;

Karla A. Soloman, 52, Lake in the Hills, was cited for retail theft – possess displayed merchandise exceeding \$300;

Aug. 19

Romel A. Guadarrama, 42, Waukegan, was cited for DUI - alcohol, and improper lane

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Juan Tehozol Flores, 25, Crystal Lake, was cited for DUI – alcohol, and obedience to police officer;

Ashley G. Coleman, 39, Cary, was cited for A-2 domestic battery/physical contact;

Kaz C. Darzinskis, 36, Wonder Lake, was cited for endangering the life or health of a child – causes, permits or

places child in circumstances; and domestic battery/bodily Aug. 20

Angelo J. Karras, 23, Hoffman Estates, was cited for A-2 domestic battery/physical contact, and FOID card required – acquire or possess firearm ammunition;

Richard C. Davis, 34, Huntley, was cited for domestic battery/physical contact,

Aug. 21

Dino G. Colamatteo, 34, Crystal Lake, was cited for A-2 domestic battery/physical contact, interference with reporting of domestic violence, and resisting or obstructing peace officer, firefighter, or correctional

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Wind Lake Garage Sales

VFW 7936 LOOMIS RD Oct.7th, 8am-3pm. Halloween decor, cake decorating tools, pans, etc.

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JOIN LINN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 9/29-7am - 1pm & 4pm-7pm/9/30-8am -1pm. For Our Annual Fall Rummage Sale to Fight Hunger! 10% of our proceeds will go to he Big Foot Food Pantry. We have Furniture, Clothes for all, Jewelry, Kids Toys, Books, Kitchenware, Trin-

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