

Jeeps on the Run Toys for Tots Run afterparty boasts family fun, music, raffles

Cynthia Wolf

With registrations for the 2023 Jeeps on the Run Toys for Tots Run nearing capacity, event organizers are reminding the public that neither Jeep ownership nor run participation are necessary to join in the fun of the after-party.

That fun begins at 11 a.m. and goes until 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, at the Lincolnshire Marriott Resort, 10 Marriott Drive, Lincolnshire. It will feature a totally '80s music tribute by The 1985 band, as well as raffles, a Santa's workshop for kids, and food and drink for purchase. After-party tickets are just \$5 each and are available at jeepsontherun.com.

"It's fun for the whole family," said Mike Missak, president of Jeeps on the Run, a group of Jeep aficionados who've been coming together to support great causes for about 11 years. "There's a dance floor, we'll have face painting, games, crafts ... and of course, Santa will be there."

Adding to the day's excitement will be the drawing of the winner's name for a brand new Jeep valued at more than \$46,000. Jeep raffle ticket buyers need not be present to win.

"The Jeep is 100 percent donated by our title sponsor, Ray Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram," Missak said of the Fox Lake dealership helmed by Ray Scarpelli Jr. "Tickets are \$20 each and are available at jeepsontherun.com."

A maximum of 3,000 tickets will be sold for the Jeep, a hydro blue, four-door Wrangler featuring upgraded wheels, wireless car play, power windows, a hard top and automatic transmission. The winner is responsible for taxes, title transfer and license plate costs.

Registration fees for the Jeep run as well as after-party and Jeep raffle ticket proceeds will go toward purchasing additional toys for the U.S. Marines Toys for Tots program. Toy donations also are being accepted now at numerous locations, including Ray Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, 23 Route 12, Fox Lake.

Jeep owners participating in the run, many of whom elaborately decorate their vehicles, will depart the dealership at 10 a.m. Dec. 3 for their 22-mile trek to Lincolnshire.

Jeeps on the Run has collected roughly 145,000 toys benefiting about 40,000 families over the last decade. Toys go to families in Lake and McHenry counties.

"We hope lots of people will attend the after-party this year, have a great time and bring a toy," Missak said, noting that the Marriott is JOTR's biggest after-party venue yet. "It's a great way to give back to the community while having fun."

The title sponsor for the after-party is Old National Bank. Other event sponsorships remain available; find details at jeepsontherun.com.

"To many people who come, this is the kickoff to Christmas," Missak said. "It's the new family tradition. Come on out, help us fill two semitrucks full of toys, take your picture with the Marines, and have a blast."



CYNTHIA WOLF PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Mike Missak, president of Jeeps on the Run, stands near the new Jeep Wrangler donated by Ray Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram to benefit this year's JOTR Toys for Tots Run. The Wrangler is being raffled, with the winner's name to be drawn Dec. 3 at the Toys for Tots Run after-party in Lincolnshire. Details and tickets are available at jeepsontherun.com.





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State gets ninth recent credit upgrade as administration faces scrutiny for pandemic unemployment handling

By Jerry Nowicki CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Illinois received another credit upgrade Nov. 7, the same day a legislative committee once again scrutinized Gov. JB Pritzker's administration for its handling of unemployment claims during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The upgrade came from Fitch Ratings, the last remaining holdout of the nation's three major credit reporting agencies to advance the state's status to "A" grade. Collectively, Fitch, S&P Global Ratings and Moody's Investors Service have given the state nine credit upgrades since 2021.

Credit upgrades generally make it cheaper for the state to borrow money, playing a major role in investors' assessment of risk in buying state bonds. Fitch moved Illinois to an A-, up from the BBB+ rating it had given the state last year. Illinois' ratings had been on a general downward trajectory across administrations of both parties since the mild recession two decades ago.

Fitch's review of state finances drew similar conclusions to those that came before it: reserves are growing while long-term liabilities, including pension debt, remain "an elevated but still moderate burden."

"Reserves have improved to historically high levels for the state and provide an important fiscal cushion, but levels remain relatively modest versus other states," Fitch said in its analysis. "Management has eliminated many outstanding budgetary liabilities and established a sustainable pattern of smoother fiscal decision-making."

The state's "rainy day" fund - officially referred to as the Budget Stabilization Fund – had a balance of nearly \$2 billion as of Nov. 7.

Still, the state's unfunded pension liabilities sit at roughly \$140 billion—a number representing what the state would owe if every pensioner sought to collect benefits at once. While an indicator of the pension funds' financial health, it does not reflect their current ability to pay out benefits that are owed.

In recent years, lawmakers have allocated hundreds of millions of dollars beyond statutory requirements to Illinois' pension funds, lessening future liabilities. Fitch called those payments "helpful, but insufficient to address this structural budget gap."

could once again be lowered if

of unpaid bills to within a 30day accounts payable cycle. That effort was boosted by an \$898 million allocation to pay off old group health insurance bills last year, which passed as part of a broader plan to pay down debt accrued by the unemployment insurance trust fund during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The unemployment fund was about \$4.5 billion in the red at its lowest point, but lawmakers approved multiple debt to avoid further massive tax hikes on employers.

IDES scrutinized

The nature of that unemployment trust fund debt was the subject of scrutiny at an unrelated committee hearing Nov. 7.

The Legislative Audit Commission, a bipartisan bicameral group that reviews state audits, questioned Ray Marchiori, the acting director of the Department of Employment Security who previously served as the agency's chief of staff before Pritzker appointed him director in January.

The committee was discussing a state auditor general report from July which showed Illinois overpaid unemployment benefits to the tune of \$5.2 billion during the first 18 months of the COVID-19 pandemic. Much of it went to fraudulent claimants, including hundreds of dead or incarcerated individuals.

During the pandemic, IDES' phone lines and website couldn't handle the sudden spike of individuals trying to file for benefits. State officials scrambled to contract with outside entities to both increase staff and stand up a new federally funded program for people traditionally ineligible for unemprogram, called Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, was designed to give benefits to people such as gig workers and freelancers, and was the subject of about \$3.2 billion of the overpayments.

The audit found the rush created weaknesses that fraudsters would go on to exploit when the state temporarily halted its process of crossother databases to verify eligibility.

The audit noted that Illinois failed to follow federal recommendations in May 2020 to prevent some of the fraud. It wasn't until September 2021 that IDES im-

citing IDES' unwillingness to share call center data.

But much of the questioning for IDES on Nov. 7 centered on whether it was ready to respond to future crisis events, potentially driven by global political strife.

"Are you prepared right now for the world to go to hell again, or will you be prepared in a couple more months?" Sen. Craig Wilcox, R-McHenry, asked the department. "What is your-when are you cash infusions to pay off the ready to say you can handle the next relatively foreseen crisis in the state?"

Marchiori responded that IDES "scaled up" its server capacity and other information technology capabilities to handle pandemic high-water marks of claims. He said IDES is averaging 1,800-2,000 claims per day in "nor-mal times," but the systems can handle at least 48,000 per day.

IDES has also created an internal fraud task force and is working on other controls, he said, which will be helped by \$30 million in federal grants.

Good financial news

While Wilcox quizzed IDES on its readiness for another economic downturn, a recent report from the legislature's Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability painted a positive picture for state finances one-third of the way through the current fiscal year.

Thus far in fiscal year 2024, which began in July, state base revenues are \$742 million ahead of the same period last year, which ended in the state netting \$50.7 billion in revenue. While it marked good financial news, COGFA has frequently noted that the latter months of the fiscal year especially April when tax ployment insurance. That returns come in - can often make or break state finances.

The economy, meanwhile, appears to be humming along," according to COG-FA's Chief Economist Benjamin Varner, especially in areas such as consumer spending

While Varner noted some economic forecasters "are expecting a slowing of the economy"-potentially related to matching claims against five high interest rates, the threat of a government shut-down, the resumption of the repayment of student loans, and global political strife-such predictions are not new in recent years.

"However, economic slow-It also warned the rating plemented the use of a multi-state downs have been forecasted crossmatching tool called the In- consistently over the past two years because of similar impediments, yet the economy continues to expand," he wrote. "The question continues to be how long can these potential economic hurdles be avoided before a major slowdown occurs.' Capitol News Illinois' Hannah Meisel contributed to this report.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

John Gacek (center) performs with Fade at Niko's Red Mill Tavern in Woodstock. Known for donating his time to help others, Gacek, now battling Stage IV cancer, will be the recipient of funds raised during a Nov. 18 benefit at the McHenry Moose Lodge located at 3535 N. Richmond Road, Johnsburg.

Well known for volunteering to help others, Gacek now subject of benefit

thoroughly familiar with being on the giving side of a benefit.

The 52-year-old McHenry man - who's also performed with regionally well-known acts Fade, Mistaken Child, Solid Motion, Woofer and Thunder BOX - has donated his musical talents for an untold number of worthy causes, according to friends who've seen him in action, often at the McHenry Moose Lodge.

So, the fundraising event now being planned in his honor is throwing Gacek a bit. But with his medical debt rising, and the need to tackle making his house handicappedaccessible, he's readying for the role reversal.

"I'm greatly, greatly, greatly appreciative," said the husband, father and grandfather. "It's a hard one, though. While I recognize the need for my friends to help me, I also understand and recognize that there are people out there who need more help than I think I need."

Cherin Krueger is a volunteer at the McHenry Moose Lodge. She and Nathan Grandmason are coordinating the fundraiser for Gacek, she said. The public is invited to attend. The event will feature live music starting at 6 p.m. Nov. 18 at the Moose, 3535 N. Richmond Road, Johnsburg.

Donations will be requested at the door. and there will be a number of raffles throughout the night. A portion of proceeds from all dinners sold that night also will go to Gacek, Krueger said.

"Anyone who knows John loves John," she said. "He's always willing to help, always there for people, always volunteering at the Moose. It's time for us to help him.'

Gacek, who has been married to his wife, Tina, for five years, is battling Stage IV cancer.

A diagnosed diabetic since the 1990s, Gacek was seeing a doctor throughout 2020 for a stubborn foot infection, not uncommon in diabetic patients. The day after Easter in 2021, he got the call that a biopsy taken from the ball of his foot showed that the

Time Machine lead singer John Gacek is infection was, in fact, a form of skin cancer called squamous cell carcinoma. Caught early, they're typically superficial and highly treatable. Gacek soon came to learn that his was invasive, and it had metastasized.

> What would have been Stage 1 — go in and get it removed - had spread throughout my body," Gacek said. "Everyone had been treating [the foot infection] as a diabetic ulcer. They didn't consider the fact that since the infection had been there so long and the wound open so long, that it could be cancerous."

After surgery to remove much of his foot in front of the heel, Gacek started chemo. He continues to visit a Crystal Lake oncologist for chemotherapy treatments every three weeks, he said, and the current treatment plan is for that to continue for the foreseeable future. Employed in cyber security for a Schaumburg area food ingredients manufacturer, Gacek has medical insurance. But he's exceeded his cap for years. The debt grows as his health issues multiply.

"Just this summer I found out that the chemo is killing my kidneys, it's killing my thyroid, and I've had at least one heart attack," he said, speaking from his home office during a recent phone interview.

And yet, Gacek still performs his music as often as he's able. He also still works for his employer, primarily from home. And he's still walking with the help of a prosthetic boot. An optimist and a helper by nature, Gacek's health issues are forcing a level of pragmatism.

The bad effects are starting to snowball,' he acknowledged. "It's possible that within a few years I'm going to have to take a step back. And hopefully I won't be scrambling at that point to make the house handicapped accessible. Hopefully all of that will be in place and we'll just be continuing to move forward."

The friends, fellow musicians, volunteers and contributors working together on the Nov. 18 fundraiser hope the evening will go a long way toward making that happen.



Illinois returns to a point of "irresolute and contentious fiscal decision-making" which had become commonplace over several recent administrations, especially during the two years the state went without a budget between 2015 and 2017.

"We are continuing to right the past fiscal wrongs in our state with disciplined fiscal leadership, and credit rating agencies and businesses alike are taking notice of Illinois' remarkable progress," Pritzker said in a statement.

The upgrade was issued, Fitch noted, because Illinois is planning on issuing bonds next week to continue financing a pension buyout program that's anticipated to shave \$1.4 billion off the state's pension liability over its lifetime.

Also in recent years, Illinois has reduced its "backlog"

tegrity Data Hub, according to the audit.

At many points, the commission hearing served as a venue for lawmakers to air long-stated grievances.

Rep. Fred Crespo, D-Hoffman Estates, criticized what he viewed as the agency's "total disregard for the General Assembly" during the pandemic,







A harvest of blessings

On November 3 and 4 Faith Lutheran Church in Antioch held its fourth winter clothing distribution for the greater Antioch community. Members of Faith donated gently used winter clothing, hats and mittens for this event. Close to 100 families visited the church during the distribution hours and were able to take many of the items. This event is held each year in early November and is free to the public. Faith Lutheran Church is located at 24300 Grass Lake Road in Antioch. Fore more information the church office can be contacted at 847-395-1660.

Save-A-Pet celebrates **GivingTuesday** on November 28

This GivingTuesday, Save-A-Pet will inspire generosity by thousands of their supporters.

GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement, unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and their world. GivingTuesday will kick off the giving season by inspiring people to donate on November 28, and throughout the year.

Save-A-Pet is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and one of the largest no-kill cat and dog rescues in Lake County that operates a full-time adoption center. Over the course of 51 years, Save-A-Pet has been able to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome more than 66,000 dogs and cats. GivingTuesday is a platform that could enable Save-A-Pet to continue their true no-kill mission.

Save-A-Pet has been participating in GivingTuesday since 2014 and has raised more than \$125,000. In 2023, Save-

A-Pet is hoping to raise \$45,000 that will help financially support our rescue dogs and cats.

Development Manager, Stacy Ellington said "GivingTuesday is a day when everyone can come together and raise funds for their favorite charity. GivingTuesday is the day for Save-A-Pet to receive much needed funds from all of their supporters" GivingTuesday was launched as a simple idea: to create a day that encourages people to do good. Over the past nine years, this idea has grown into a global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity.

Those who are interested in joining Save-A-Pet's GivingTuesday initiative can visit https:// bit.ly/SAPGT2023.

For additional information about Giving Tuesday, please email Stacy Ellington development.manager@ saveapetil.org.

State police still drafting assault weapons registration rules as deadline nears Items must be registered before Jan. 1, but confusion lingers about what items are covered under ban

By Peter Hancock CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

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Officials at the Illinois State Police said Nov. 7 they are working to finalize rules for registering assault weapons and other items that are now tightly regulated under the state's new assault weapons ban as a Jan. 1 compliance deadline approaches.

ISP attorney Suzanne Bond told the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules, a bipartisan panel that oversees administrative rulemaking, that the agency just completed another round of public hearings



process of trying to answer all the questions it received from the public.

They were well-attended by the public and various organizations," she said of the hearings. "Those groups have committed to sending us their questions in writing. To the extent possible, if we had answers, we did provide them. We pointed them to relevant FAQs on our website, which have been updated."

The registration requirement is part of the state's new assault weapons ban, known as the Protect Illinois Communities Act, which lawmakers passed in January. It bans the sale, purchase, possession, and distribution of a long list of firearms defined as "assault weapons" as well as various firearm attachments, large-capacity magazines, and certain kinds of ammunition.

The law also states that people who owned those items be-

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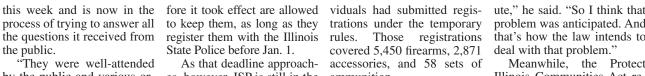
to keep them, as long as they register them with the Illinois State Police before Jan. 1.

As that deadline approaches, however, ISP is still in the process of finalizing administrative rules that will spell out exactly what items must be registered.

In September, ISP published temporary rules spelling out a registration process, and the agency began accepting online registrations Oct. 1. But many people have complained that those rules are not clear and that it's difficult to tell what items must be registered and what items are exempt.

Interested parties have until Nov. 20 to submit written comments on the proposed rules. The email address for submitting those comments is ISP.Legal.PublicComments@ illinois.gov.

As of Nov. 7, according to ISP statistics, 2.906 indi-



ammunition. Still others have said they believe the requirement is unconstitutional and they don't believe most gun owners will comply with it.

"Hundreds of thousands of people will absolutely not comply," state Rep. Brad Halbrook, R-Shelbyville, said at a hearing in Springfield Nov. 2. 'It is up to the governor and the legislature to truly decide if they're prepared to declare war on law abiding gun owners or not."

JCAR cochair Sen. Bill Cunningham, D-Chicago, told reporters after the meeting that he understands some of the technical confusion over which items must be registered, but he said the law gives ISP authority to adapt its rules as time goes on.

"The existing statute does contemplate the state police dealing with this problem and allows them to amend rules on an ongoing basis. They have that authority in the stat- contemplated by the law."

problem was anticipated. And that's how the law intends to deal with that problem."

Meanwhile, the Protect Illinois Communities Act remains under legal challenge in federal court. On Nov. 3, a federal appeals court in Chicago decided on a 2-1 vote not to issue an injunction blocking enforcement of the law, saying the plaintiffs who challenged it had not shown that they are likely to prevail in a constitutional challenge.

Two of the plaintiffs in that case, the Illinois State Rifle Association and the National Association for Gun Rights, have said they plan to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, which has been reluctant in recent years to approve of firearms regulations.

But Cunningham said the legal challenges won't prevent the state from moving forward to implement the law, at least for now.

"We have a saying that every law is constitutional until a court tells you it's not," he said. 'So the State Police has to go along with the rulemaking as

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College news

Local students awarded scholarships

The following local students are among the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater scholarship recipients receiving financial awards for the 2023-24 academic year.

· Leland Robinson, of Richmond, who is studying History, won the Transfer Excellence Scholarship

• Emily Thatcher, of Antioch, who is studying Marketing, won the Transfer Excellence Scholarship

• Alyssa Ulmer, of Antioch, who is studying Political Science, won the Chancellor Scholarship.

behalf of "On the Board of Directors, we send

this year's scholarship winsaid Katie Kuznacic, ners, president of the UW-Whitewater Foundation. "Since 1962, thousands of individuals, families, friends, and organizations have donated funds to make these important financial awards a reality. Their kindness and generosity have contributed to UW-Whitewater's alumni success and economic impact, and their impact is resoundingly felt each year via critical scholarship disbursements. We are so grateful to all donors for private support to the UW-Whitewater Foundation."

The UW-Whitewater Foundation awarded more than \$2.5 UW-Whitewater Foundation million in scholarships to students. More information can be our deepest congratulations to found at uww.edu/scholarships.





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HI-LITER / MCN • NOV. 15-21, 2023 • 6 Lawmakers decline to extend private school scholarship tax credit program

Veto session adjourns without renewing Invest in Kids Act

By Peter Hancock CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Illinois lawmakers adjourned their fall veto session Nov. 9 without renewing a controversial program that provided indirect state support for students attending private and religious schools.

The Invest in Kids program will sunset as scheduled on Dec. 31, meaning donors to six state-approved private school scholarship funds will no longer be able to claim a 75 percent tax credit for their donations. The program has been capped at \$75 million annually since its implemen-

tation in 2018.

Advocates for the program say without the tax incentives, the scholarship organizations won't be able to raise the money they have in recent years, and an estimated 9,600 students who currently receive those scholarships may have to find another way to pay for their education or transfer to their local public school.

Lawmakers passed the Invest in Kids Act in 2017 as part of a bipartisan package that also included an overhaul of the way Illinois funds public preK-12 education. The

scholarship program was considered necessary in order to get then-Gov. Bruce Rauner, a Republican, to sign the public school funding overhaul.

Supporters of the program argued that it gave children from lower-income backgrounds the ability to attend schools that would otherwise be available only to wealthier families. But opponents, including teachers' unions and other advocates for public education, argued that the tax credits siphoned money out of state coffers that could have been used to support public schools.

Last month, state Rep. Angelica Guerrero-Cuellar, D-Chicago, introduced House Bill 4194, which would have renewed a scaled-back version of the program. But that bill was never called for a vote.

One question that remained unanswered about the program is whether students who received private school scholarships performed any better academically than their peers who went to public schools.

The 2017 law required students receiving the scholarships to take the same standardized tests that public school students take each t-shirts and waving signs that year, and it called on the Illinois State Board of Education to publish an analysis of that data.

But ISBE has not yet published that analysis. Officials at the agency said they were unable to collect reliable data during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021. An analysis using 2022 and 2023 test results is scheduled for release later this year or early in 2024

Throughout the veto session, dozens of supporters of the program converged on to be something that they're the Statehouse wearing blue

read, "Protect our scholarships.'

House Republican leader Tony McCombie, of Savanna, told reporters Nov. 9 that she believes the program still has bipartisan support, and she said its backers will continue working to have it reinstated.

"It certainly will continue to be a priority of the caucus, and it certainly will be a priority of several of the Democrats in the House as well as, I believe, in the Senate," she said. "I don't think it's going going to want to just stop."

Lake County Jail awarded national accreditation

Thomas J. Stickrath, Chairperson of the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections (CAC), and David Haasenritter, Director of Standards and Accreditation, American Correctional Association recently announced the accreditation of the Lake County Adult Correctional Facility. The award was presented in conjunction with the American Correctional Association 153rd Congress of Correction on August 11, 2023, in Philadelphia, PA

In presenting the award, Thomas J. Stickrath, Chairperson of the CAC, and Denise Robinson, President of the American Correctional Association (ACA), complimented the facility on their professional level of operation and their success in completing the accreditation process. The agency is one of over 1,500 correctional organizations currently involved in accreditation across the nation.

The accreditation program is a professional peer review process based on national standards that have evolved since the founding of the Association in 1870. The standards were developed by national leaders from the field of corrections, law, architecture, health care, and other groups who are interested in sound correctional management.

ACA standards address services,

programs, health care and security operations essential to effective correctional management. Through accreditation, an agency is able to maintain a balance between protecting the public and providing an environment that safeguards the life, health, and safety of staff and offenders. Standards set by ACA reflect practical up-to-date policies and procedures and function as a management tool for agencies and facilities throughout the world.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "I am extremely proud of our staff who work in the Corrections Division and this significant accomplishment. The career of a correctional officer, while certainly stressful and difficult at times, can also be very rewarding. Our correctional staff place the highest emphasis on the value of life and work to make a positive impact on the lives of those who will leave the jail and reenter our society, so they have the best chance of success, versus recidivism."

The three-year accreditation award granted to the Lake County Adult Correctional Facility does not signal the end of their involvement in the accreditation process. During the award period, staff will continually evaluate themselves and maintain continuous compliance with the standards.

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Local students performing with UW-Whitewater marching band at Green Bay Packer game Sunday

The following local stuof the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Warhawk Marching Band will perform at the Green Bay Packers home game against the Los Angeles Chargers on Sunday, Nov. 19:

Alyssa Ulmer, from Antioch, who is studying Political Science at UW-Whitewater, and is part of the Clarinet section

Heidi Wagner, from Antioch, who is studying History at UW-Whitewater, and is part of the Guard (Section Leader) section.

Joe Tindell, from Antioch, who is studying Business at UW-Whitewater, and is part of the Tuba (Section Leader) section.

The 162-member band was Club» from In the Heights. dent musicians who are part invited to perform at halftime and post-game at Lambeau Field in front of a potential crowd of more than 80,000 people.

The group last performed at Lambeau Field on Sept. 10, 2017.

"We are thrilled to be able to return to Lambeau Field," said Glenn Hayes, director of bands at UW-Whitewater. "The students have been working with a strong focus and determination to give an incredible performance. I could not be more proud of each and every one of them!" The band's performance, titled "ALIVE!," includes the movie and musical hits "Come Alive" from The Greatest Showman and «The

The Warhawk March-Band performs at ing UW-Whitewater footall ball regular season home games and other select campus and community events during the fall semester. UW-Whitewater hosts the annual Wisconsin School Music Association State Marching Band Championships every October.

The marching band is one of several musical ensembles at the university. In addition to Lambeau Field, UW-Whitewater's ensembles perform in other famous venues around the world, including Carnegie Hall in New York City, the Symphony Center in Chicago, and at venues in Germany, Poland and England.

McHenry County Sheriff's arrest bulletin –

The 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. Sept. 21

Sohail Sharma, 40, Algonquin, was cited for contempt of court;

Kelly M. Garcie, 33, Richmond, was cited for 2 counts of A-1 domestic battery/bodily harm, and 2 counts of endangering the life or health of a child - causes, permits or places child in circumstances (non-family related); Sept. 22

ton Grove, was cited for contempt of court:

Bridgette E. Peyton, 31, Burlington, was cited for retail theft-taking merchandise from retail establishement with intent to deprive merchant without paying;

Luis E. Rivera-Fragoso, 36, Richmond, was cited for A-1 domestic battery/bodily harm, and endangering the life of a child - causes, permits or places child in circumstances;

Justin A. Chulze, 33, Crystal Lake, was cited for driving while license suspended or revoked, and aggravated DUI;

Joseph C. Curtis, 31, Woodstock, was cited for vi-Brian R. Krueger, 44, Mor- olation of an order of protec-

tion; Sept. 23

Christopher J. Kafka, 40, McHenry, was cited for possession of a controlled substance:

Sept. 24

Jose I Serratos, 48, Wonder Lake, was cited for A-2 domestic battery/physical contact:

Jose A. Beltran, 39, Carpentersville, was cited for DUI – alcohol;

Ian S. Avila, 29, South Elgin, was cited for DUI - alcohol, and failure to reduce speed;

Sean M. Czok, 42, McHenry, was cited for A-1 domestic battery/bodily harm;

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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.

Sept. 27

Moses G. Rodriguez, 23, Waukegan, was cited for no driver's license;

Jose L. Leal-Guzman, 34, Mundelein, was cited for driving while license revoked:

Dushae L. Nesbitt, 42, Zion, was cited for aggravated DUI, aggravated fleeing/ eluding, reckless driving, driving while license revoked and open transportation of alcohol;

Jose A. Ramirez-Acosta, 21, Mundelein, was cited for aggravated DUI, aggravated DUI resulting in great bodily harm, reckless driving and no driver's license;

Jin Huang, 54, San Diego, CA, was cited for criminal sexual assault;

Sept. 28

Antonio V. Stewart, 57, Beach Park, was cited for battery;

Rickey Scott, 55, Beach Park, was cited for a warrant arrest: stalking (Kenosha County WI).

Lloyd M. Tyra, 59, Beach Park, was cited for a warrant arrest: violation of a court order;

Ieisha R. Randille, 20, Grayslake, was cited for domestic battery;

Jennifer Rachel Fox, 28, Antioch, was cited for DUI alcohol, and no insurance;

Sept. 29

Nathaniel I. Welch, 21, Beach Park, was cited for criminal damage to property; Javier Jimenez, 34, Chicago, was cited for a warrant arrest: DUI (Cook County);

John W. Powell, 41. Kalamazoo, was cited for a warrant arrest: homicide (North Kalamazoo, Michigan); Sept. 30

Jerome H. Johnson, 31, Zion, was cited for driving while license suspended, suspended registration and no insurance:

Lafiya D. Ellis, 41, Racine, WI, was cited for obstructing identification.

Daniel L. Ellis, 51, Racine, WI, was cited for obstructing identification;

Jonathan J. Coxey, 20, Zion, was cited for driving while license revoked:

Dale A. Dixon, 26, Hebron, was cited for assault; Michael Nyre, 63, Antioch,

was cited for criminal damage to property; Brizuela, 35, Salvador

Waukegan, was cited for driving while license revoked, aggravated speeding (90 mph in 55 mph zone); Oct. 1

Vernon Manor, 30, Zion, was cited for driving while license suspended;

Tarris M. Stokes, 58, Woodstock, was cited for criminal trespass to property; Matthew W. Theesfield, 28, Antioch, was cited for bat-

Cezar M. Gonzalez, 21, Round Lake Park, was cited for DUI - alcohol; Tarek A. Shakir El, 65,

Grayslake, was cited for no registration, no insurance, resisting a peace officer and obstructing identification;

Pablo Morales, 36, Winthrop Harbor, was cited for DUI - alcohol and no insurance. Oct. 2

Roberto Tomas, 49, Lindenhurst, was cited for driving while license revoked; Mario Galvan, Jr., 26,

North Chicago, was cited for driving while license suspended;

Jacqueline R. Buttera, 28, Kenosha, WI, was cited for driving while license revoked and no insurance; Oct. 3

Edward D. Meeks, 29, Chicago, was cited for a warrant arrest: domestic battery, aggravated fleeing and eluding (DuPage County);

Victor Montes De Oca, 62, Waukegan, was cited for unlawful possession of a controlled substance;

Flor Vargas, 38, Beach Park, was cited for a warrant arrest: DUI – alcohol; Oct. 4

Courvoiseir L. Walters, 29, Romeoville, was cited for domestic battery:

Neftali DeJesus-Bahena, 31, Round Lake Park, was cited for a warrant arres: aggravated fleeing/eluding;

Oscar Carvajal Delgado, 42, Park City, was cited for reckless driving; Oct. 5

Minique D. Gaddis, 39, weapon;

Waukegan, was cited for driving while license suspended; Lizbeth Rodriguez, 21,

North Chicago, was cited for driving while license suspended:

Oct. 6

Jamarcus A. Smith, 28, Zion, was cited for no driver's license; Oct. 7

Sotelo Carreno Clemente, 38, Beach Park, was cited for DUI - alcohol, and no driver's license;

Malakai N. Stovall, 24, Great Lakes, was cited for DUI - alcohol, aggravated speeding (100 mph in 45 mph zone), reckless driving and open transportation of alcohol;

Taylor P. Hall, 25, Milwaukee, WI, was cited for driving while license suspended; Oct. 8

Juvenile, was cited for no driver's license;

Jason P. Folker, 36, Kenosha, WI, was cited for a warrant arrest: forgery, identity theft and retail theft;

Quintin D. Mangram, 37, Carol Stream, was cited for DUI - alcohol, and driving wile license suspended;

Enrique I. Sanchez Majia, 27, Winthrop Harbor, was cited for unlawful possession of a controlled substance and DUI – alcohol. Oct. 9

Francine T. Casarez, 48, Lake Villa, was cited for aggravated domestic battery, aggravated battery, and aggravated battery with a deadly

County submits balanced FY2024 budget for review

The McHenry County Board has submitted a balanced 2024 budget for public review.

The \$247 million budget and the \$73.8 million levy were put on 30-day review at the Oct. 17 meeting of the County Board. A vote to approve the budget will take place Nov. 21, ahead of the 2024 fiscal year beginning Dec. 1.

Next year's levy includes a modest 1.95% increase based on the Consumer Price Index, plus \$825,000 in new growth, which is exempt from the tax cap law; the increase based on the CPI is less than half of the 5% that local taxing bodies are allowed under the tax cap.

In addition to the ongoing impact of inflation and fuel and supply costs and a highly competitive labor market, county government faces new and expensive unfunded mandates imposed by the General Assembly; the costs of

the SAFE-T Act and the related Pre-Trial Fairness Act alone cost McHenry County more than \$1.9 million in additional expenses and lost revenue.

McHenry County displays its budget through Questica OpenBook, an interactive tool that allows users to view all levels of the budget, from a high-level summary by category to revenue or expense account detail by fund and department. You can review the draft 2024 budget, as well as previous years' budgets, by visiting https://mchenrycountyil. openbook.questica.com/.

Taxpayers also can visit the county's Financial Dashboard, an online tool for reviewing revenues and expenses, both overall and year-todate, since the 2017 fiscal year; it can be found at www. mchenrycountyil.gov/ financialdashboard.

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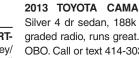
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all fair game and will be considered for print.

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