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~ including McHenry County News

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<p style="font-weight: bold; color: blue;">\$149 MTH**</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Includes 55" 4K Smart TV</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">2014 Ford Focus SE FWD, Auto, Air, Power All, Heated Seats. #P2909A Black Friday Priced: \$5,517</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: blue;">\$6,809</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Includes 55" 4K Smart TV</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">2007 Cadillac DTS Auto, Leather, Power Moonroof, A/C, Heated Seats, DVD, Bluetooth. #P2801B Black Friday Priced: \$6,809</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold; color: blue;">\$6,995</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Includes 55" 4K Smart TV</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">2012 Nissan Armada SV Auto, 4x4, Bluetooth, 3rd Row Seats, A/C, Power Windows, Heated Seats. #P2865A Black Friday Priced: \$6,995</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: blue;">\$189 MTH**</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Includes 55" 4K Smart TV</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">2014 Ford Focus SE FWD, Auto, Air, Power All, Perimeter Approach Lights. #P2915 Black Friday Priced: \$7,772</p>
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GEORGE RICHARDSON PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Wendy Richardson (at center) of Richardson Christmas Tree Farm, Spring Grove, assists military families in picking out the perfect tree after a Trees for Troops program drop-off at Naval Station Great Lakes.

Trees for Troops adds special meaning to Richardson Christmas Tree Farm season

Thanks to the generosity of loyal customers, the family behind Richardson Adventure Farm and Richardson Christmas Tree Farm has been able to donate hundreds of trees over the last 18 years to families of U.S. military troops.

It is among the most rewarding aspects of festivities at the tree farm each holiday season, said George and Wendy Richardson, who operate the farm along with George's brother, Robert, Robert's wife, Carol, George's son, Ryan, and Ryan's wife, Kristen.

"Freedom isn't free. We appreciate living in the U.S. and all that the military does to help keep our country free," George Richardson said. "This is a great way to deliver some Christmas spirit to those actively serving in our armed forces, and to say thank you. We've been big supporters of Trees for Troops since its inception."

"Farms throughout the U.S. participate and FedEx donates over 250,000 miles of trucking every season to pick the trees up and

distribute them — this year to 93 bases," added Wendy Richardson. She chairs the board of the national Christmas Spirit Foundation, which launched Trees for Troops in 2005, and this year anticipates delivering its 300,000th tree.

It's all possible because of contributions from generous donors. In the Richardsons' case, many visitors drop money toward the program throughout the Adventure Farm season each fall. Others purchase trees outright while visiting the tree farm, and these are included in the shipment going to Naval Station Great Lakes in early December. This year, the cost to do so is \$75 plus tax per tree, the Richardsons said.

"People can donate money at our farm or buy a tree at our farm or click through to treesfortroops.org and make a donation there," George Richardson said.

Tree farm hours this year will be 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 24, through Sunday, Dec. 10, at the farm, 9407 Richardson Road, Spring

Grove. Cut-your-own tree activities will end Dec. 3, but pre-cuts will remain available until Dec. 10.

Wendy Richardson said she is proud to play a key role in the foundation that started Trees for Troops. The program was honored at the White House in Washington, D.C., in 2012, and in 2017 the foundation received the Spirit of Hope Award at a ceremony at the Pentagon, which she and George attended.

The program benefits troops serving with the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Space Force and National Guard, she said.

"We look forward to greeting visitors to our tree farm, and to another great year for Trees for Troops," she said. "It is truly a great way to spread holiday cheer to people who sacrifice a great deal in service to our nation."

Details about available tree varieties, pricing, gift barn offerings and more are available by clicking on the Richardson Christmas Tree Farm button at richardsonfarm.com.

New effort launched to educate students about danger of impaired driving

A new initiative spearheaded by the McHenry County Regional Office of Education will help teach high-school students about the dangers of impaired and distracted driving.

Through federal Drug-Free Communities grant funding, all 14 high schools in the ROE's jurisdiction are receiving toolkits to educate students about alcohol and drug prevention and distracted driving. Each toolkit includes items such as "fatal vision" goggles to simulate impaired driving, games, activity mats, multimedia materials and other educational materials.

Each toolkit costs \$10,000, and will be shipped directly to the high schools by the vendor, Inncorp Ltd., based in Verona, Wis.

"These kits will help our high schools proactively instill smart and safe deci-

sion-making skills in their students, particularly when it comes to impaired and distracted driving," Regional Superintendent Diana Hartmann said. "Integrating these resources into health classes, driver education and other programs will give students potentially life-saving understanding of the risks associated with impaired driving."

The ROE will be partnering with the districts to offer free training and professional development to make the most of the toolkits, Hartmann said.

Traffic crashes are a leading cause of death for teenagers 15 to 18 years old, according to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration data; in 2021, almost 20% of teen drivers involved in fatal crashes had been drinking. Likewise, almost 10% of teen drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2021 were driving distracted.

Conservation District events

Introduction to Winter Birds

Tuesday, Nov. 28, 7k-8 p.m., virtual program.

Learn to identify birds at your bird feeders or in your local conservation areas this winter. They will explain about birds that stay all year and those that migrate here for the winter. Ages 14+.

Sensory Night Hike

Saturday, Dec. 2, 7-8 p.m., Marengo Ridge Conservation area, Marengo.

Not everything goes to bed when the sun goes down! Experience the nighttime by using sight, touch, taste, sound, and smell. We'll also learn about nocturnal animals and how they use their senses at night. Ages 5+.

Forest Bathing

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 3-4:30 p.m., Fel-Pro RRR Conservation Area, Cary.

Join certified Forest Therapy Guide Jennifer Boudart on a guided walk through Fel-Pro RRR Conservation

Area. During this program, you will learn about forest bathing and the Fel-Pro site itself before concluding with tea and water. Ages 18+.

Discovery Days: Pinecone Pizzazz

Friday, December 8, 10-11 a.m., Marengo Ridge Conservation area, Marengo.

Enjoy a morning of fun, educational activities focused on our special theme of the day: pinecones! Games, lessons, and other hands-on experiences help participants explore our conservation areas. Ages 2-6 with an adult.

Archery & Tomahawk Throw

Saturday, Dec. 9, 10:10 a.m. to noon, Glacial Park, Ringwood.

Join in on an evening of testing primitive outdoor survival skills of the past as you try your hand at shooting archery and throwing tomahawks. Ages 7+.

Get Your Jingle On!

Saturday, Dec. 9, noon – 4 p.m., Powers Walker House, Glacial Park.

Get in the holiday spirit at this fun family event with a variety of activities to choose from!

- Holiday at Grandma's House – step back in time and watch volunteers in historical attire prepare for the holidays.
 - Nature's Ornaments - Create one-of-a-kind historical pioneer ornaments using materials from nature.
 - Holly Jolly Scavenger Hunt – Participants pick up a self-guided scavenger hunt and return it for a prize!
- Free for all ages events, no registration required.

Solar lit trails are open

Enjoy trails at Hickory Grove Highlands and Pleasant Valley by the glow of solar-powered lights! These two sites are open until 9 p.m. starting Sunday, Nov. 5 through mid-March.

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



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Pet of the week

Almond, a Shih Tzu-Maltese mix, is about 4 years old, neutered, up-to-date on 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.

Conservation District to host Green Friday Restoration Day

On Friday, Nov. 24, McHenry County Conservation District's stewards invite the public to drop in for an hour or two to nurture nature and give back to the land. No experience necessary. Dress for the outdoors and bring your own work gloves if you have them.

- Five locations and times to choose from:
- 9 a.m. – Noon, Exner Marsh Conservation Area, Contact Steward for Meetup Location, Lake in the Hills.
 - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Stickney Run

Conservation Area, 3216 West State Park Road, McHenry.

- 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Boger Bog Conservation Area, 2100 Cherry Valley Rd, Bull Valley.
- 12 p.m. - 3 p.m., Boone Creek Conservation Area, 916 N Cold Springs Rd, Woodstock.
- 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Alden Sedge Meadow, 15820 Route 173, Harvard.

RSVP's are encouraged. To RSVP, visit MCCD.me/GreenFriday. For more information on volunteer opportunities visit MCCDistrict.org or call (815) 338-6223.

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Advocates hail regulatory 'earthquake' as state slashes requested gas rate increases

Company profits cut; low-income customers set to receive new discounts

By Andrew Adams
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Regulators at the Illinois Commerce Commission have unanimously approved rate hikes for four major natural gas utilities, but the little-known regulatory body's decision was perhaps more notable for what it rejected. The five-member board flexed its regulatory muscle, slashing the utilities' requested rate increases by as much as 50 percent.

50.8 percent and cut Nicor's request by 30.3 percent. For Peoples Gas, it was a 25 percent reduction, and for its sister company North Shore, regulators cut the request by 34 percent.

While advocates hailed the ICC's decisions as a victory, utilities were wary. "My initial reaction is that I'm concerned," Matthew Tomc, who oversees regulatory affairs for Ameren Illinois, told Capitol News Illinois.

consumer impacts

In general, the ICC's five commissioners reduced the companies' requests for infrastructure spending, citing a lack of evidence that increased rates were necessary to maintain system safety.

But the commission was particularly of one company's spending choices. Peoples Gas, which operates in the city of Chicago, has been highly criticized for its ongoing system modernization program, which critics have said is plagued by regular budget overruns and is often behind schedule.

of the gates and there's been so many investigations," Scarr said. "For years, decision-makers have looked the other way, but they didn't today and that's a huge deal."

Consumer impacts have been one of the most hotly debated elements of the four concurrent rate cases. Last year, the ICC directed utilities to propose a new system to offer lower energy rates for low-income customers.

low-income.

Profits slashed

The commission lowered the expected rate hikes by leveraging one of its most powerful tools: deciding companies' profits through their "return on equity" or ROE.

deciding what role natural gas should play in Illinois' clean energy transition. Each gas company involved in the cases is set to participate in a series of "future of gas" hearings next year that could help shape the industry's fate in Illinois.

"As the state embarks on a journey toward a 100 percent clean energy economy, the gas system's operations will not continue to exist in its current form," ICC Chairman Doug Scott said in a statement. "Identifying how our gas and electric systems can adapt to meet these goals, and what specific actions should be taken to achieve them, will be an important task for the Commission moving forward."

"This was an earthquake in Illinois utility regulation," Abe Scarr, director of consumer advocacy group Illinois PIRG told Capitol News Illinois after the Nov. 16 meeting.

Scarr and PIRG were among the consumer advocates asking for greater regulatory oversight of the natural gas industry ahead of the requested rate increase from the four utilities that collectively serve 98 percent of Illinois' gas customers—Nicor Gas, Ameren Illinois, Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas.

Tomc said that once Ameren staff fully reviews the ICC decision, they will consider requesting a rehearing to challenge the ICC's conclusions.

Other companies involved in the cases indicated they were reviewing the decisions. "Natural gas remains the most affordable energy source for winter-residential heating and is the main fuel source used by manufacturers in Illinois," Nicor spokesperson Jennifer Golz said in a statement. "Nicor Gas provides an affordable energy source, which is more important now than ever with families facing rising costs for everything, resources as an energy."

Thursday's ICC decision not only reduced Peoples Gas' overall infrastructure spending request, but it also took a strong oversight step for the company's pipeline replacement program. The ICC paused all spending on the program for the next year and ordered a new ICC investigation into the program.

"We look forward to actively participating in future proceedings and demonstrating how our energy delivery system is critical to Chicago's clean energy future," Peoples Gas spokesperson David Schwartz said in a Thursday statement. "We are pleased the Commission shares our concern about safety."

These low-income rate designs were one of the areas of focus of Karen Lusson, a lawyer with the National Consumer Law Center who advocated for the plan that the ICC eventually adopted, overruling administrative judges' recommendations.

"In previous rate case orders, the commission never specifically assessed how affordable or unaffordable rates are for customers," Lusson said.

The plan will offer discounts to those with incomes below three times the federal poverty limit, with greater discounts for those making less money. Discounts would apply to an entire customer bill and would be as high as 83 percent for Peoples Gas customers and 75 percent customers of other companies, according to Lusson. These discounts are slated to go into effect in October 2024.

Ameren and Nicor both requested ROE rates above 10 percent, while Peoples Gas requested a 9.9 percent figure. But consumer advocates pushed back on those asks. For example, the Citizens Utility Board, one of several groups that argued for lower rates, requested a range centered on 9.5 percent for Ameren and Peoples Gas and 9.4 percent for Nicor.

But in a surprising move, the Commission set rates in the cases at or below that recommendation. Nicor Gas will operate with a 9.51 percent ROE, and Ameren will operate with a 9.44 percent ROE. Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas will operate with a 9.38 percent ROE.

That statement came a few hours after Scott told utility representatives and advocates that the companies had failed to take that transition into account during the rate cases.

In the Peoples Gas case, for instance, Scott noted that the company "signaled that they are not currently working toward the electrification goals of the state." He made similar comments about Nicor and Ameren Illinois and cited it as reasoning for cutting some of the companies' spending.

Rates will still rise next year, but not nearly as much as they would have if the commission had approved the utilities' initial requests.

The commissioners instead sided with consumer advocates—rejecting several recommendations from the ICC's own staff—in several key areas, including profit rates, low-income discounts and spending oversight.

Nicor and Peoples Gas have not released cost estimates under the new rates approved Nov. 16. But downstate Ameren Illinois says costs will remain similar to last winter, echoing claims made by Peoples Gas earlier this year.

Scarr, a longtime critic of the program, praised the decision.

"This program was clearly problematic, literally since it got started. It stumbled out

Ameren's Tomc said he was worried about the program's potential impacts on customers who are not

Sarah Moskowitz, CUB's executive director, said the move has both consumer and climate implications.

"They (the ICC) sent a strong message today that they are looking out for the interests of utility customers and understand that we're going to have to plan for a clean energy transition and that utilities can no longer dodge that issue," Moskowitz said.

Climate advocacy groups such as the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition celebrated the decision, issuing a statement that the ICC's decision indicates "there's a new sheriff in town."

Spending oversight,

Lake County Board adopts \$640 million budget

The Lake County Board approved a \$640 million Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Budget at its November 14 meeting. The operating funds in the budget that fund most government services are balanced at \$375.2 million.

dated plan prioritizes safe communities, economic opportunities, adaptive infrastructure, a sustainable environment, healthy and inclusive communities, and superior County operations and services.

includes funding for presidential election year election costs and a compensation study. Despite these additions, the operating fund budgets are increasing only 4.8 percent over last year.

property tax levy by 5 percent, the maximum amount allowed to ensure that adequate funding was available for employee compensation adjustments and other new program requests.

Administrative Committee Chair Paul Frank. "I thank our department leaders, County Administrator Gibson, CFO Sutton and all the County Board Members for their work and contributions to this year's budget."

Lake County will apply for this award with its FY2024 Budget.

Chief Financial Officer Patrice Sutton expressed thanks for the leadership from the County Board and staff collaboration in preparing the FY2024 Budget. "This budget takes the cooperation of County staff from all departments and agencies, and special efforts from our Budget team. I am grateful for the shared commitment to providing outstanding services to residents, while being prudent and strategic with County resources."

The entire budget was developed in direct alignment with Lake County's newly updated mission that strives to provide exceptional services and support for Lake County's people, communities, and environments. The County Board established the guidelines and framework of the FY2024 budget concurrently while updating its strategic plan. The up-

Some highlights in the budget include: a new Internal Audit Division; Regional Tree Initiative; a Gun Violence Prevention Specialist; and a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion program which will support Lake County's commitment to advancing, cultivating, and preserving a culture of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. The FY2024 budget also

"The approved budget demonstrates the County Board's commitment towards investing in our talented employees and infrastructure while continuing to provide outstanding services for residents and be fiscally responsible," said Lake County Board Chair Sandy Hart.

After much discussion during the public budget hearings in October, Lake County opted to increase its

Individual tax bills will vary depending on how a property's assessed value has changed and on the actions of other local government taxing bodies. The remaining Lake County portion of the tax bill for the average homeowner is expected to increase only a few dollars.

"Our joint budget committee meetings this year were some of the most efficient and collaborative budget meetings we have ever had," said Financial and

Lake County was awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its FY2023 Budget. This award reflects Lake County's commitment to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting and ensures that the budget includes nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation.

The FY24 budget is available for viewing at lake-countyil.gov/Budget.

Signa named to UW-Whitewater women's bowling team

Riley Signa from Antioch, who is studying Physical Education at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, has earned a roster spot on the Warhawk women's bowling team for the 2023-24 season.

Entering their 22nd season as an NCAA program, the Warhawks perennially rank among the top teams

in Division II and III and have reached the NCAA Championship three times. Last season, the team finished sixth in the National Tenpin Coaches Association Division II/III Final Season Poll and 18th among all NCAA programs.

For UWW's full schedule, visit <https://uwwsports.com/sports/womens-bowling/schedule>.



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~ including McHenry County News
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Lawmakers approve plan to allow small-scale nuclear development

Governor, who vetoed previous bill, supports new effort

By Andrew Adams
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Lawmakers have approved a proposal that would allow companies to develop new nuclear power generation in Illinois for the first time since 1987.

House Bill 2473 does not entirely lift the 36-year-old moratorium on nuclear construction. Instead, it creates a regulatory structure for the construction of small modular nuclear reactors, or SMRs.

The bill limits the nameplate capacity of such reactors to 300 megawatts, about one-third the size of the smallest of the six existing nuclear power plants in Illinois. It also requires the state to perform a study that will inform rules for regulating SMRs, which will be adopted by regulators at the Illinois Emergency Management Agency by January 2026.

Proponents of the measure say it is a step to make the ongoing transition away from fossil fuels more reliable for customers throughout the state, while opponents warn the unproven technology comes with safety risks and the potential for cost overruns.

The bill passed with bipartisan support in the Senate, 44-7, and the House, 98-8. The opposition came exclusively from Democrats.

Gov. JB Pritzker said in a statement that he would sign the bill. He worked with lawmakers on the new language of the new bill after vetoing a broader measure this summer. Leadership of the Illinois AFL-CIO umbrella labor organization released a statement, calling the policy an “important for our state’s economy and our clean energy future.”

It echoed a release from the Illinois Manufacturers Association, an industry advocacy group that testified in support of the proposal several times, saying that it would allow the state to “continue leading in energy and manufacturing innovation.”

The legislation’s sponsors, Sen. Sue Rezin, R-Morris, and Rep. Lance Yednock, D-Ottawa, said the bill has the potential to bolster Illinois’ electric reliability as intermittent sources like wind and solar begin to make up a larger portion of the state’s energy output.

“In order to reach our clean energy goals, we may have to invest in more nuclear generated carbon-free energy,” Yednock said. “The policy does not subtract from the growth of wind and solar energy; it could be an enhancement, as a potential use of small modular reactors could be to energize large manufacturers, therefore keeping more traditional new sources of energy for residential, small commercial customers and our future [electric vehicle] needs.”

Rezin noted that she is particularly interested in the potential for SMRs to be developed at the sites of former coal plants in Illinois, avoiding the need to build new transmission lines, although that process could take many years.

Because permitting nuclear energy takes many years at the federal level, the earliest a nuclear project could be brought online in Illinois would be in the 2030s.

Environmental, safety issues

Critics of the bill and of nuclear power remain worried

about its implications.

David Kraft, an outspoken critic of nuclear energy and head of the Chicago-based advocacy group Nuclear Energy Information Service, urged lawmakers at a Thursday committee meeting to reject the bill.

Kraft said he was concerned about the lack of existing SMR installations and the unproven nature of the technology. While some nuclear reactors of this scale do exist in other countries, no commercial SMRs have ever been built in the United States.

“This isn’t an energy policy, it’s a Las Vegas craps shoot,” he said during the committee hearing.

In a follow-up interview, Kraft said that SMRs bring with them security concerns, as the smaller installations have different staffing requirements than traditional reactors and use a more highly enriched type of uranium. This relative abundance of this uranium, according to Kraft, could incentivize the further proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Some environmentalists also lined up against the bill, worrying that investment in nuclear could take away from investments into renewable energy technology. Sierra Club Illinois chapter director Jack Darin called nuclear energy “at best, a distraction.” Sierra Club was one of the main advocacy organizations that sought Pritzker’s veto of the previous bill.

While the Sierra Club remained opposed to the updated version of the bill, the Illinois Environmental Council – which co-signed a letter requesting the August veto with the Sierra Club—adopted a neutral position on the new bill before it was approved on Thursday.

Rep. Lilian Jimenez, D-Chicago, was one of the eight House Democrats who voted against the bill. She said that there had not been enough study of the potential drawbacks of SMR development in the state.

“Illinois has plenty of time

to assess the risks and costs before opening the door to these projects,” Jimenez said during floor debate. “I believe we should be focusing on that piece before taking this huge leap and this huge step.”

Industry issues

Since 2016, five other state legislatures have either repealed or weakened their bans on nuclear construction. Counting Illinois, bans on nuclear construction remain on the books in 11 states.

Several of the states that have lifted their bans in recent years have done so to pave the way for SMR technology. But the biggest player in that industry has seen several upsets in recent weeks.

As lawmakers debated the bill, NuScale Power—the only company with a federally approved SMR design—announced that it was canceling its highly watched “Carbon Free Power Project” in Utah, which would have been the first commercial project with a NuScale reactor.

The project’s cancellation comes after months of falling stock prices and criticism from trading firms. Still, its leaders say the company will continue with its other projects, which are at various steps of regulation and planning.

“NuScale will continue with our other domestic and international customers to bring our American SMR technology to market and grow the U.S. nuclear manufacturing base,” NuScale CEO John Hopkins said in a Wednesday news release.

Rezin noted that “there’s a lot to learn” from NuScale’s canceled project, but hopes Illinois’ and other states’ moves to reverse their construction bans will encourage nuclear energy development in the U.S.

“If we do not build out this technology with companies that are in the United States, there’s other companies and countries such as Russia that are looking to sell that technology,” she said. “We don’t want that.”

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
Brian R. Krueger, 44, Morton Grove, was cited for contempt of court;

Bridgette E. Peyton, 31, Burlington, was cited for retail theft – taking merchandise from retail establishment 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, Crys-

tal Lake, was cited for driving while license suspended or revoked, and aggravated DUI;

Joseph C. Curtis, 31, Woodstock, was cited for violation of an order of protection;

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;

Sept. 25
Kelly L. Mills, 61, McHenry, was cited for A-5 aggravated domestic battery/strangle;

Paulette F. Lacy, 61, McHenry, was cited for A-1 domestic battery/bodily harm, and A-2 domestic battery/physical contact.

Sept. 26

Toribio Domingo-Dominguez, 45, Crystal Lake, was cited for aggravated battery – deadly weapon other than firearm or use of air rifle, and battery – make physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature;

Robert J. Wende, 45, St. Charles, was cited for A-1 domestic battery/bodily harm, A-2 domestic battery/physical contact, and interference with reporting of domestic violence;

McKinley J. Kramer, 21, Grand Rapids, was cited for 2 counts of theft – less than \$500;

Bruce A. Samp, 63, Machesney Park, was cited for contempt of court;

Dennis K. Glaser, 31, Cary, was cited for violation of an order of protection;

Jacob L. Frost, 31, Johnsbury, was cited for A-2 domestic battery/physical contact.

Sept. 27
Ryan R. Schroeder, 35, Huntley, was cited for 3 counts of aggravated battery – person 60 yoa or older – minor or no injury – no dangerous weapon, and 3 counts of A-1 domestic battery/bodily harm.



Lake County announces lighted trails for fall and winter seasons

Struggling to enjoy nature with the earlier sunsets?

Explore two Lake County forest preserves under the soft glow of solar-lit trails.

Small solar lights guide the way so hikers, skiers and snowshoers can get some evening exercise along the 1.3-mile fitness trail at Old School Forest Preserve in Mettawa, and along a hilly 1.65-mile section of the Millennium Trail adjacent to the Winter Sports Area at Lakewood Forest Preserve in Wauconda.

“Walking the trails after the sun goes down provides a unique experience in the forest preserves,” said Angelo Kyle, president of the Lake County Forest Preserves. “Our data show that forest preserve visitors are using the trails more than ever for recreation and as a way to improve their well-being.”

The solar lights serve as a guide along the trails.

Visitors are encouraged to bring a flashlight.

Though regular preserve hours are 6:30 am to sunset, the illuminated trails and adjacent parking lots will remain open until 9 pm daily through March 10. Bicycles and horses are not permitted on the solar-lit trails after sunset. Dogs are allowed but must be leashed.

To access the lighted trails, park at Lakewood’s Winter Sports Area located on the east side of Fairfield Road just south of Route 176, or at Old School’s main entrance lot located on the east side of St. Mary’s Road south of Route 176. Lake County Forest Preserves Police Rangers regularly patrol the areas.

Join an educator for guided evening hikes on solar-lit trails, learn about the site’s history and the animals that are active at dusk:

LCFPD.org/calendar/?fk=solar

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Sheriff's reports

Sheriff's deputies apprehend carjacker

Lake County Sheriff's Deputies captured and arrested a man following a carjacking that occurred in Long Grove.

On November 18, at approximately 11:30 a.m. a 58-year-old woman of Long Grove was pumping gas at a gas station in the 200 block of Robert Parker Coffin Road, Long Grove. As she finished pumping gas, she heard a car crash. The crash was a silver Kia, driven by a 19-year-old of the 5700 block of West Park Avenue, Cicero, crashing into a gas pump at the same gas station.

After crashing, the man exited the Kia, later determined to be stolen out of Berwin. After exiting the stolen car, the offender approached the victim, as she entered the driver's seat of her car. The offender forcefully removed the victim from her vehicle and attempted to steal the victim's vehicle. The victim fought back and was able to get back into the driver's seat of her car. The offender then battered her and forcefully removed her from the driver's seat again, and stole her car.

Lake County Sheriff's Telecommunicators broadcasted an emergency regional message regarding the incident. The victim's vehicle was located by Hawthorn Woods Police Officers in the area of Old McHenry Road and Quentin Road. Officers attempted to

conduct a traffic stop, but the offender fled. The offender eventually crashed the victim's vehicle in the area of Old McHenry Road and Abby Glenn Drive, Hawthorn Woods.

Numerous sheriff's deputies responded to the area and located the offender on Route 12 and Old McHenry Road. The offender attempted to carjack another vehicle on Route 12, however, the driver had his doors locked. Sheriff's deputies apprehended the offender and took him into custody without further incident.

The victim sustained minor injuries.

The offender remains in custody at the Lake County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division, pending criminal charges.

Early morning crash under investigation

Sheriff's Traffic Crash Investigators continue investigating an early morning traffic crash that occurred in unincorporated Round Lake.

On November 20, at approximately 6:30 a.m., Lake County Sheriff's Deputies responded to Fairfield Road in the area of Nippersink Road for a traffic crash with injuries. When deputies arrived, they located two vehicles with heavy damage.

Preliminary investigation shows a Chevrolet Equinox, driven by an adult woman (unknown age at the time of this media release) of Round Lake Beach, was traveling northbound on Fairfield Road. After crossing Nippersink Road, for an unknown reason, the driver of the Chevrolet veered into the southbound lanes of traffic. The Chevrolet struck a southbound Acura MDX, driven by a 39-year-old woman of Wauconda, head-on. The Acura had two middle-school-aged children in the car.

Both drivers were transported to area hospitals with critical injuries. The children were transported to area hospitals with serious injuries, but those injuries are believed to be non-life-threatening.

An open container of alcohol was located in the Chevrolet.

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

Fatal traffic crash under investigation by Technical Crash Team

Lake County Sheriff's Traffic Crash Investigators continue investigating a morning fatal traffic crash in Newport Township, near Zion.

On November 17, at

approximately 8:45 a.m., Lake County Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to Route 173 near Kilbourne Road, Newport Township, for a traffic crash with injuries. Sheriff's deputies arrived and located three vehicles with heavy damage.

Preliminary investigation shows a Nissan Altima, driven by a 68-year-old woman of Burlington, Wisconsin, was traveling westbound on Route 173, approximately 1/2 mile west of Kilbourne Road. For an unknown reason, the driver of the Nissan veered into the eastbound lanes of traffic, into the path of an eastbound Hyundai Sonata, driven by a 62-year-old man of Arlington Heights. The Nissan and Hyundai collided head-on.

An eastbound Tesla Y, driven by a 27-year-old woman of Chicago, took evasive action to avoid the collision, and drove into an embankment on

the side of the road, causing damage to the Tesla.

The driver of the Nissan, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was pronounced deceased at the scene. The driver of the Hyundai was transported to Advocate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville with minor injuries. The driver of the Tesla was uninjured.

The Lake County Coroner's Office is scheduling an autopsy.

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

Charges expected in single-vehicle crash

A 40-year-old Wonder Lake man was injured following a single-vehicle crash on Edgewood Road, east of Bay Road, in unincorporated Crystal Lake.

On November 15, at 10:00 a.m., members of the McHenry County Sheriff's Office, Crystal Lake Fire Department, and LifeNet, responded to a crash involving a single vehicle and single occupant.

Preliminary investigation indicates that a 2015 Chevrolet Silverado was traveling eastbound on Edgewood Road. East of Bay Road, the Chevrolet exited the roadway to the right and struck several trees. The Chevrolet came to rest in a wooded area to the south of the roadway.

The victim was flown to Advocate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville. He was treated for minor injuries.

The investigation is ongoing by McHenry County Sheriff's Office Major Traffic Crash Investigation Unit. Charges are expected.

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(Published in Illinois Hi-Liter and McHenry County News Nov. 22, 29 & Dec. 6, 2023 WNAXLP - 447368)

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PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND A PHONE NUMBER SO WE CAN CONTACT YOU IF NEEDED.

verlo

M A T T R E S S

BLACK FRIDAY



TWIN MATTRESS
Starting at
\$199

QUEEN MATTRESS
Starting at
\$259

FREE 0% FINANCING
See store for details.



Since we build your mattress in our local factory, we can easily adjust it for you throughout the years. A little softer here...a little firmer there. With Verlo's Lifetime Comfort Guarantee, you can just get comfortable – and stay comfortable.

SAVE EVEN MORE!
Our Factory Direct Pricing **JUST GOT BETTER!**

SAVE UP TO \$450

SAVE UP TO \$200 OFF
v3 Set Purchase*

SAVE UP TO \$350 OFF
v7 Set Purchase*

SAVE UP TO \$250 OFF
v5 Set Purchase*

SAVE UP TO \$450 OFF
v9 Set Purchase*

*On set purchase with factory select covers. Not applicable on previous purchases. One coupon per set purchase. See store for details. Offer ends 11-30-2023.



v1 FIRM 1-Sided No Flip

QUEEN SET STARTING @
\$699

TWIN \$499
FULL \$599
KING \$899



v3 PLUSH 1-Sided No Flip

QUEEN SET STARTING @
\$999

TWIN \$749
FULL \$899
KING \$1399



v5 FIRM 1-Sided No Flip

QUEEN SET STARTING @
\$1599

TWIN \$1049
FULL \$1349
KING \$1999



v7 PLUSH 1-Sided No Flip

QUEEN SET STARTING @
\$2099

TWIN \$1399
FULL \$1949
KING \$2699

BUY MORE SAVE MORE

Headboards
Pillows
Mattress Protectors



ACCESSORY BUNDLE SPECIAL
30% OFF OR **20% OFF**
3+ Items OR 2 Items

vMotion

NOW UP TO 50% OFF
ADJUSTABLE BED BASES**

Great for watching TV or reading in bed.
Alleviates lower back, knee & leg pain
Reduces snoring & acid reflux effects.
Aids in circulation.



**In-Stock and Floor Models.



LAKE GENEVA
2462 Hwy 120
262.249.0420

CRYSTAL LAKE
5150 Northwest Hwy
815.455.2570

McHENRY
3710 West Elm St.
815.578.8375

1-866-99-VERLO
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