~ including McHenry County News

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County breaks ground on Memory Care unit

Valley Hi staff presented 2023 Silver National Quality Award

McHenry County officials recently broke ground on a new memory care wing for Valley Hi Nursing & Rehabilitation, and presented nursing home staff with their earned national award for quality service.

After years of planning and multiple feasibility studies demonstrating the need for affordable and certified memory care in McHenry County, the Oct. 18 groundbreaking signaled the official start of the project becoming a reality.

"Valley Hi has a long and distinguished history of providing care for McHenry County seniors, and we'll be able to significantly expand that topnotch care with the addition of a memory care wing. This state-of-the art facility will meet the growing demand in McHenry County for senior memory care services," County Board Chairman Mike Buehler, R-Crystal Lake, said.

The \$3.99 million project will add a memory care wing to the 120-bed county-owned nursing home west of Woodstock, and will be paid for through existing fund balances, without the need to borrow money or increase taxes. The County Board awarded the bid in June to Efraim Carlson and Son, of Libertyville; construction is expected to be complete next fall, weather permitting, with occupancy to begin in

Prior to the groundbreak-

ing, county leaders officially presented Valley Hi staff with the 2023 Silver National Quality Award they earned from the American Health Care Association and the National Center for Assisted Living. The award recognizes nursing care and assisted-living organizations that set, and continuously improve upon, performance and quality standards to the enrich the lives of both their residents and staff.

Valley Hi staff set a goal of earning the Silver Award after they received the Bronze Award in 2016. I'm proud to see that they have earned this recognition after six years of dedicated service, continued professional and institutional development, and skillfully caring for our residents throughout the challenges – including COVID-19," said County Board Valley Hi Operating Committee Chairwoman Theresa Meshes, D-Fox River Grove. "Valley Hi is now literally building on this success with the renovation of the memory care wing that will increase the services that we can offer to seniors."

The American Health Care Association and the National Center for Assisted Living is the largest organization representing long-term and postacute care providers, with more than 14,000 member facilities. Valley Hi was one of only 63 nursing homes nationwide, and one of only four in Illinois, to be awarded the Silver Quality Award in 2023.



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Above: At the Valley Hi groundbreaking, shown with shovels are (from left to right): former County Board member Paula Yensen, County Board members Jim Kearns and Tracie Von Bergen, County Board Vice Chairman Joe Gottemoller, County Board Chairman Mike Buehler, and County Board member and Valley Hi Operating Board Chairwoman Theresa Meshes. At left: Meshes, and Deputy County Administrator Scott Hartman are shown with plans of what the new addition of the memory care wing will look like.



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1001 Rt. 59 Antioch, IL 847-603-1844 Thank You to Our Country's Veterans!

Lake County joins Operation Green Light in honor of Veterans

Day, Lake County continues shining a light on the issues veterans face and highlighting the resources available to them and their families as we join Operation Green Light.

Lake County along with counties across the nation will join Operation Green Light, organized by the National Association of Counties and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers, by lighting county buildings green November 6 to 12. The pedestrian skybridge at the Lake County Administrative Complex in Waukegan and the Division of Transportation facility on the County's Libertyville campus will be adorned with green lights to show support for our veterans.

Residents, businesses, and other organizations also are encouraged to participate by changing one light bulb in their home to a green bulb. This can be an exterior light that neighbors and passersby see or an interior light that sparks a conversation with friends.

"Operation Green Light is one more way that we can all show support to our veterans, to say thank you and acknowledge them for their selfless service and sacrifices for our freedom. By shining a green light, we let our veterans know that they are seen, appreciated, and supported,' Lake Couty Board Vice Chair Mary Ross-Cunningham said.

Now in its second year, Operation Green Light is expected to draw hundreds of counties across the country to participate. Nationally, local Veterans Service Officers help fellow former service members access the more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year and other services supporting about 200,000 service members who annually transition into civilian commu-

Our county has a history of org/

As we approach Veterans serving our nation's veterans, a legacy that continues to this day as we work with our federal, state, and local partners to ensure that the former service members can access the resources they deserve and need to thrive.

Lake County strives to ensure that veteran's personal stories are never forgotten by making them available to future generations. We will continue this tradition by inviting veterans to participate in the Veterans History Project

On Veterans Day, veterans give their oral histories with the assistance of volunteer attorney interviewers. Each interview will be recorded by a volunteer court reporter which is then transcribed and archived at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. This program has been held in the courthouse since 2012 and is a moving and inspirational experience for all who attend.

The County also is a participating employer in the Department of Defense SkillBridge program. Service members get the chance to gain valuable civilian work experience through specific industry training, apprenticeships, and internships during their last 180 days of military service. The program connects transitioning service members with industry partners for real-world experiences.

The Veterans Assistance Commission plays a vital role supporting our veterans by offering a variety of services. This includes helping veterans file VA disability claims as well as financial assistance, burial and survivor's benefits. All services are offered pro bono, or at no charge to the veteran. The mission is to remember the struggles overcome by veterans and lend a helping hand.

Learn more about the services provided by visiting the VAC website at www.vaclc.

Sheriff's office awarded Illinois Department of Transportation traffic enforcement grant

The McHenry County Sheriff's Office announced it has been awarded a Federal Fiscal Year 2024 Sustained Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) grant to conduct additional traffic safety enforcement efforts. The STEP program focuses on high-visibility enforcement and strategies aimed at saving lives and preventing injuries by reducing traffic crashes.

The McHenry County Sheriff's Office mission is to make travel safer through directed, proactive patrols and to stop, cite and arrest those who choose to violate traffic laws.

During the STEP grant year, which runs from Oct. 1, 2023, through Sept. 30, 2024, the McHenry County Sheriff's Office will conduct additional enforcement efforts to supplement mandatory and optional campaign enforcement dates scheduled during some of the deadliest times of the year.

The additional efforts will focus on the leading contributory causes of crashes: speeding, impaired driving, electronic device use, failure to yield and disobeying traffic control signals, as well as occupant restraint violations.

The STEP grant is funded by federal highway safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

State pauses enrollment in health care program for immigrant seniors as spending again outpaces estimates

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Gov. JB Pritzker's adminstration is pausing enrollment in a state-funded health care program for certain immigrants aged 65 and older—the fulfillment of a previously announced plan to cap spending on the program.

It's an expected move that the administration announced in June to control the rising costs of a program that has proven more expensive than its initial estimates since it became law in 2020. While no new enrollees will be accepted for the time being, those already in the program will not see any changes to their current benefits.

The Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors program provides state-funded Medicaid-like benefits to individuals who would qualify for the federal program based on their income levels if not for their immigration status. That includes individuals in the U.S. without legal permission and those who have obtained a green card but not yet completed a five-year waiting period making them eligible for federal benefits. An associated state program, Health Ben- trol program spending.

efits for Immigrant Adults, provides similar benefits to noncitizens aged 42-64.

But unlike traditional Medicaid, which is jointly funded with state and federal money, the immigrant health care programs are funded almost entirely with state dollars due to federal reimbursement limitations for noncitizens.

Together, lawmakers allocated \$550 million to fund those programs in fiscal year 2024, which began July 1. Lawmakers also gave the Pritzker administration authority to take action through the state's administrative rulemaking process to keep spending at those levels.

Wielding that authority shortly after signing the bill, Pritzker capped HBIA enrollees as of July 1 and announced a 16,500 cap on HBIS enrollees—a threshold the Department of Healthcare and Family Services expects to hit early this month.

But the latest cost estimates from HFS show that those caps—combined with administrative delays launching copay and co-insurance requirements for enrollees-have failed to contember 2023 from the HFS website shows the program is expected to cost \$831 million in FY 2024, more than \$280 million beyond the allocated amount. That estimate was based on total program enrollment of nearly 69,000 individuals with a per-patient-permonth cost estimate provided by the actuarial firm Milliman, which contracts with the department.

While the latest estimate exceeds the budgeted amount, it's nearly \$300 million below a May estimate from the Pritzker administration that projected program cost could grow to \$1.1 billion without cost-saving measures.

The advocates behind the push for the noncitizen health care programs—most notably the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus—have long argued that providing health care, especially preventative care, to immigrant populations would be cheaper than making them dependent on emergency

The Healthy Illinois Campaign, an advocacy coalition that's another main backer of the programs, has also long referred to health care as a hu-

man right. They took to social routine care, growing enrollmedia to encourage eligible enrollees to apply for the program prior to the cap taking

"While expected, the announcement is still a disappointing step backwards from the collective progress our state has made around health care access," Healthy Illinois Campaign Director Tovia Siegel said in a statement. "The HBIS program provides vital, lifesaving health care services to thousands of vulnerable older adults across Illinois.'

She said the move will 'significantly diminish the state's ability to care for its elderly residents" and urged the administration to "continue to work with advocates and community organizations to find fiscally responsible solutions" while protecting health care access for those enrolled in the program.

But the administration has noted that the costs are greater for new enrollees in the programs because they have often gone long periods without preventative care. While it is expected that individual patients' costs will level out as they receive

ment means the expensive first-time costs continue to grow as well.

"Compared with the traditional Medicaid population, month-over-month enrollment has grown at a higher rate, and per-enrollee costs have tracked higher among the HBIA and HBIS-enrolled populations due to more prevalent, untreated chronic conditions and higher hospital costs, pushing the limit of the funds made available for these programs for the current fiscal year,' HFS said in a statement.

Before a recent legislative rulemaking oversight committee, HFS attorney Omar Shaker said the department remains in discussions with federal government to implement copay cost-sharing measures.

Initially scheduled to go live on July 1, the copays would have cost \$250 for inpatient hospitalizations and \$100 for an emergency room visit. Enrollees receiving certain outpatient services at hospitals or surgical centers would be subject to 10 percent coinsurance, which the department said at the time

"could range from \$3.70 to \$202.95, depending on the service received."

But early in September, the administration paused those requirements to ensure they don't ieopardize federal matching dollars for services that are subject to reimbursement, such as emergency room care. Providers who had collected copays were instructed to return them.

Shaker told the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules this week that the department would like to reinstate the copay and coinsurance measures, possibly as early as Jan. 1. But he acknowledged that the new rules authorizing them might not be ready by that date.

As of Jan. 1, however, he said he did expect the department to begin a "coordinated effort" to involve managed care organizations in the provision of the health care program. That's a state system that involves private insurers in the Medicaid program, ensuring patients receive regular checkups and follow-up care.

Shaker said the department expects that move to further lower program costs.

Gun rights advocates question proposed assault weapons registration rules

State police holds public hearings on registering existing firearms under new ban

By Peter Hancock CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The Illinois State Police are facing pushback from gun rights advocates over proposed rules requiring owners of certain firearms to register them before the end of the

ISP is in the process of adopting new rules to implement part of the state's new assault weapons ban-officially named the Protect Illinois Communities Act.

That law, which lawmakers

passed last January, prohibits any new sales or purchases of firearms defined as "assault weapons," large-capacity magazines and certain kinds of gun attachments. But it says people who already owned those items before the law took effect are allowed to keep them, as long as they register them with ISP before

About 50 people turned out for a public hearing Nov. 2 in Springfield to comment on proposed rules to implement the registration portion of the law. One of those was state Rep. Brad Halbrook, R-Shelbyville, an outspoken oppointends to do with people who and sportsmen. They also arrefuse to register their weap-

"Hundreds of thousands of people will absolutely not comply," Halbrook said. "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. One thing will be certain. This we will defend: the right to bear arms shall not be infringed.'

The law was passed during a special lame duck session of the General Assembly last January. It came in response to a mass shooting last year at an Independence Day parade in Highland Park that left seven people dead and dozens more injured and traumatized.

The alleged shooter in that massacre is said to have used a Smith & Wesson M&P 15 semiautomatic rifle equipped with three 30-round magazines.

But some of the people who spoke or submitted comments at the public hearing argued that the law, and the proposed rules, apply to a wide range of firearms and

nent of the assault weapons accessories, many of which ban, who asked what the state are in common use by hunters gued that language in the law, which ISP has noted is "very broad," makes it difficult to know what items are being regulated and what items are

Although officials at ISP have tried to address those technical questions and concerns with information on its website, those who conducted the Nov. 2 public hearing were unable to provide immediate answers to many other questions.

"It was frustrating times," Josh Witkowski, a lobbyist for the Illinois Federation of Outdoor Resources. said in an interview after the hearing. "You come hoping to get answers and instead get told 'put your questions in writing.' It's a little frustrating to come to a public hearing and be told 'just submit it in writing."

Witkowski said gun owners are looking for answers "sooner rather than later" given the fact that registration must occur by Jan. 1.

"And a lot of these fire-

arms, they (gun owners) don't realize have to be registered under the incredibly expansive definitions in the act," he

Gregory Magnuson, an Illinois native who said he moved back to the state in 2021 after living in California for several years, predicted the law will prompt many gun owners to leave Illinois for more gun-friendly states.

"Illinois' decision to enact the same type of poorly written reactionary gun ban as California will drive any gun owner out of the state who's able to leave," he said. "Illinois is surrounded by gun-friendly states that would gladly receive patriotic taxpayers as new residents."

According to data maintained by ISP, there are more than 2.4 million Firearm Owner Identification card holders in Illinois, although not all of them own firearms covered by the assault weapon ban. As of Nov. 2, only 2,430 individuals had submitted registrations since the agency began accepting them

But State Rep. Bob Mor-

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sponsor of the bill, said at an unrelated event Nov. 2 that he believes people who own such weapons will eventually comply with the law.

"This is new for the state of Illinois. ... Historically, we've registered people with our FOID card registration," he said. "This is the first time we're registering weapons themselves. I also think there are a lot of individuals who have these weapons that are considering whether to sell them to someone out of state, which is a provision in the law that they're allowed to do."

Morgan acknowledged that many gun owners may also be waiting for a final

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decision from federal courts about whether Illinois' assault weapons ban is constitutional. Ône federal judge in the Southern District of Illinois has ruled the law is unconstitutional, but two judges in the Northern District have ruled that it is not. Those decisions are now under review by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals and may eventually be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

ISP was scheduled to hold another public hearing Nov. 3 at the Michael A. Bilandic building in Chicago. A final hearing was scheduled Monday at the Caseyville Community Center in the Metro East town of Caseyville.

ClearyBuilding.com

MCCD upcoming events

Discovery Days: Whitetailed deer

Saturday, Nov. 18, 10-11 a.m., Brookdale Conservation Area, Woodstock.

Enjoy a morning of fun, educational activities focused on white-tailed deer. Games, lessons and other hands-on experiences help participants explore the conservation areas. Ages 2-6.

Green Friday – Restoration Day

Friday, Nov. 24, times and locations vary.

McHenry County Conservation District's land 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.

from, check the website are MCCDistrict.org. Ages 6+.

Introduction to Winter

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

Display Advertising Friday 3 p.m.

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..Monday 10 a.m.

Five locations/times to choose local conservation areas this winter. They will explain about birds that stay all year and those that migrate here for the winter. Ages 14+.

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

Learn to identify birds at your bird feeders or in your at MCCDistrict.org. (815) 877-4044 DISPLAY ADS (815) 877-4044 DELIVERY .. . (815) 877-4044 CLASSIFIED ADS... (815) 877-4044 including McHenry County News LEGALS.. 1102 Ann Street, Delavan, WI 53115 — PUBLISHED WEEKLY — As of Feb. 9, 2022 Hi-Liter is the successor publication to McHenry County News **DEADLINES:** General Manager Friday noon

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Trunks-and-treats







The Village of Spring Grove Community Engagement Committee hosted their 3rd annual Trunk-or-Treat event at Horse Fair Park on Oct. Over 30 decorated trunks and their hosts handed out treats to all in attendance. The committee estimates that over 1,000 people, young and old, attended the event. Pictured are some of the trunk set-ups from the event.

Multi-agency Crisis Outreach and Support Team hits major milestone

COaST marks 5,000th referral since it's inception in 2018

and the six partner agencies are proud to share the multi-agency Crisis Outreach and Support Team (COaST) hit a major milestone. This October, since the inception of the program in 2018, COaST marked the 5,000th referral to the program stemming from law enforcement mental health related calls for service.

The team initially began with only the sheriff's office, but became a multi-agency team in January of 2022. The team consists of members from Gurnee Police Department, Lake Forest Police Department, Libertyville Police Department, Lincolnshire Police Department, Mundelein Police Department, Vernon Hills Police Department, the Lake County Sheriff's Office, and the Independence Center, Living Room Wellness Center. A police officer from one of the local agencies and a sheriff's deputy from the sheriff's office partner with a social worker, clinician, or peer specialist to respond to mental health related calls.

Since the inception of the multi-agency team, COaST responded to dozens of mental health calls in progress. This allowed trained professionals to deploy at the scene, spend as much time as necessary with the person in crisis, and allow the first-responding deputies/police officers to return to emergency calls for service.

When a sheriff's deputy or police officer of a member agency respond to a call, where the officer/deputy on-scene believes someone could benefit from the ser-

Sheriff John D. Idleburg vices of COaST, they submit icant support and services to a referral to COaST. When COaST is not responding to mental health calls in progress, they follow-up with the law enforcement referrals by contacting the person, in an effort to offer and provide services.

Since the program's inception, COaST has been able to make successful connections and offer services to over 3,700 people, or 74% of those referred.

A strategic goal set by COaST membership is to grow the program beyond the seven partner agencies, ensuring all demographics are represented countywide. Recently, Sheriff Idleburg collaborated with county administration leadership to reallocate a vacant sheriff's office position into a mobile crisis responder position, to continue growing the team.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "Over the last five years, we have drastically changed the way we respond to mental health crisis calls and the results we have seen from this collaboration are nothing short of incredible and inspiring. This team is making a tremendously positive impact on the community. We are grateful for the alliance with our law enforcement partner agencies, the Living Room Wellness Center, and MacArthur Foundation.

Lincolnshire Chief of Police Joseph Leonas said, "One of the biggest benefits from COaST we have seen firsthand was the positive impact on the families of those individuals in crisis. Today, the COaSt team has been able to provide signif-

parents, children, and other family members impacted by the crisis. We make sure that family members don't feel overwhelmed or forgotten about as we address the needs of their loved one. These situations are unique challenges that families face every day, and we never want to forget about the inevitable and profound ripple effects these events have on everyone."

Vernon Hills Chief of Police Patrick Kreis said, "Vernon Hills Police Officers rely on our partnership with COAST to provide an invaluable resource in assisting community members. We are hopeful that continued collective success leads to expansion of this service."

Gurnee Chief of Police Brian Smith said, "The Gurnee Police Department is profoundly honored, and humbled to have been a part of the COaST program since its inception nearly two years ago. The positive impact made within our communities has been highlighted through professional interactions with individuals and families in crisis. Our participation with COaST has allowed us to provide access to valuable resources available throughout Lake County. As we reflect on this accomplishment, we are more determined than ever to continue our participation in the program, extending our commitment to the well-being of our community members.

COaST is supported in part by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Safety and Justice Challenge.

Public invited to gun violence prevention town hall meeting

The Lake County State's Attorney's Gun Violence Prevention Initiative, in collaboration with Jesus Name Apostolic Church, and LIVEFREE Lake County will be hosting a Gun Violence Prevention

Town Hall Meeting on Saturday, Nov. 18 from 11:00 a.m.

To register, please visit: https://SAO-GVPI-Town-Hall.eventbrite.com. When you register, please leave two questions or concerns you have about gun violence in the community.

The goal is for community members to come together to address concerns surrounding gun violence and begin collaborative community re-

The meeting will be held at JIC Community Development Center, 202 S. Genesee St., Waukegan, IL.



Pet of the week

Murray, a Shiba Inu mix, is about 2 years 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.

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The Penny's Purpose holding annual blanket drive

The Penny's Purpose fifth annual Blanket Drive will be held from November 1 until December 15.

Help in spreading warmth and comfort throughout the community by contributing blankets and sleeping bags that will be distributed to those in

Items that can be donated are: new blankets (full, queen, king, throw); homemade (new no sew fleece, quilts, crochet); gently used blankets

(including sheets, pillows cases, etc.); and new or gently used sleeping bags.

Please make sure items are free from holes, stains or tears and are laundered.

To find location of the donation boxes that are located throughout northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin, and learn more about The Penny's Purpose visit the website at www. thepennyspurpose.org or follow them on Facebook at The Penny's Purpose





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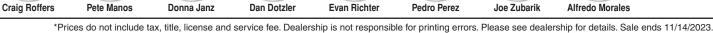
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Sheriff's K9 Axel receives donation of body armor

Lake County Sheriff's Office K9 Axel received a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Axel's vest was sponsored by ELCO Mutual Life and Annuity of Lake Bluff, IL and embroidered with the sentiment "Gifted by ELCO Mutual."

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., established in 2009, is a 501(c)(3) charity whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. This potentially lifesaving body armor for four-legged K9 officers is U.S. made, custom fitted, and NIJ certified. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. has provided over 5,289 vests to K9s in all 50 states at a value of \$6.9 million, made possible by both private and corporate donations.

The program is open to U.S. dogs that are at least 20 months old and actively employed and certified with law enforcement or related agencies. K9s with expired vests are also eligible to participate.

There are an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United

Sheriff John D. Idleburg thanked Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. and ELCO Mutual Life and Annuity of Lake Bluff, IL, "We are so grateful for this generous donation! This donation allows us to save the money we would have used for the vest and instead use it for other purposes to support our Canine Unit. We are fortunate to be part of such a generous community.'

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. accepts taxdeductible contributions in any amount, while a single donation of \$985 will sponsor one vest. Each vest has a value of \$1800.00, weighs an average of 4-5 lb., and comes with a fiveyear warranty. For more information, or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts donations at www.vik9s. org, or you may mail your contribution to P.O. Box 9, East Taunton, MA





Security cameras at the Loves Travel/Truck Stop on North Route 41 in Wadsworth captured these images from an armed robbery that occurred at 3:40 a.m. on November 6. If you have any information or recognize this man please call the Lake County Sheriff's Detectives at 847-377-4000 or Lake County CrimeStoppers at www.lakecounty crimestoppers.org.

Sheriff's Detective's looking for information related to armed robbery

that occurred at Loves Travel/ Truck Stop in Wadsworth.

vestigating an armed robbery of North Route 41, Wadsworth. Deputies arrived and determined a man entered the On November 6, at ap- store area, approached one of proximately 3:40 a.m., Lake the clerks, displayed a firearm County Sheriff's Deputies and demanded money. He responded to Loves Travel/ stole cash from the register pants, and boots.

as a six-foot African American the man is asked to call Lake man, average weight, possibly in his 40's. He was wearing a at 847-377-4000 or Lake black hooded sweatshirt with County CrimeStoppers at: an American flag, camouflage

The offender was described or anyone who recognizes County Sheriff's Detectives www.lakecountycrimestop pers.org

Fatal traffic crash under investigation

Lake County Sheriff's Traffic Crash Investigators are investigating a fatal crash in unincorporated Zion.

On October 31, at approximately 9:15 a.m., Lake County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a head-on traffic crash on West Russell Road at Park Lane, in unincorporated Zion.

Sheriff's deputies arrived and located a Ford F-150 and Chevrolet Malibu, both with major damage.

investigation Preliminary shows the Ford, driven by a 46-year-old man of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was traveling westbound on Russell Road. The Chevrolet, driven

by a 72-year-old man of Indian Creek, was traveling eastbound. For an unknown reason, the driver of the Ford crossed into the eastbound lanes of traffic, traveling in the wrong direction, and struck the Chevrolet head-on.

The driver of the Chevrolet sustained major injuries and

was pronounced deceased at the scene. The driver of the Ford sustained serious injuries and was transported to Advocate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville by ambulance.

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

McHenry County Sheriff's arrest bulleting

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. 12

Tiffany A. Vincente, 39, Bull Valley, was cited for do-

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Remember

to include

the 5W's:

Who, what

where,

when and

why!

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mestic battery/physical contact; Matthew J. Holecek, 27,

Crystal Lake, was cited for possession of controlled sub-

Donley M. Carey, 38, Waukesha, was cited for criminal trespass to residence;

Sept. 14

Juan C. Carbajal, 32, Harvard, was cited for unlawful use or possession of weapon by felon or person in custody DOC facility, 2 counts of possession of controlled substance, and possession of cannabis - more than 100g but less than 500g;

Austin M. Wetzel-Connor,

counts of possession of controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia;

Marco A. Gomez, 21, Harvard, was cited for manufacture/deliver 15<100 grams cocaine/analog, possess 15<100 grams cocaine, possession of a stolen firearm, manufacture/ deliver/possess with intent to deliver cannabis – less than 2.5g, manufacture of controlled substance, possession of cannabis - more than 100g but less than 500g, possession of controlled substance, FOID required - acquire or possess firearm ammunition, FOID

29, McHenry, was cited for 2 car required – acquire or possess firearm, stun gun or taser;

Troy D. Montgomery, 46, Markham, was cited for burglary-building;

Oscar Barcenas-Sanchez, 34, Chicago, was cited for no valid driver's license - never issued, and speeding over limit; Sept. 15

Samantha J. Pena, 35, McHenry, was cited for resisting or obstructing peace officer, criminal trespass to land, and disorderly conduct - actions alarm or disturb another provoking breach or peace;

See ARRESTS, Page 7

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Father of alleged Highland Park shooter pleads guilty to reckless conduct charges, sentenced to jail

59, entered a negotiated "guilty" plea on seven counts of reckless conduct, a class A misdemeanor. Crimo Jr.'s plea includes 60 days in the Lake County Jail, 24-month probation, and the surrendering of his FOID card and all his firearms.

Crimo Jr. was first charged in December 2022, after prosecutors and Highland Park police officers said Crimo Jr. was criminally reckless in 2019, when he signed and executed an affidavit in support of his son, Robert Crimo III's, application for a Firearm Owner's Identification Card (FOID). Crimo Jr. put aside the concerns he had about his son and sponsored his son's ability to obtain a weapon that would endanger people's

After today's court hearing, Lake County State's Attorney Eric Rinehart first expressed his condolences to those who have suffered and went on to say about the Defendant:

"Robert Crimo, Jr., made the reckless and dangerous decision to sponsor his son's FOID application. This wasn't a fishing license. This wasn't a permission slip to go to the museum - this was a permission slip for his son to buy an assault rifle. And when he signed this permission slip - he knew exactly how dangerous it was for this 19-year-old to have a weapon.

Today, the legal system has found that Robert Crimo Jr. bears responsibility for endangering many and Mr. Crimo Jr., himself, has agreed it was a crime. Today, we know the father of the Highland Park shooter will receive certain punishment for that decision.

Today, parents bear a forceful responsibility for their decisions to allow their children access to weapons, especially when they are acutely aware of the potential consequences to themselves



Robert Crimo, Jr.

State's Attorney Rinehart was joined by Illinois State Police Director Brendan Kelly who praised the "aggressive and innovative prosecution of Crimo, Jr. Kelly stated, "this sends a very strong message in a way that it is

unprecedented in the history of our state, and to some extent, that is unprecedented in the United States." Illinois State Representative Bob Morgan, who represents Highland Park, also thanked the State's Attorney's Office for its work. Morgan was the lead sponsor of Illinois's assault weapon ban which was passed in the aftermath of the Highland Park shooting.

Rinehart added:

"I want to thank Detective Brian Bodden of the Highland Park Police Department for his diligent and detailed work. He brought us the evidence that demonstrated the father's knowledge. Thank you to the Illinois State Police and Director Kelly, who has provided us with every resource we have needed, and they have supported this prosecution at every turn. And thank you to our victim service specialists who have kept hundreds of victims up to date and guided them with compassion and expertise through every court date."

Crimo Jr. Is expected to begin serving his time in the Lake County Jail on November 15, 2023.

Crimo, Jr.'s son, Robert Crimo III, is currently facing 117 charges for killing seven people and wounding 48 people at the Highland Park Parade on July 4. Crimo III's next court date is December 11, 2023, before the Honorable Judge Victoria Rossetti.

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. 22

Adam K. Stachura, 38, Chicago, was cited for driving while license suspended, and improper use of registration, no insurance;

Pawel Kwiatkowski, 36, Elmwood Park, was cited for a warrant arrest: violation of an order of protection (DuPage County) and new charges: obstructing identification;

Tyler R. Eldrup 21, Wauconda, was cited for DUI alcohol, no insurance and no driver's license;

Jesus A. Bahena, 21, Zion, was cited for DUI – alcohol;

Ricky Allen Coburn, Jr., 29, Phoenix, AZ;

Juan Guerrero, 40, Waukegan, was cited for DUI - alcohol, open transportation of alcohol, attempt unlawful possession of a controlled North Chicago, was cited for substance, and no insurance;

Sept. 23

Hector F. Motino, 24, Waukegan, was cited for driving while license suspended;

Sept. 24 Patrick E. Denman, 35,

Green Oaks, was cited for DUI alcohol, and resisting arrest; Demico D. Lawrence, 29, Kenosha, WI, was cited for

driving while license suspended; Elijia C. Jemerson, 21, Waukegan, was cited for driv-

ing while license suspended; Jose M. Perez, 18, Beach Park, was cited for no driver's

Martin C. Heydenburg, 61, Wheeling, was cited for aggravated battery, assault and

disorderly conduct; Sept. 25

Chicago, was cited for bat-

Juan M. Aguirre-Cobos, 25, Cambern, CA, was cited for battery; Allen V. Jefferson, 23,

Brandon M. Connor, 22, Deerfield, was cited for bat-

Fernando Gonzalez, 20, Vernon Hills, was cited for

DUI – alcohol; Jose G. Placencia Maldonado, 42, Palatine, was cited for driving while license suspended, no insurance, and re-

sisting a peace officer; Sept. 26

Johnathan Skroko, 26, South Elgin, was cited for battery;

Scott D. Hernandez, 28, South Elgin, was cited for battery;

Alexis Hernandez, 28, Winthrop Harbor, was cited for driving while license revoked and no insurance; Alexandra M. Krol, 25,

Luis M Rojas, 28, North Antioch, was cited for a warrant arrest: theft;

Steven L. Vanderbilt, 54, Lake Villa, was cited for a warrant arrest: criminal damage to property (DuPage

• Arrests (Continued from page 6)

Gordon W. Schwantner, 40, Fox Lake, was cited for violation of bail bond - violates condition when release victim is family or household member:

Darrin T. Meyer, 53, Algonquin, was cited for aggravated battery - peace officer - minor/no injury - no dangerous weapon; Sept. 16

Elana E. Faust, 45, Wonder

Lake, was cited for driving on a revoked/susp license DUI/ sss 2nd; Sept. 18

FOR SALE/AUCTION

Dakota Cleek, 28, Westville, was cited for failure to notify dmg/unattended vehicle class A:

Christopher J. Kafka, 40, McHenry, was cited for defrauding drug and alcohol screening tests.

Sept. 19

Michael Ramirez, 48, Oakwood Hills, was cited for 3 counts of aggravated battery peace officer, minor/no injury - no dangerous weapon, 2 counts of A-2 domestic battery/physical contact, and resisting or obstructing a peace officer;

Sept. 20

Peter A. Fetzer, 50, Arlington Heights, was cited for applicability of common law contempt of court/civil jus-

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Ahmed A. Baig, 28, Lake in the Hills, was cited for manufacture/distribute advertise/possess with intent to manufacture look-alike controlled substance;

Sept. 21

Aaron R. Montgomery, 21, Woodstock, was cited for violation of order of protection.

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