

HI-LITER

~ including McHenry County News

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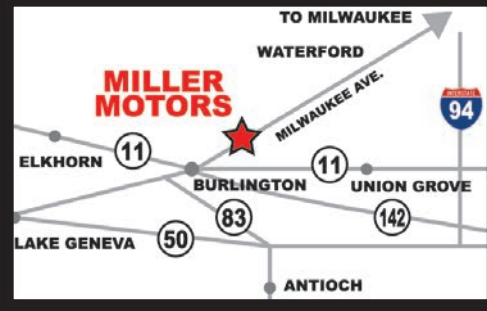
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Letters To Santa

Dear Santa Claus



Hi Santa,

My name is Ethan and I am 8 years old and in the 3rd grade. I try to be good and obey my Dad, Mom and teachers. It isn't always easy. I just got my yellow belt in Taekwondo. I really like doing it. I play soccer and tennis too. For Christmas I would like Legos. I love to make things with it. I play Minecraft when Mom and Dad let me have electronic time. Dinosaurs, robots and dragons are fun for me to play with. I really like to fish too. Hope you and the elves get time to have some fun.

Ethan Flohr

Dear Santa Claus



For Crimiss I want doll stuff.

Mila G.

Dear Santa Claus



My name is Ray, and I am 4 years old. I try to be good for my parents. At 4K, I listen to my teacher. When I play with my friends, I share and take turns.

For Christmas, I would like some John Deere tractors and a monster truck. I was wondering how the elves make all those toys?

Say hi to Rudolph for me!

Ray

Dear Santa Claus



Wat I want most for Crismis is... Stop! Wate, Wate, Wate, Wate, Wate! I'm not just going to tell you in a story! I'm going to tell you in a list. Okay lets do this!

- VR Gogels
- Video Games
- Fnat Games
- Fnat Toys
- Amaran Grill Doll
- Amaran Boy Doll
- Fary Finers
- Big unicorn toy
- Dog
- Cat, cnet my Mom!!
- Parit.

By, Penelope Nova May Williams

Dear Santa Claus



I want two Lego toys for Christmas. One for me and one for my brother. We can then play together. My brother and I like Legos.

Gabe
3rd Grade

Dear Santa Claus



My name is Liam and I am 4 years old. For Christmas this year, I would like a dinosaur costum, cowboy boots, monster truck, new cars and a helmet.

Love, Liam

Dear Santa Claus



I love the present you give to me, Dad and Mom. I would like Stuffedie. I will leave milk and cookies.

Thank you,
Riley

Dear Santa Claus



My name is Charlotte and I am 6 years old.

For Christmas this year, I would like a Barbie Jeep, Slinky, Fashion Boots, microphone and a Ninja costume.

Love, Charlotte

Dear Santa Claus



For Christmas I really want a giant sqish mellow because they are sqishy and soft. Some they are some times mixed some are animals and others are mixed together and others a just food or anamals.

Avery Hanson

Dear Santa Claus



What I want for Christmas is...a potion brewing stand because I want to heal and protect family, friends and animals. I also want a potion brewing stand because I would use it to help people in need. List of what would go in my potions: Frog/toad legs, coconut water, cat eyes, leavs of fire and my hair.

Isabelle Messerschmidt
3rd grade

Dear Santa Claus



The thing I want for Christmas, fake nails. I want it becaues they are cool. The colors are cool. Then they are ready but they are fake. You can put them on for long. You can put them on wen ever.

By, Calleigh

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State regulators once again flex muscle in rejecting utilities' grid plans, lessening rate hikes

Decisions continue shift at Illinois Commerce Commission toward tighter regulation of utilities

By Andrew Adams
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The Illinois Commerce Commission on Dec. 14 curtailed proposed rate hikes and rejected grid plans from two major electric utilities, mirroring a series of bombshell decisions rendered last month that cut increases for Illinois' four largest gas utilities.

The ICC rejected the pair of plans from Commonwealth Edison and Ameren, Illinois that were meant to illustrate how the companies would comply with the state's landmark climate legislation, the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act.

Those plans would have laid out how the utilities plan to integrate with new renewable energy resources and meet decarbonization requirements while ensuring electric rates remain affordable for low-income communities.

In rejecting the plans, regulators limited the companies' proposed rate increases, meaning that next year's impending increases will be significantly smaller than the utilities' requests.

ICC Chair Doug Scott said the plans had "significant shortcomings" and failed to meet the minimum standards set out by CEJA, including by failing to adequately address how the plans would benefit low-income communities. He also said the planning process lacked transparency among other criticisms.

The companies now have three months to file updated plans, which will begin a new review process at the ICC.

Consumer and environmental advocates praised the ICC's decisions, saying they represent a continued, overdue shift toward tighter utility oversight.

"This is not business as usual," said Brad Klein, an attorney for the Environmental Law and Policy Center who argued in both cases. "This is really a very significant change in Illinois."

Klein also said the commission "sent a strong message" to utilities and other stakeholders that they would all be held accountable to the goals laid out in CEJA.

Other advocacy groups,

such as Illinois PIRG, the Union of Concerned Scientists and AARP Illinois, also commended the decisions.

Sarah Moskowitz, head of the consumer advocacy group Citizens Utility Board, said she is "quite pleased" with the Dec. 14 outcome.

CUB focused much of its arguments against the two cases on lowering the utilities' proposed return on equity, or profit rate.

While both companies requested a 10.5 percent return, the ICC approved an 8.905 percent return for ComEd and an 8.72 percent return for Ameren.

While pleased, Moskowitz noted she was also surprised by the ICC's recent decision making.

"I've never seen this kind of action from the commission before," Moskowitz said.

While the profit rates for the two companies are now set, pending any potential appeals, key factors for rate-setting remain subject to change, based on the companies' replacement grid plans.

"Billions of dollars con-

tinue to be on the line," Moskowitz said.

Commissioner and former Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael Carrigan dissented in the decision—a rarity for the agency that mostly rules unanimously.

In a written dissent, Carrigan said while he did not believe the plans were compliant with the state's climate law, he thought that the commission could have modified, rather than rejected, the plans to bring them into compliance.

"Based on comments made from the bench, we can say at this time that we are very disappointed with the outcome as described," a ComEd spokesperson said in a statement released after the ICC announced its decision but before it issued its final order. Ameren's Matthew Tomc, the head of the company's regulatory affairs, was also "disappointed" by the decision and pushed back against the ICC's characterization of the company's grid plan.

"Ameren Illinois' plan was the result of a transparent two-

year regulatory process with significant input from stakeholders, including the ICC's own expert staff," he said in a statement. "It meets the statutory requirements of the state's Climate and Equitable Jobs Act."

Tomc went on to say that Ameren's now-rejected plan advanced the state's clean energy goals.

Representatives from both companies said they will review the full decision.

Peoples Gas' failed request

In addition to the electric cases, the commission also revisited a gas rate case brought by Chicago's Peoples Gas on Thursday.

Earlier this month, the company requested clarification to part of the ICC's November decision limiting their rate increase and placing a controversial infrastructure program on hold pending an ICC investigation.

The company claimed the decision hampered their ability to conduct emergency repairs and requested the

ICC increase the record rate increase it granted last month.

But the commission rejected this request, instead finding it was procedurally improper and that the company has an "enduring responsibility" outlined in law to maintain system safety, according to the commission's ruling.

The company is "likely" to request a formal rehearing in the case, according to Peoples Gas spokesman David Schwartz.

The now-rejected request was met with strong interest from Chicago-area unions and other groups. Illinois AFL-CIO President Tim Drea, a group of Chicago city council members, as well as representatives of several area businesses, sent letters to the commissioners sharing concerns about the proceeding.

Scott admonished the tactic on Dec. 14 and said these types of letters "frustrate the efforts of commissioners and commission staff to perform our duties." Instead, Scott said, concerned groups should offer public comment online or in meetings.

After pushing for law targeting 'crisis pregnancy centers,' attorney general backs off legal fight

Bill sponsor, Terra Costa Howard, calls Kwame Raoul's decision 'heartbreaking' and a 'gut punch' to women

By Hannah Meisel
Capitol News Illinois

A little over six months after pushing Democrats in the General Assembly to pass a law targeted at limited services pregnancy centers, Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul has agreed in a legal filing to stop the state's enforcement of it.

Raoul's decision to permanently halt enforcement of the law came in an agreed order that effectively ends a lawsuit filed by anti-abortion groups within an hour of Gov. JB Pritzker signing the bill into law this past summer.

The order still needs approval from a federal judge in Rockford who previously called the law "both stupid and very likely unconstitutional" when granting a preliminary injunction against the law a week after it was signed.

The anti-abortion groups behind the lawsuit quickly claimed victory last week.

"This law is just one of a number of illegal new laws enacted across the country that restrict pro-life speech," Thomas More Society executive vice president and head of litigation Peter Breen, a Lombard resident, said in a statement. "We hope this permanent injunction, with full attorney's fees, serves as a warning to other states that would seek to follow Illinois and try to silence pro-life viewpoints."

The law, passed during the final days of the General Assembly's spring legislative session, expanded Illinois' longstanding Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act to specifically include limited services pregnancy centers, often referred to as "crisis pregnancy centers."

Those facilities advertise services like ultrasounds and material help such as baby formula, diapers and parenting classes, but also aim to deter women from having abortions.

Abortion rights advocates claim CPCs often employ aggressive tactics to confuse those seeking abortion care and ultimately talk them out of

terminating their pregnancies by means including directing them to their facilities instead of the actual clinics the abortion-seekers were hoping to find. Under the law, a judge or jury could award up to \$50,000 in civil penalties for each act of fraud or deception proven in court.

Judge Iain Johnston in the Northern District of Illinois sided with CPCs in early August, temporarily blocking the law on First Amendment grounds.

The day the bill was signed in late July, Raoul told reporters he was "confident" the law would be upheld in court, saying crisis pregnancy centers are "not free to lie to people and to use deceptive practices."

Raoul has often recounted his visit to an abortion clinic where his driver was stopped by CPC volunteers who carried clipboards and attempted to divert him from going into the facility, instead saying they needed to check him in first.

"There's nothing in the First Amendment that protects that type of action," he said in July.

Though he and his surrogates had insisted this spring that the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act needed an expansion to explicitly name CPCs in the same way the law names other businesses like car dealers, Raoul on Dec. 11 indicated he'd use the existing law to sue CPCs if needed.

He said the agreed order "in no way affects my ongoing work protecting women's

rights to access the full range of reproductive health services."

At a news conference Dec. 12, Pritzker said he agreed that the existing state law "will do what's necessary to keep organizations like the crisis pregnancy centers from providing misinformation, disinformation and allow people to sue under that act."

But House sponsor, 42nd District Rep. Terra Costa Howard, said Raoul's decision to "back off" from the legal fight over the law is a "gut punch" to women in Illinois and beyond, especially after Monday's (Dec. 11) ruling from the Texas Supreme Court that denied a woman the opportunity to end her medically unviable pregnancy in order to "preserve her own health and fertility."

"As the House sponsor of this bill, I am heartbroken by the decision to back down on our promise to Illinois women that these deceptive centers and their staffs will face legal consequences if they tell lies or conceal important health information from the patients who walk through their doors," said Costa Howard in a statement Tuesday. "This settlement undoes so much hard work by so many advocates, organizations, and legislators, who stood together against the pressure tactics of these forced birth extremists."

Costa Howard, whose district represents parts of Lombard, defeated the Thomas More Society's Breen, a former suburban GOP lawmaker, in both 2018 and 2020, in races

that centered largely on abortion rights.

Judge Johnston is also overseeing a related challenge to a 2016 law stipulating that, if requested by a patient, providers who don't perform abortions must refer, transfer to, or give patients written information about providers who do. The law is a change

to Illinois' 1970s-era Health Care Right of Conscience Act—a statute passed in the wake of the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court Roe v. Wade decision—aimed at shielding health care providers from liability if they have religious objections to abortion.

Johnston heard a bench trial on the law in September,

just weeks after issuing his preliminary injunction in the CPC fraud law case. The two intersect in myriad ways, and the practices of CPCs were discussed at length in the September trial. But nearly three months later, Johnston is still waiting on final post-trial motions and weighing arguments from both sides.

U.S. Supreme Court refuses to block assault weapons ban as full legal challenges progress

Pritzker says he still believes law is constitutional

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The U.S. Supreme Court issued two orders last week turning down requests to block enforcement of Illinois' assault weapons ban while challenges to the law are still being heard in lower courts.

On Dec. 13, Justice Amy Coney Barrett turned down a request from Republican state Rep. Dan Caulkins, of Decatur, and other gun rights advocates who lost their challenge to the law earlier this year at the Illinois Supreme Court.

And on Dec. 14, the full court issued an unsigned order denying a similar request for an injunction by the National Association for Gun Rights, one of the plaintiffs in a lawsuit challenging both the statewide ban and a local ban in the city of Naperville.

NAGR filed its request Nov. 29 while it was waiting for the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals to decide whether it would reconsider its earlier decision upholding the law as constitutional. But the 7th Circuit said Dec. 11 it would not reconsider that decision.

Because of that, NAGR

said this week it is now preparing to ask the Supreme Court for a full review of the law.

Speaking to reporters in Springfield at an unrelated event Dec. 14s, Gov. JB Pritzker, who signed the law back in January, said he still believes it is constitutional.

"I still believe that—as everybody that voted on the law and voted for it—that this is not only a legal undertaking and an appropriate undertaking to keep and safeguard the people of the state of Illinois, but a constitutional one too," he said.

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HOLIDAY HOURS:

Dec. 18-Dec. 23: 9am-9pm • Dec. 24: 9am-7pm • Dec. 25: 10am-4pm

11am-7pm Mon.-Tues.-Wed.

9am-9pm Thurs.-Fri.-Sat.; 9am-5pm Sun.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

K9 Zeus at left, and K9 Dax are show with the awards they recently won at the USPCA dog trials.

Lake County Sheriff's canines earn top awards at competition

Two Lake County Sheriff's Canine Teams earned top awards during a recent multistate competition.

Lake County Sheriff's Deputy John Forlenza and Canine Dax, along with Deputy Kevin Harris and Canine Zeus recently traveled to Port Huron, Michigan, to participate in the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) Region #19 Police Dog/Detector Dog Trial.

This is an intense evaluation and competition which consisted of 32 dogs from across several

states. The competition involves tracking, narcotics searching, cadaver detection, obedience, scent work (suspect and article searches), apprehension, and apprehension with gunfire.

Deputy John Forlenza and K9 Dax placed in the following categories: First place in Obedience, Article Search, Suspect Search, Tracking and Cadaver Detection. And third place in Criminal Apprehension.

Deputy Kevin Harris and K9 Zeus took second place in the following

categories: Article Search, Suspect Search, Tracking and Cadaver Detection.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "We have amazing K9 teams at the Lake County Sheriff's Office! Our ten canine teams are truly an incredible asset to Lake County. Their talents were again proven by the success of Deputy Forlenza/K9 Dax and Deputy Harris/K9 Zeus at the USPCA Regional Certification. I could not be prouder of Deputies Forlenza, Harris, and their K9 partners!"

Christmas Worship



The Anticipation

SUNDAYS 9AM | 10:45AM
CANDLELIGHT SERVICES
DEC 24, 9AM | 10:45AM | 4PM

Trinity Church
W775 Geranium Rd
Genoa City, WI 53128
262-279-3052
@trinity.family



448454

New broadband internet action plan adopted by Lake County Board

Lake County is moving forward to address challenges with broadband internet access, affordability, and adoption throughout the county. At its December 12 meeting, the Lake County Board adopted its first-ever Broadband and Digital Equity Action Plan to close the digital divide in Lake County.

Earlier this year, the Lake County Board appropriated American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds to proceed with the plan development, with additional funds appropriated to execute the plan. The action plan is designed to expand countywide access to reliable, high-speed broadband infrastructure, remove barriers to affordable internet, device access, and digital skills training, and build an ecosystem of local partners to drive digital inclusion efforts.

This plan incorporates input collected directly from Lake County residents and stakeholders. In September, Lake County held a community session that offered the opportunity for residents to work together and provide input in small groups.

"We thank the community and our local partners for sharing their input over the past six months on this important initiative," said Lake County Board Chair Sandy Hart. "The Special Committee on Broad-

band and our dedicated County staff have put a tremendous amount of time and effort into this plan, and we look forward to implementing it to address the challenges associated with digital equity and broadband in our county."

Earlier this year, Lake County launched the Lake County Digital Growth Initiative to better understand the current state of high-speed internet service and digital equity in the county and implement solutions for improvement. More than 19,000 households, which accounts for about 8 percent of Lake County, do not have any type of broadband subscription, including through a cell phone plan.

"More than 72,000 households in Lake County are estimated to be eligible for the ACP," said Clark. "It's important that we continue to support our county's eligible residents and families to ensure they are aware of this program, and have the help to enroll so they have the ability to work from home, go to school, apply for jobs, access healthcare, schedule appointments and continue to be an integral part of the economy and community."

The Lake County Digital Equity Action Plan along with more information about the Lake County Digital Growth Initiative can be found at lake-countyil.gov/broadband.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Pet of the week

Prince Harry, an English Shepherd mix, is about 6 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.

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- Paid vacations/holidays
- Paid life/disability
- Must have Class A CDL and pass medical/drug screen

CALL NOW:
(262) 539-4460 Ask for Don
Go to www.vetstruck.com for applications.

416122

Christmas Masses
12/24/23 at 4:00pm
12/25/23 at Midnight & 10:00am
New Years Masses
12/31/23 at 5:00pm
01/01/24 at 10:00am

St. Joseph Catholic Church
10519 N. Main Street, Richmond, Illinois
stjosephrichmondil.weconnect.com

24300 West Grass Lake Rd (at Rte 59), Antioch IL 60002
847-395-1660 - faithantioch.org - WFEL 99.9 FM

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

DECEMBER 16 Lessons & Carols - 5:30 P.M.
DECEMBER 17 Lessons & Carols - 9:30 A.M.
CHRISTMAS EVE - 5:00 P.M. Worship
10:30 P.M. Candlelight Worship
CHRISTMAS DAY - 9:30 A.M. Festival Worship
with Men's Chorus
JANUARY 6 FESTIVAL OF THE EPIPHANY
5:30 P.M. with Candlelight Worship

St. Ignatius of Antioch Episcopal Church
500 Depot Street, Antioch, IL 60002
(corner of Deep Lake St. and Depot St.)

Christmas Worship

Sunday, Dec. 24
9 am Morning Prayer
4:30 pm Christmas Carols
5 pm Christmas Eve Mass

Monday, Dec. 25
9:30 am Christmas Carols
10 am Christmas Day Mass

Sunday, Dec. 31
10 am Mass
with a brunch to follow

All are welcome!
For more information:
(847) 395-0652
saintignatiusofantiochil@gmail.com
www.ignatiusantioch.com

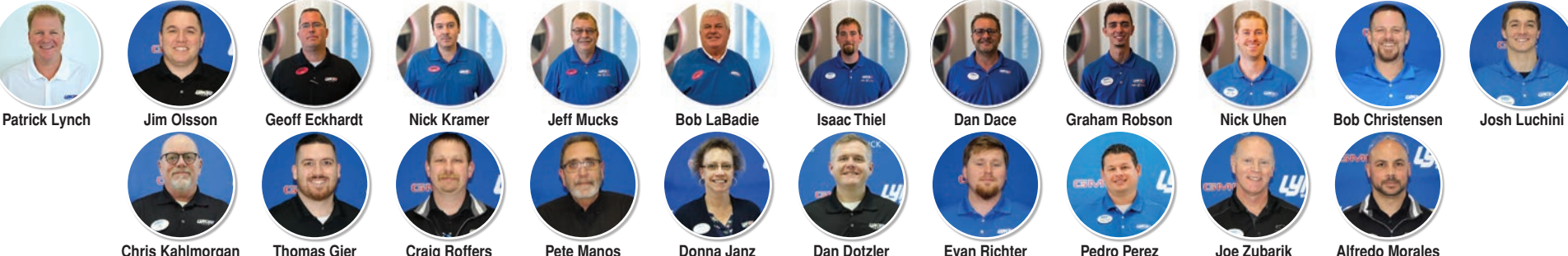
Zoom link available on the website!

448452



Unwrap Some Savings In Time For Christmas

 P15507A 2016 KIA SOUL \$7,790	 240124A 2015 KIA RIO LX \$9,990	 P15660A 2019 JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE \$16,790	 P15674 2021 TOYOTA COROLLA LE \$17,290	 P15656 2020 CHEVY TRAX LT \$18,390
 P15480 2021 FORD MUSTANG ECOBOOST PREMIUM \$19,690	 P15673 2021 TOYOTA CAMRY SE \$20,290	 P15739 2020 CHEVY EQUINOX LT \$20,990	 F240064A 2012 GMC SIERRA SLT \$21,790	 PB15700 2021 CHEVY EQUINOX LT \$21,990
 P15536A 2017 CHEVY COLORADO LT REDLINE \$22,990	 P15661 2020 CHRYSLER PACIFICA LIMITED \$24,690	 230529A 2016 FORD F-150 KING RANCH \$25,990	 P15664 2021 CHEVY EXPRESS 2500 \$28,790	 P15708A 2018 CHEVROLET SILVERADO LT \$29,990
 P15532AA 2020 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT S \$30,450	 230551A 2019 CHEVY TAHOE LT \$31,790	 P15722 2021 RAM WARLOCK \$31,890	 240140A 2019 CHEVY TRAILBOSS \$31,990	 230520A 2022 HONDA ODYSSEY EX-L \$32,690
 P15659 2021 RAM BIG HORN \$33,690	 P15646B 2019 KIA STINGER GT \$33,990	 230535A 2019 CHEVY TAHOE LT \$34,690	 P15439 2021 DODGE DURANGO R/T \$34,990	 P15562 2021 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED SAHARA \$37,390
 P15319 2021 FORD F-150 XLT \$38,290	 P15671 2019 GMC SIERRA ELEVATION \$38,990	 P15686 2022 CHEVY TRAVERSE RS \$41,290	 P15583 2023 CHEVY CAMARO LT \$42,790	 P15638 2023 CHEVY SUBURBAN HIGH COUNTRY \$84,490



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LynchGMSuperStore.com



Court & crime news

Round Lake man enters 'guilty' plea for killing his three children in 2022

On December 15, Jason Karels, 36, entered a "guilty but mentally ill" plea to three counts of first-degree murder for the June 13, 2022, killing of his three children who were ages 2, 3, and 5. With this plea, Karels will be sentenced to natural life in the Illinois Department of Corrections without the possibility of parole.



Jason Karels

Prior to entering into the plea agreement, the prosecutors and victim specialist consulted extensively with the family and several members of the family were present in court for the hearing.

"This case has devastated the Round Lake Beach community and beyond. We hope that today's resolution provides some measure of closure, and we will continue to provide support to the family," Lake County State's Attorney Eric Rinehart said.

On June 13, 2022, Round Lake Beach Police Department responded to a 911 call at 200 East Camden Ln in Round Lake Beach, after the mother of the victims discovered their deceased bodies. When police arrived, they found three children dead inside the home. The Lake County Coroner's Office later determined the cause of death to be drowning. Officers on scene found a note from Karels that said, "If I can't have them neither can you."

Karels was arrested later that evening near Joliet, following a 17-minute pursuit by Illinois State Troopers. The chase led to Karels' vehicle crashing near interstate 80 and Water Street in Joliet. While being removed from the car, Karels made statements to police officers regarding his role in the triple homicide.

After the court hearing, Round Lake Beach Police Department put out the following statement:

"The Round Lake Beach Police Department would like to thank the numerous investigators from multiple jurisdictions who contributed countless hours to this investigation. We would also like to recognize Lake County State's Attorney Eric Rinehart and his entire office who assisted throughout the investigation and delivered a just outcome in this case. Our thoughts continue to be with the family and friends of the victims and the rest of our community affected by this senseless tragedy. While nothing can bring these wonderful children back, we hope this outcome will give the family and loved ones some closure."

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered for Karels and has an official sentencing hearing scheduled for February 16, 2024.

Drunk driving suspected to be cause of single vehicle accident

A 75-year-old McHenry man was severely injured following a single-vehicle crash in unincorporated Richmond last week.

On December 13, at 4:43 p.m., members of the McHenry County Sheriff's Office, McHenry Township Fire Protection District, Richmond Township Fire Protection District, Wonder Lake Fire Protection District, Woodstock Fire/Rescue District, and LifeNet responded to a crash involving a single vehicle. Preliminary investigation indicates that a 2013 Kia Sorento, driven by a 75-year-old McHenry man, was traveling westbound near the 7800 block of Tryon Grove Road. The vehicle left the roadway to the south where it struck a culvert. The vehicle came to rest on its side on the opposite side of the culvert.

The driver and sole occupant was flown to Advocate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville with serious injuries. He was charged with misdemeanor driving

under the influence and improper lane usage.

The investigation is ongoing and by the McHenry County Sheriff's Office Major Traffic Crash Investigation Unit.

Two critically injured in single vehicle crash

A 19-year-old Richmond man and an 18-year-old Hebron man were injured following a single vehicle crash in the 4900 block of IL Route 47 in unincorporated Woodstock.

On December 13, at 6:45 p.m., members of the McHenry County Sheriff's Office, Hebron Police Department, Woodstock Fire/Rescue District, Hebron-Allden-Greenwood Fire Protection District, Huntley Fire Protection District, REACT, and LifeNet responded to a crash involving one vehicle with two occupants.

Preliminary investigation indicates that the 2003 Ford pickup was traveling northbound on IL Route 47, south of Allendale Road, when the vehicle exited the roadway to the west. The vehicle entered the ditch area and rolled several times. The vehicle came to rest on its side in the front yard of a residence. The occupants were ejected from the vehicle.

The 18-year-old male was flown to Advocate Condell medical Center in Libertyville where he remains in critical condition.

The 19-year-old male was flown to Javon Bea Hospital-Riverside in Rockford where he remains in critical condition.

The investigation is ongoing and is being investigated by the McHenry County Sheriff's Office Major Traffic Crash Investigation Unit.

Three arrested in Wonder Lake

On December 8, McHenry County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Task Force and SWAT Team arrested three people on various drug and gun charges after executing a search war-

rant on a home in the 7100 block of Chippewa Drive in Wonder Lake.

Three subjects were taken into custody for charges outlined below:

- Alexander F. Henson; 39 years of age of Wonder Lake: Possession of Firearm by Felon (prior conviction) – Class 2, Possession of Firearm Ammunition by Felon (prior conviction) – Class 2, Possession of Firearm by Felon (prior conviction) – Class 2, Possession of Controlled Substance – Class 4, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia – Class A.

- Ericka L. Mowers; 32 years of age of Wonder Lake: Possession of Controlled Substance – Class 4, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia – Class A.

- Allen L. Austin IV; 32 years of age of Wonder Lake: Unlawful Possession of Firearm with revoked FOID – Class 3.

The charges against these individuals are merely allegations against them. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Detectives identify, arrest homicide suspect

Sheriff's detectives worked tirelessly to identify and arrest the suspect who murdered Megan Lewis, the woman whose body was found on the side of the road. During the autopsy, the Lake County Coroner's Office determined Lewis was 16-weeks pregnant when she was murdered.

Detectives thoroughly processed the crime scene and located physical evidence which identified Juan A. Vega-Montoya, 37, of the 2100 block of North Narragansett Avenue, Chicago, as a potential suspect.

Sheriff's detectives spent countless hours reviewing video surveillance and determined Lewis was picked up by Vega-Montoya on November 26, in the area of Cicero Avenue and West Belden Av-

enue, Chicago. Sheriff's detectives believe Vega-Montoya began arguing with Lewis in the vehicle. During the argument, Vega-Montoya strangled Lewis to death.

Vega-Montoya then drove home and left Lewis' body in his vehicle for two days, before dumping her on the side of Hunt Club Road, during the overnight hours of November 28.

On December 11, sheriff's detectives conducted surveillance in the area of Vega-Montoya's home. Vega-Montoya was spotted driving and detectives conducted a traffic stop, taking him into custody. Additional physical evidence of the homicide was located inside Vega-Montoya's vehicle.

After reviewing the facts and circumstances of the case, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office approved the charge of concealing a homicidal death for Vega-Montoya. Prosecutors are filing a petition for detention to detain Vega-Montoya in the Lake County Jail while he awaits trial.

As the actual homicide of Lewis took place in the City of Chicago, sheriff's detectives have tendered all investigative information to Chicago Police Department, and it is anticipated they will seek murder charges for Vega-Montoya.

Lake County Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "It is simply unconscionable to kill someone then dump their body on the side of a roadway, in a humiliating fashion. I am very proud of the members of our Office who spent countless hours seeking evidence and searching for Megan's killer. I am grateful for all of the agencies who assisted and worked to hold Megan's killer accountable."

Lake County State's Attorney Eric Rinehart said, "The



Juan A. Vega-Montoya

strangled

Sheriff's team did a fantastic job investigating this case and checking every lead. First Assistant Lauren Callina led our office's efforts as everyone worked together to track down this very dangerous offender. Without their tireless pursuit – across county lines – we would not have been able to be to secure justice for Megan."

Homeland Security Investigations played a vital role assisting sheriff's detectives in this investigation.

"I couldn't be more grateful for the collaboration with HSI Chicago and Lake County Sheriff's Office," said ERO Chicago Field Office Director LaDeon Francis. "With outstanding teamwork, we were able to track down this dangerous fugitive noncitizen quickly and bring him to justice. Rest assured; we will continue to grow our already strong partnership with HSI Chicago and Lake County Sheriff's Office to the betterment of the entire community."

"Our partnership with federal and local partners, like ERO Chicago and Lake County Sheriff's Office, is essential to public safety," said HSI Chicago Special Agent in Charge Sean Fitzgerald. "Our duty to protect the community is a shared responsibility. When agencies work together, we can capture dangerous individuals, like Vega Montoya, in a safer and more controlled manner. I applaud the teamwork and effort of the agents, officers and deputies involved in arresting this individual and making our communities safer today."

The Lake County Sheriff's Office thanks Homeland Security Investigations Chicago Field Office, Immigrations and Customs Enforcement Chicago Field Office, Berwyn Police Department, Lake County State's Attorney's Office, Lake County Coroner's Office, and Northeastern Illinois Regional Crime Laboratory for their collaboration in this investigation.

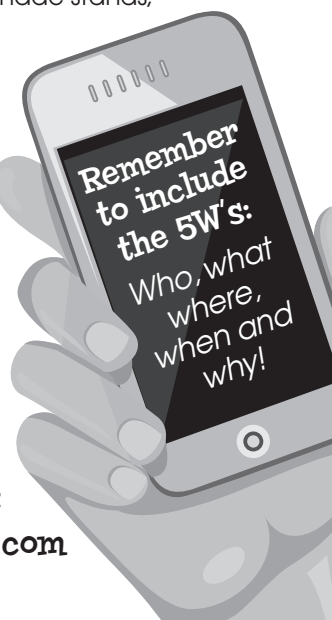
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- ▼ Tell us what's happening in the photo
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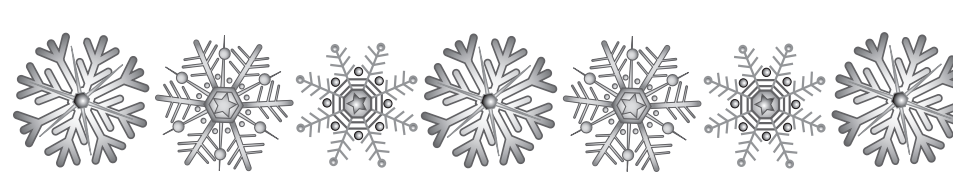


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Lake County Sheriff's arrest bulletin

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.

Nov. 8
Dontrell B. Dortch, 35, Zion, was cited for no driver's license;

Christopher Avalos, 24, Mundelein, was cited for DUI - alcohol;

Nov. 9
Jason M. Frisell, 44, Antioch, was cited for failure of sexual offender to report change of address;

Johnny Rogel Sandoval, 22, Beach Park, was cited for aggravated speeding (104 mph in 35 mph zone), and no insurance;

Nov. 10
Cristian A. Yarbrough, 27, Ingleside, was cited for a warrant arrest: violation of an order of protection;

Kade To Koesser, 22, Round Lake, was cited for DUI - alcohol;

Nov. 11
Krzysztof Gut, 41, Long Grove, was cited for aggravated unlawful possession of a firearm, assault, and criminal damage to property;

Martin Heydenburg, 61, Wheeling, was cited for a warrant arrest: aggravated battery;

Christopher Moses, 57, Kenosha, WI, was cited for driving while license suspended;

Adam M. Kokot, 54, Salem, WI, was cited for DUI - drugs, open transportation of alcohol and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia;

Oscar A. Ceja, 35, Zion, was cited for aggravated DUI, aggravated speeding (74 mph in 35 mph zone), driving while license suspended, and improper transportation of cannabis;

Gilbelle L. Hoskins, 31, Zion, was cited for criminal trespass to property;

Jadyn L. Mars, 21, Zion, was cited for theft;

Marco A. Garcia Toledo, 38, Waukegan, was cited for DUI - alcohol;

Nov. 12
Emilo Rico, 46, Mundelein, was cited for aggravated domestic battery involving strangulation;

Juvenile, was cited for no driver's license;

James K. Lyles, III, 187, Chicago, was cited for unlawful possession of a stolen motor vehicle.

Nov. 13
Jessica M. Flemon, 41, Grayslake, was cited for battery, disorderly conduct, and obstructing a peace officer;

Nov. 14
Tyler A. Bowie, 27, Grayslake, was cited for aggravated assault, retail theft, disorderly conduct and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia;

Jorge E. Casteneda, 33, Waukegan, was cited for driving while license revoked;

Anthony L. Neal, 50, Beach Park, was cited for driving while license revoked;

Tedrick Montgomery, Jr., 27, Elgin, SC, was cited for possession of stolen property;

Shaqula S. Archie, 33, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, was cited for possession of stolen property;

Nov. 15
Correy C. Moore, 33, Chicago, was cited for a warrant arrest: unlawful possession of a controlled substance;

Andres A. Zepeda, 27, Hoffman Estates, was cited for a warrant arrest: DUI;

Nov. 16
Arturo Hernandez-Urbe, 31, Park City, was cited for theft, continuing a criminal enterprise, and aggravated home repair fraud;

Deandrae A. May, 34, Antioch, was cited for aggravated DUI, and driving while license suspended;

Nov. 17
Jerzy Imiolek, 57, Island Lake, was cited for DUI - alcohol;

Everado Castro Felix, 41, North Chicago, was cited for DUI - alcohol, leaving the

scene of an accident and no insurance;

Jimmy L. Alexander, 53, North Chicago, was cited for a warrant arrest: violation of sexual offender registration;

Daniel J. Keefe, 32, Libertyville, was cited for a warrant arrest: domestic battery;

Alex Telelz, 27, Round Lake Beach, was cited for DUI - alcohol, reckless driving and open transportation of alcohol;

Stephanie Ortiz Quintana, 20, Carpentersville, was cited for domestic battery;

Nov. 18
Bennie Starks, Jr., 64, Racine, WI, was cited for DUI - alcohol, and driving while license revoked;

Daniel D. Lavelle, 40, Round Lake Beach, was cited for a warrant arrest: contempt of court;

Crystal Silva, 24, Waukegan, was cited for DUI - alcohol, and aggravated speeding (71 mph in 30 mph zone);

Nov. 19
Laetitia Anthonia Villareal, 29, Trevor, WI, was cited for DUI - alcohol;

Barry J. Flammini, 38, Gurnee, was cited for a warrant arrest: domestic battery;

Allison M. Mainhart, 32, Aurora, was cited for a warrant arrest: DUI.

Nov. 20
Jessely Montanez, 23, North Chicago, was cited for driving while license suspended, and suspended registration;

Dikendre S. Cobb, 22, North Chicago, was cited for obstructing a peace officer;

Rashad McGee, 32, Beach Park, was cited for a warrant obtained: aggravated domestic battery;

Brenda E. Fond, 42, Volo, was cited for a warrant arrest: unlawful delivery of meth (Wayne County);

Nov. 21
Kurt B. Reinhardt, 63, Grayslake, was cited for DUI - alcohol, and no insurance;

Rudy A. Reyes, 39, Ingle-

side, was cited for domestic battery, and violation of pre-trial release;

Martin C. Guanapragasam, 54, Wadsworth, was cited for DUI - alcohol, and open transportation of alcohol;

Jadyn P. Brown, 22, North Chicago, was cited for a warrant arrest: unlawful use of a weapon, and domestic battery;

Nov. 22
Patricia M. Jahen, 53, Zion, was cited for driving while license revoked;

Issiah Lairds, 68, Kenosha, WI, was cited for driving while license revoked;

Ahn S. Choi, 49, Long Grove, was cited for aggravated assault with a weapon;

Oscar Hernandez, 19, Burlington, WI, was cited for driving while license suspended and no insurance;

Veronica V. Lozano, 38, Round Lake Beach, was cited for DUI - alcohol and no insurance;

Esteban Cano Velazquez, 20, Waukegan, was cited for no driver's license and no insurance;

Nov. 23
Oscar Garcia, 26, North Chicago, was cited for DUI - alcohol, improper transportation of cannabis, and no insurance;

Nov. 24
Litzy Camacho, 22, North Chicago, was cited for DUI - alcohol;

Dean Y. Reyes Garrido, 31, Zion, was cited for DUI - alcohol;

David L. Nass, 19, Long Grove, was cited for improper transportation of cannabis;

Andrew Manko, 19, Long Grove, was cited for aggravated speeding (83 mph in 45 mph zone), and reckless driving;

Jasmine S. Kriston, 24, Waukegan, was cited for driving while license suspended and no insurance;

Nov. 25
Thomas A. Kuna, 76, Tower Lakes, was cited for DUI - alcohol.



SUBMITTED PHOTO HI-Liter/MCN

Man apprehended after stealing car, leading deputies on chase

A man is in custody after stealing a car in Volo and leading police on a chase.

On December 15, at approximately 7:55 a.m., Lake County Sheriff's Deputies responded to the 1100 block of Bellows Way, Volo, for a report of a stolen vehicle. The victim reported he went outside and noticed his 2022 Kia Stinger was stolen from his driveway. The victim reviewed video surveillance and observed a white SUV pull up to his driveway at approximately 7:00 a.m. Two men, in their late teens-early twenties exited the SUV and approached the Kia. One of the men got into the driver's seat of the Kia and backed down the driveway.

Sheriff's deputies worked with the victim to track the stolen vehicle in real-time. Sheriff's telecommunicators were able to find the stolen vehicle driving on the roadway, utilizing traffic cameras. Telecommunicators and responding deputies noted the Kia was in a caravan with the white SUV (determined to be a Hyundai Tucson) and a black Dodge Charger. It was determined the Hyundai was stolen from Lincolnshire and used in an earlier attempt vehicular hijacking with a firearm in Round Lake. The Dodge was stolen from Lindenhurst.

Sheriff's deputies located the caravan of stolen vehicles in the area of Green Bay Road and 33rd Street in Beach Park. Sheriff's deputies attempted to stop the stolen vehicles, however the drivers of all three fled. Sheriff's deputies pursued the vehicles, which lasted approximately four miles. During the pursuit, the Dodge Charger continued southbound when the Kia and Hyundai turned on a side street in Waukegan. As the chase continued, the driver of the Kia struck a utility pole in the area of Williamsburg Drive and Berwick Boulevard, in Waukegan. The driver and passenger fled from the Kia. The driver was quickly apprehended by one of the pursuing deputies. The passenger was seen by a witness entering the stolen Hyundai and the driver of the Hyundai again fled.

Nobody was injured in the incident. The driver of the stolen Kia, an 18-year-old, is currently in custody pending review of the incident with the Lake County State's Attorney's Office.

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Contact Randy, the seller at randy@spublishers.com.

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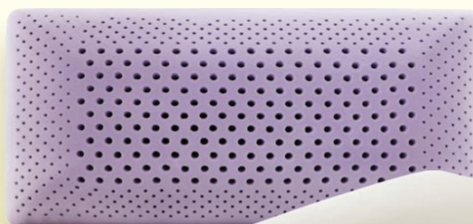
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