~ including McHenry County News

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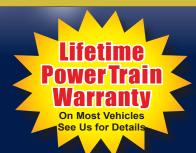
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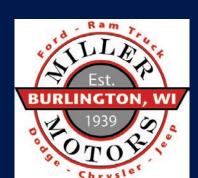












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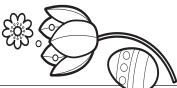
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McHenry High School, McHenry Area Rotary team up to offer dual credit discount for students

High School District 156 students who take a dual credit class to earn college credit may notice an even greater cost savings next year thanks to a new partnership between the high school district and McHenry Area Rotary.

Rotary club is pledging \$20,000 for the 2024-25 school year to offset fees for students taking dual credit courses offered at the high school through a partnership with McHenry County College. Club members plan to continue the program each year, though the amount may change depending on fundraising suc-

Dual credit allows students to earn college credit while completing high school diploma requirements in high school. For the 2024-25 school year, McHenry High School has expanded dual credit offerings to 19 courses, which equals 24 college courses since several, such as U.S. History, French and German, translate to two college lev-

There is a \$25 fee per dual credit course, so the gift from McHenry Area Rotary may eliminate or drastically reduce that fee for students. How much savings families see will depend on how many students take dual credit courses and annual Rotary fundraising.

"We're very proud to offer this to our students and families," said Dr. Ryan McTague, District 156 superintendent. "Dual credit is a wonderful opportunity for our students to get a head start on their postsecondary education and training.'

Jeff Batt, youth services chair for the McHenry Area Rotary, said this program allows the club to continue its mission of supporting youth. In the past, the club has funded scholarships and donated money to offset Advanced Placement (AP) testing fees.

Now, with the increasing popularity and variety of dual credit programs, this

financial donation has the In addition to youth propotential to help a wider range of students and families since there is such an extensive variety of dual credit programs available, including metals, computer science, manufacturing, business INCubator, accounting and more.

"I think this is the best idea vet as far as how to help kids and make an impact," Batt said.

"It's a natural progression from where we started."

Don Tonyan, McHenry Area Rotary president, said he's mentioned the dual credit program to officials with other Rotary clubs who may be looking for educational programs to support.

grams and education, Rotary also helps fund disaster relief and international causes.

"You're going to see this popping up with other Rotary clubs," Tonyan said. "That's the beauty of Rotary - we've got clubs everywhere."

Dual credit courses already offer a cost savings for families since each course costs \$25 but taking the equivalent course in college could cost significantly more. A similar three-credit hour course could cost as much as or university to \$2,500 for a private institution.

Dual credit is becoming more popular in high schools given the significant cost savings and the variety of dual credit offerings.

McHenry Area Rotary has a long-standing partnership with McHenry Community High School with students volunteering to help with Rotary giving and fundraising events such as Secret Santa and Bands, Brews and BBQ. Rotary also sponsors the Rotary Youth Leadership Award to fund a three-day camp for a selected student interested in growing leader-

"We are grateful for the \$1,000 for an in-state college McHenry Rotary Club's incredible investment in our students' future and service to our school and local community," Dr. McTague said.

Community briefs

Children's book reading at Volo Bog, April 13

The Friends of Volo Bog and Volo Bog State Natural Area welcome children's author Tamima Itani for the reading of Monty and Rose, and the "Plovermother" on Saturday, April 13.

From 1:30-2:00 p.m. there will be readings that are ideal for ages 2-7 that are accompanied by an adult. Older children and solo adults who love birds will also enjoy this and are welcome.

From 2:00-3:00 p.m. a craft, and book signing will be available. This is appropriate

To register, email dnr.volobog@illinois.gov and include your name(s), phone and ages of minors that will be attending.

Volo Bog State Natural Area is located at 28478 W. Brandenburg Road, Ingleside.

Volunteer gardeners wanted

Volo Bog State Natural Area, Moraine Hills and McHenry Dam State Parks are looking for volunteers to tend the native wildflower gardens.

Volunteers only need to commit an hour a week April through September, and one or two visits in October and November.

An orientation meeting and clean-up burn will be held Wednesday, March 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Volo Bog State Natural Area, 28478 W. Brandenburg Road, Ingleside.

Contact Stacy Iwanicki at dnr.volobog@illinois.gov or 815-344-1294 for a volunteer application.

Donation items needed for The **Penny's Purpose**

annual fundraiser

The Penny's Purpose NFP is looking for donation items for their fourth annual fundraiser and silent auction on Saturday, April 20.

The silent auction will take place upstairs at The Rivalry Alehouse and The Lodge.

Donation items will directly benefit The Penny's Purpose and help them continue their work of providing warmth and comfort to those in need through the extended hands of Penny Soulak.

For more information on The Penny's Purpose visit the website at www.thepennyspurpose.org or find them on Facebook or Instagram.

To donate a silent auction item email fundraising2024@ thepennyspurpose.org. A donation receipt will be provided for your records.

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College news

UW-Whitewater announces student teachers for spring semester

A total of 176 students are representing the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater as student teachers in school districts around the state and region during the spring semester.

The following students will represent the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater as student teachers during the spring 2024 semester:

Sara Jilly, Antioch, who is end of the school year.

majoring in Elementary Middle Education and will work in Elementary & Middle within the Lake Geneva school district(s).

Molly Volkmar, Antioch, who is majoring in Elementary Middle Education and will work in Elementary & Middle within the Lake Geneva school district(s).

Students from the university's College of Education and Professional Studies will serve as student teachers through the

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Lord's Passion & Death (with Holy Communion)

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Good Friday (3/29) 7pm Service

Easter Vigil (3/30)

5pm Holy Eucharist (celebration to follow)

Easter Sunday (3/31) 10am Holy Eucharist



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Lawmakers push bills addressing water quality, free school meals

State's largest teachers union releases annual education report

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Lake Michigan is Illinois' largest drinking water supply, serving almost 6.6 million people in the state.

Legislators including Sen. Laura Ellman, D-Naperville, are working to increase research and monitoring of Illinois' water resources, includ-

"Just note with climate change, more and more states will grapple with greater and greater challenges," Ellman

said in a news conference last ate Bill 2743, which would executive summary every two week. "And Illinois is very well positioned for safe water as long as we remain good three months and publish a

Ellman was part of a group of legislators highlighting four water-focused initiatives at a Capitol news conference last week. Two of the bills focus on increased research and reporting of water quality in the state.

Ellman sponsored Sen-

require the State Water Plan Task Force to meet every new State Water Plan including critical issues and recommendations every 10 years. Senate Bill 3716, filed by Sen. Adriane Johnson, D-Buffalo Grove, would require the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to regularly monitor the water quality of Lake Michigan and to publish an

years. Both measures await a vote from the full Senate.

Sen. Mike Simmons, D-Chicago, and Laura Fine, D-Glenview, focus on contaminants in drinking water. Simmons' Senate Bill 3450 would establish maximum levels of certain contaminants in drinking water, creating a state standard like the levels set by the U.S. EPA.

Senate Bill 2705, filed by

Fine, would ban the sale and meals under this program for distribution of certain products that contain intentionally added PFAS, otherwise known as "forever chemicals," starting in 2025. All other products containing PFAS would be banned by 2032 unless the product cannot be made without the chemicals. Senate Bills 3450 and 2705 both await a committee assignment.

Free school meals

New legislation unveiled last week aims to provide state-funded breakfast and lunch to all public and private K-12 students in Illinois, fulfilling a law that was passed in 2023 but never financed.

Ellman introduced Senate Bill 1931, which would allow the Illinois State Board of Education to reimburse school districts the full cost of the free meals at an anticipated price of \$209 million. Ellman sponsored separate legislation allocating the funding, but what amount of money, if any, is allocated will be decided during the state's budgeting process.

Ellman said meals provided under the program are required to meet national nutrition requirements, which is a very important issue to "contain nutritious foods like fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lean protein."

"Research shows that students who eat school meals eat more healthy foods than those who do not eat school meals," Ellman said at a news

Senate Bill 2209, introduced by Sen. Christopher Belt, D-Swansea, would create a grant program offering up to \$7,500 in grants to select schools that provide free breakfast to students once the school day has begun.

"And it allows students to be able to grab something in the classroom, some form of breakfast in the classroom, to help take away a growling belly or to give them energy that they so deserve," Belt said.

reduced-price breakfast or another 14 percent responded lunch options would receive they did not know.

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from the soil but not travel

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native shrub and tree sale

What to know about the cicada

free. The measure would also need further funding approval from lawmakers.

Education poll

The Illinois Education Association, the state's largest teachers union, released the results of its annual "State of Education" report last week.

A statewide poll included in the report surveyed 1,000 Illinoisans from Jan. 22-25, finding that 65 percent of respondents think funding for public schools should increase, up nine points from the year prior. Of the current public-school parents polled, 73 percent said public school funding should increase.

When asked to give a letter grade to the nation's public schools, respondents were more likely to give a lower grade this year than in past years. Just 3 percent said they gave the nation an "A" grade this year compared to 6 percent last year.

When asked about their local schools, however, Illinoisans gave an overall higher grade, with 14 percent giving

"What all this should tell us is that public education the people of this great state, and they don't want the status quo, they want better for our students, teachers, faculty and staff," IEA President Al Llorens said in a news release.

The survey also asked Illinoisans whether they favor or oppose certain policies, such as banning books in school libraries. A majority, 76 percent, of respondents oppose the practice.

While majorities of respondents said they support Illinois high schools teaching about the history of slavery and racism in the United States, they were split on whether they would support a state law that "bans the teaching of critical race theory" in schools. Of the respondents, 38 percent were supportive, Students who qualify for 37 percent were opposed and





Take me out to the McConnell ball

The W.A. McConnell Foundation will be holding their ball on Saturday, April 13 from 7-10 p.m. at The District in Richmond. Shown at a previous ball are (above, left) Katie Anderson-Tedder and (above, right) John Drummond and Rommy Lopat. Tickets are \$50 and include hors d'oeuvres, 2 drinks, live music, exclusive Eldredge Mystery presentation and access to the silent auction. Purchase tickets in person at Anderson's Candy, the Richmond Café or Village Hall, or by sending a check to: P.O. Box 272, Richmond, IL 60071. Proceeds from the ball go to the W.A. McConnell Foundation's mission. The W.A. McConnell foundation is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving the treasured history of the greater Richmond area in Illinois, protecting the legacy of its founders, and promoting its historic downtown for the benefit of generations to come.

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To learn more about the cicada's and protecting your plants, visit https://www.friendsofvolobog.org/fovb-nativetree-shrub-sale or https://www. lcfpd.org/education/cicadas/.

The order deadline is Friday, May 3, and pick-up will be on May 11 at the Volo Bog State Natural Area parking lot behind the visitor center. Order forms can be found at www.FriendsofVoloBog.org.

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Jury convicts man of 'cold blooded and calculated' murder from 2020

On March 13, a jury convicted Darius Kirby, 34, of First-Degree Murder in connection to a 2020 shooting in Wauke-



Darius Kirk

After the verdict, Lake County State's Attorney Eric Rinehart stated, "Mr. Kirby committed a cold-blooded and calculated murder that he contemplated as he made the long drive from Joliet, Illinois, to Waukegan. Mr. Kirby then laid in wait for his victim. This type of planned murder warrants a very lengthy prison sentence. Our experienced trial team from the Violent Crimes Unit did an outstanding job. Our office's outstanding victim special-

gether to seek justice."

The jury trial began on March 5, lasting 5 days. The jury heard from more than a dozen witnesses, including law enforcement officers and other expert witnesses.

ists will continue to support

the family as we work to-

Kirby was charged in March 2021, after an exten-

sive investigation was conducted by Waukegan Police Department. On August 26, 2020, Waukegan Police and Park City Police responded to a report of shots fired outside a motel in Waukegan. When officers arrived, they located the victim outside the motel after he had been shot six times. The victim was transported to a nearby hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

At the trial, surveillance videos were played that followed Kirby as he arrived at the hotel in a black Dodge Challenger that was registered to Kirby's name. Through video, officers were able to see Kirby and two other individuals as they searched and waited for the victim to exit the motel. Videos also showed Kirby and two individuals chase the victim to the side of the motel, where he was later discovered by police officers.

Officers testified to finding a Dodge Challenger key fob near where the victim was found. That same key fob, jurors heard, unlocked the Dodge Challenger registered to Kirby.

Other expert witnesses were able to put Kirby at the crime scene through cellphone records and tollway records.

During the trial, the State was represented Assistant State's Attorney Scott Hoffert and Assistant State's Attorney Lauren Kalcheim Rothenberg. Lake County State's Attorney Victim Specialist Melissa Burke, Investigator Jack Metcalf and Tony Theis, Director of the Cyber Lab JB Brooks, and Cyber Crime Analyst Lexi Brown all assisted in trial preparation.

Kirby is facing between 20 to 60 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. Kirby's next court hearing is scheduled for May 1, 2024.

Prior to the trial, Kirby was being held in the Lake County Jail on a \$2 million bond, (this cash bond was set by a judge in 2022, before the effective date of bail reform which now prevents individuals charged with murder from posting bond if a judge so decides at the beginning of the case). After the guilty verdict, Judge Strickland revoked his ability to post cash bail.



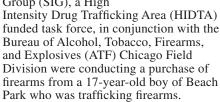
SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Guns and ammunition that were recovered from the suspects and while conducting a search warrant on the home of one of the suspects.

Gun trafficker, lookouts arrested after committing armed robbery on undercover detective

Three people were apprehended Friday after attempting to commit an armed robbery on an undercover detective during an undercover operation.

On March 15, the Lake County Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Group (SIG), a High



Around 1:00 p.m., an undercover detective met with the 17-year-old to purchase a firearm. The detective met with the juvenile in a parking lot in the 38400 block of North Sheridan Road, Beach Park. When the two started talking, the juvenile pulled a semi-automatic pistol from his waistband, charged the firearm by racking the slide, pointed the firearm at the detective's face, and demanded the detective give him the money he came with to buy the firearm. The juvenile told the undercover detective that he would "blow his brains out" if he did not comply. The undercover detective complied and gave the money to the juvenile, the juvenile then fled on foot.

Multiple other detectives monitoring the transaction immediately moved in during the armed robbery. The juvenile was taken into custody after a brief foot chase. During the chase, the juvenile threw the firearm he used in the robbery; however, the firearm was located by Sheriff's K9 Duke.

When arrested, the money the juvenile stole from the undercover detective was recovered. Two people who were acting as the juvenile's lookout during the armed robbery were also apprehended by

ILLINOIS

detectives. One was a 16-year-old from Kenosha, who was armed with a semi-automatic pistol, converted to be fully automatic with an extended magazine. The other, Patrick Neal, 22, of the 10100 block of Ford Avenue, Beach Park, was also armed with a semi-automatic pistol, converted to be fully automatic with an extended magazine.

Sheriff's detectives then obtained and conducted a search warrant at the 17-year-old's home. Inside the home, they located an AR Pistol loaded with a rifle round, ammunition, extended magazines, and a drum magazine.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "Our Special Investigations Group investigate and arrest some of the most violent criminals in society. They, along with police officers everywhere, put their lives on the line every day to protect our communities. I cannot stress enough how thankful I am that none of our staff was injured in this incident. We will work with the state's attorney's office to ensure this violent teen and his accomplices are held accountable for their actions."

The 17-year-old was transported to the Hulse Juvenile Detention Facility and petitioned on the charges of: Armed Robbery, Three Counts of Unlawful Use of a Weapon, and Obstructing a Peace Officer.

Neal had four outstanding warrants and was also charged with: Armed Robbery, Aggravated Unlawful Possession of a Machine Gun, Unauthorized Possession of a Firearm by a Street Gang Member, Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon, and Two Counts of Unlawful Use of a Weapon.

Neal remains held in the Lake County Jail. He was ordered to be held in custody for a detention hearing on March 18.

The 16-year-old was transported to the Hulse Juvenile Detention Facility and petitioned on the charge of: Unlawful Use of a Weapon.

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.

Feb. 9

tail theft;

Martin W. Kerley, 59, Arlington Heights, was cited for criminal trespass to property; Kevin M. O'Keefe, 49,

Waukegan, was cited for a warrant arrest: retail theft;

Timothy J. Deemie, 38, Effingham, was cited for criminal trespass to property;

Jose C. Castro, 51, North Chicago, was cited for DUI – alcohol, and driving while

 alcohol, and driving while license revoked;
 Domenico A. Polizzi, 33,
 Washington, was cited for rePatricknella S. Webb, 60, Waukegan, was cited for violating an order of protection;

Arnold Zambrano, 19, Barrington, was cited for aggravated speeding (109 mph in 55 mph zone);

Zachery J. Zolen, 27, Fox Lake, was cited for a warrant arrest: battery and a new charge of DUI – alcohol;

Jeffrey Almond, 43, Waukegan, was cited for a warrant arrest: battery;

Feb. 11

Adeniyi O. Akinmade, 60, Arlington Heights, was cited for a warrant arrest: driving while license suspended (DuPage County);

Alan Dzagoev, 54, Libertyville, was cited for aggravated speeding (64 mph in 35 mph zone);

Barry J. May, III, 38, Waukegan, was cited for a warrant arrest: retail theft, fleeing to elude, obstructing justice and reckless driving;

Jozafat Taboada, 47, Lake Zurich, was cited for DUI – alcohol.

Feb. 12

Tyler J. Koehler-Davis, 26, Skokie, was cited for driving while license revoked;

Feb. 13

Modena O. Stinnette, 54, Winthrop Harbor, was cited for unlawful possession of a controlled substance;

Janessa L. Colon, 26, Waukegan, was cited for driving while license suspended; Feb 14

Feb. 14

Steven M. Gunn, 34,

See ARRESTS, Page 7

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Man who slashed family member with knife arrested

corporated Antioch Man is recovering after being slashed in his face with a knife by a family member.



Locklear

On March 13, at approximately 12:25 a.m., Lake County Sheriff's Deputies responded to the 21200 block of Route 173, unincorporated Antioch for a domestic battery in progress. Sheriff's 911 telecommunicators were able to gather information that a knife was actively being used in the battery, and sheriff's telecommu-

Sheriff's deputies arrived and immediately were able to de-escalate the situation. Sheriff's deputies determined a 45-year-old man, who lives at the same address, had been slashed across the face with a knife. The victim

sustained significant facial

injuries. Sheriff's deputies

nicators alerted responding

deputies of this information.

an area hospital for medical treatment.

Preliminary investigation shows the victim and a family member, Aaron Locklear, 54, of the same address, got into a verbal argument. The verbal argument became increasingly heated, and Locklear produced a knife with an approximate eight-inch blade. Locklear slashed the victim across the right side of his face, causing a very serious laceration from near his eye, extending to his lip.

Locklear was arrested and transported to an area hospital for treatment to a finger, as he substantiated a cut during the battery. He was treated and released back into the custody of sheriff's deputies.

After reviewing the facts and circumstances of the case, the Lake County States's Attorney's Office approved the following charges: Aggravated Domestic Battery (Class 2 Felony), Aggravated Battery Causing Bodily Harm (Class 3 Felony), and Aggravated Battery with a Deadly Weapsummoned an ambulance and on (Class 3 Felony).

Alcohol appears to be a of a semi-trailer, being pulled factor contributing to the inci-

Locklear was held in the Lake County Jail pending his first appearance in court.

Fatal 3-car traffic crash under investigation

The Lake County Sheriff's Office and Major Crash Assistance Team of Lake County (MCAT) are investigating a fatal traffic crash that occurred last week in Lake Barrington.

On March 12, at approximately 4:15 p.m., Lake County Sheriff's Deputies responded to the area of Route 59 north of Miller Road for a traffic crash with injuries. Sheriff's deputies arrived and found three vehicles with heavy damage.

Preliminary investigation shows a Hyundai sedan, driven by a 53-year-old woman of Schaumburg was traveling northbound on Route 59. As the driver of the Hyundai traveled north, she veered into the southbound lanes of traffic, for an unknown reason. The Hyundai struck the rear by a 2016 Freightliner semitruck, driven by a 62-year-old man of Hawthorn Woods. The Hyundai then struck a southbound Lincoln SUV, driven by a 46-year-old man of Carv.

The driver of the Hyundai was transported to an area hospital where she was subsequently pronounced deceased. The other drivers sustained minor injuries.

The Lake County Coroner's Office is scheduling an autopsy on the driver of the Hyundai.

The crash remains under investigation by the Lake County Sheriff's Office and

Official misconduct charges filed against alderman for destroying video surveillance

The Lake County State's Attorney's Office filed charges of felony Official Misconduct and felony Criminal Damage Government-Supported Property against North Chicago City Alderman Anthony D.

Feb. 17

Coleman.

Anita F. Drobny, 77, Highland Park, was cited for a warrant arrest: contempt of court (DuPage County);

Stacy Capote, 19, Zion, was cited for DUI - alcohol;

Daniel Villagomez-Guzman, 29, Waukegan, was cited for unlawful possession of a controlled substance, DUI - alcohol, and open transportation of alcohol.

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a two-count indictment of knowingly damaging the surveillance video system at the North Chicago Water Treatment Plant on August 8, 2023.

An investigation by the Lake County State's Attorney's Financial Crimes & Public Integrity Unit found that Coleman cut the wires to a video camera in the plant and removed the camera. The camera was installed earlier in 2023 with the approval of the City Council.

The City of North Chicago and the North Chicago Police Department referred the case to the Lake County State's Attorney's Investigators to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest. After the indictments were

filed in court on March 13, 2024, State's Attorney Rinehart stated, "Coleman gained access to the water plant as a public official and destroyed an appropriate and legal camera system. This Defendant doesn't get to overrule the City Council by destroying government property."

The case will be prosecuted by Chief Kevin Berrill and ASA Russell Caskey of the Financial Crimes & Public Integrity Unit of the Lake County State's Attorney's

Coleman's first court appearance will be April 4.

investigating shots fired during altercation

Sheriff's deputies are investigating after a man fired several shots from a firearm during an altercation last week in Beach Park.

On March 13, at approximately 12:05 a.m., Lake County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a parking lot in the 37800 block of North Sheridan Road, Beach Park, for a report of shots fired. Sheriff's deputies arrived and did not locate any vic-Sheriff's deputies searched the area and located four shell casings that looked like they had been recently discharged from a firearm. Sheriff's deputies also located several items strewn about in the area, indicative some type of physical altercation occurred.

Sheriff's deputies reviewed video surveillance from a nearby establishment and observed two women exit a vehicle in the parking lot and engage in a verbal altercation with a woman who exited a Nissan Altima. The verbal altercation turned into a physical fight. A man then exited the Nissan, armed with a firearm, and shot four times. It is believed the man shot into the air. All of the people involved fled from the scene after the shots were fired.

Sheriff's deputies collected evidence at the scene and the investigation continues.

• Arrests (Continued from page 6)

Round Lake, was cited for a license; warrant obtained battery.

Park, was cited for no driver's license:

Clarence Williams, 27, Springfield, was cited for a warrant arrest: unlawful possession of a firearm (Kane County);

Feb. 15

CLASSIFIED

Ladislao Garcia Morales. 43, Mundelein, was cited for DUI alcohol, and no driver's

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IN-COLUMN

Alex A. Steplyk, 30, Pleas-Davyn D. Moss, 21, Beach ant Prairie, WI, was cited for DUI - alcohol, and no driver's license:

Feb. 16

Jose A. Vincente Reyes, 44, Lake Villa, was cited for driving while license suspended;

Michael P. Geiman, 41, Beach Park, was cited for a warrant obtained: predatory criminal sexual assault of a

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Roman J. Keating, 66, Gurnee, was cited for disorderly conduct;

Benjamin P. Purrazzo, 67, Spring Grove, was cited for disorderly conduct;

Jorge Uriostegui, 38, Gurnee, was cited for DUI – alcohol, and criminal damage to property:

Martin Glab, 59, Gurnee, was cited for DUI – alcohol;

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