

# Hi-LITER

~ including McHenry County News

MARCH 27 - APRIL 2, 2024

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## Chris Cagle to open Antioch's 'It's Thursday' summer concert series

The Village of Antioch, US99 and Raymond Chevrolet Kia renew their partnership to celebrate the start of summer

Country music star Chris Cagle will open up the 2024 It's Thursday summer concert series at the downtown Antioch bandshell. After a successful 2023 summer concert series, the Village of Antioch has renewed its partnership with Chicago country music radio station US99 (99.5 FM) and the Raymond Chevrolet Kia to bring another big-name county music act to downtown Antioch. This all-ages concert event will take place Thursday, June 13, at the William E. Brook Entertainment Complex (Antioch Bandshell), 900 Skidmore Drive, Antioch, IL 60002.

Last year's concert series kick-off by Rodney Atkins brought an estimated 5,000 country music fans to downtown Antioch. The Village of Antioch is expecting a similar turnout this year for Chris Cagle. Gates open for the 2024 kick-off concert at 5 p.m. An opening band will be announced closer to the concert date. VIP tickets for premier seating will also be announced closer to the concert.

Raymond Chevrolet Kia returns this year as the Title Sponsor of the Village of Antioch.

tioch It's Thursday summer concert series. Other sponsors this year include, Consume Cannabis, Limerick Lounge, J&J Gaming, Moda Homes, Lake County Electrical Workers Local 150, Antioch Pizza Shop, Heartland Bank, Fischer Paper, State Bank of the Lakes, and Lakeshore Beverage.

The Village of Antioch has extended the summer concert season, adding four additional weeks to the summer lineup. The final show of the season will be Thursday, Aug. 29.

"We are excited to continue bringing fun and entertaining music acts to downtown Antioch," said Antioch Mayor Scott Gartner. "Chris Cagle will be a fun concert for country music fans of all ages. This will be an entertaining evening for residents and visitors, and hopefully a profitable night for our local business community. I love events that showcase our beautiful downtown to visitors from all over the Chicago and Milwaukee areas."

Downtown Antioch features nearly a dozen restaurants and bars, and nearly two dozen boutique retail stores, with many more restaurants and shopping



SUBMITTED IMAGE Hi-Liter/MCN  
The summer line-up for the 'It's Thursday' concert series at the Antioch Bandshell has been released.

opportunities throughout the entire community.

For more information on upcoming events in Antioch, visit the Village of Antioch website, [www.antioch.il.gov](http://www.antioch.il.gov), or follow the verified Village of Antioch, Illinois – Government Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/EnjoyAntioch](https://www.facebook.com/EnjoyAntioch)

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## Sheriff's Special Investigations Group arrest drug trafficker

The Lake County Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Group (SIG), a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDA) funded task force, concluded an investigation that led to the arrest of a Waukegan man who was selling meth, cocaine, and fentanyl.

Hill was arrested on March 19, and held in custody pending a detention hearing.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg

Terrance D. Hill said, "The hard work of our Special Investigations Group resulted in over 3,600 pills of deadly fentanyl being removed from our community, leading to countless lives being saved from overdose. We will be relentless in our investigations and arrests of drug traffickers and gun traffickers operating in Lake County. I am proud of the work SIG and all of my staff, for what they do on a daily basis to keep our community safe."

During the entire operation, SIG detectives recovered over 3,600 fentanyl pills, nearly 30 grams of meth, and nearly 40 grams of cocaine. On March 18, 2024, members of SIG reviewed the investigation with the Lake County State's Attorney's Office. The state's attorney's office approved charges against Hill, and SIG detectives obtained an arrest warrant for: Seven counts of Unlawful Delivery of a Controlled Substance (five counts are class X felonies; two counts are class 1 felonies).

The Lake County Sheriff's Office acknowledges the exceptional assistance of their federal and local partners, which include, ATF Downers Grove 1, DEA Group 31, FBI NRA-1, HSI TOC-Group, NCIS Great Lakes, Park City PD, Round Lake Beach PD, Round Lake Park PD, Wauconda PD, Waukegan PD, Winthrop Harbor PD, and Zion PD.



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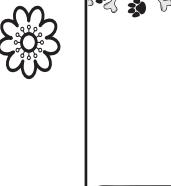
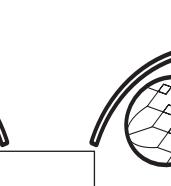
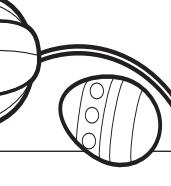
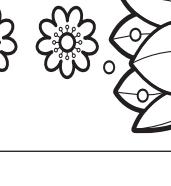
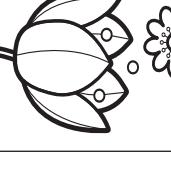
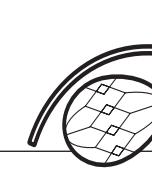
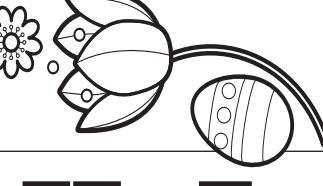
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Scouts attended the Lake County Nineteenth Judicial Circuit's 25<sup>th</sup> annual Law Merit Badge Program on March 2 at the Lake County Courthouse.

## Local scouts participate in annual Law Merit Badge program

Scouts arrived at the Lake County Courthouse in the early morning of Saturday, March 2, anticipating learning about the rule of law and how laws are designed to protect our fundamental rights. The Law Merit Badge program was made possible through the collaborative efforts of Circuit Judge Joseph V. Salvi, Associate Judge Daniel L. Jasica, Associate Judge Christopher B. Morozin, employees of the 19th Judicial Circuit, the Lake County Sheriff's Office, the Lake County Coroner's Office, The Lake County State's Attorney's Office, the Lake County Public Defender's Office, the

Lake County Circuit Clerk's Office, Lake County Adult Probation, and in conjunction with the Boy Scouts of America- Northeast Illinois Council.

The 25th annual one-day event attracted nearly 90 Scouts. Judge Salvi welcomed the group, introduced the volunteers, and provided the attendees with an overview of the activities planned for the day. After orientation, the Scouts were divided into three groups to receive a courthouse tour, a Sheriff's Department demonstration from Deputy Roxana Stancioiu and her K9 partner Drako, and a Lake County Coroner's Office tour from

Chief Deputy Coroner Stephen Newton. The group then assembled to enjoy lunch and listen to Judge Jasica's introduction to the law and Judge Morozin's "How to Become a Lawyer" presentations before attending a mock trial.

Upon completing the full-day program, the Scouts were awarded their Law Merit Badges and issued certificates. Since the event began in 1997, over 1,500 Scouts have registered and completed the program successfully in Lake County.

For information or to participate in a future Law Merit Badge Day, please email [civilja@lakecountyil.gov](mailto:civilja@lakecountyil.gov).

## College news

### Behrens helps Dance Marathon generate \$1.4 million for University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital

Kyle Behrens of Antioch, was one of more than 1,100 current University of Iowa students who participated in the 30<sup>th</sup> annual student-led Dance Marathon which generated more than \$1.4 million for the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital.

The final tally raised by the students was \$1,454,929, a total which pushed the

amount of support generated by Dance Marathon over the course of its 30-year history to more than \$35 million.

DM30 was Behrens's first year of participation in Dance Marathon.

Dance Marathon's "Big Event" is the celebration of UI students' year-round dedication to the children and families who have received treatment at the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital where the 11<sup>th</sup> floor is named the University of Iowa Pediatric Oncology Unit.

Dance Marathon works to create special projects to provide emotional and financial support to families treated at the UI Stead Family Children's Hospital with an emphasis on pediatric cancer and bone marrow transplant patients. It committed \$5 million of support to the construction of the UI Stead Family Children's Hospital where the 11<sup>th</sup> floor is named the University of Iowa Pediatric Oncology Unit.

### Craig named to Dean's List

Kylee Craig of Antioch, was named to Rhodes College's Fall 2023 Dean's List.

To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must be enrolled in at least 16 credits of academic work and achieve a semester grade point average of 3.70 or better.

Rhodes College is located in Memphis, TN.

# Conservation district announces upcoming programs

### Letterboxing

Friday, March 29, 2:30 p.m., Rush Creek Conservation Area, Harvard.

Go on an adventure through nature while following a story-like scavenger hunt. Individually or as a group, set off to find clues along the trails. Ages 7+.

### Wetlands and Waterfowl Walk

Saturday, March 30, 8:10:30 a.m., Glacial Park Conservation Area, Kettle Lot, Ringwood

Enjoy a spring walk with volunteer bird enthusiast Dave Miller. We'll drive to various locations in search of migrating waterfowl and other birds.

### Get Out and Explore: Hike to Haiku

Thursday, April 18, 5:30 p.m., Hickory Grove Highlands Conservation Area, Cary.

Join for a hike to serve as an inspiration for writing nature-themed haikus. Learn about the very first haiku ever written, a short history of haikus, and how to write your own. Notebooks and pencils provided. Ages 8+.

### Partial Eclipse of the Sun

Monday, April 8, 1-3 p.m., Prairievie Education Center, Crystal Lake.

Experience a partial solar eclipse with MCCD. Learn about the eclipse, how often it happens in Illinois and more.

Participants will receive a pair of eclipse glasses. Light refreshments provided. All ages welcome.

### Intro to Volunteering

Thursday, April 11, 6:30 p.m., Prairievie Education Center, Crystal Lake.

Spend the afternoon celebrating the earth. Explore earth-friendly activities and craft stations, plant seeds, take a guided hike, and view a puppet show and more.

Co-sponsored by the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County. All ages.

For more information or to sign up for programs please visit the McHenry County Conservation District website at [MCCD.org](http://MCCD.org).

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## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

### Wednesday, March 27

Tenebrae • 7:00 p.m.

Solemn Service

### Thursday, March 28

Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m.

### Friday, March 29

Good Friday Noon Service

Veneration of Cross

7:00 p.m. Service

Character Stations of the Cross

### Saturday, March 30

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

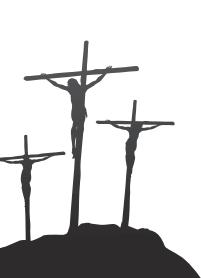
### BAKE SALE & FOOD BLESSING

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### Sunday, March 31

Easter Service

10:00 a.m.



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SUBMITTED PHOTO HI-LITER/MCN

Shown from left: Patrice Frederick, Assistant Principal of Student Services at McHenry Community High School, Nicole Class, MCHS nurse, and Susan Karraas, Director of Nursing at McHenry County Public Health Department.

## McHenry Community High School nurse receives Lina Rogers Award from MCDH

The McHenry County Department of Health (MCDH) is proud to announce Nicole Class, a devoted nurse at McHenry Community High School, as the recipient of the prestigious 2024 Lina Rogers Award for school health professionals. The award was presented to Class on Friday, February 23, during the MCDH's School Health Professional Symposium held at Northwestern Medicine's Huntley Hospital.

Named after Lina Rogers, a pioneer in public health nursing in the early 20th century, the annual Lina Rogers Award recognizes individuals who demonstrate outstanding dedication to school health. Class's contributions align with the principles set by Lina Rogers, emphasizing disease management, hygiene, and health education.

Class joined the McHenry Community High School staff in December of 2021 and has since served as an integral member of the Student Services team. Working in the Health Office at the Upper Campus and serving approximately 1,600 students in grades 10-12, her extensive experience in clinical settings has been a tremendous asset to students and staff alike.

Patrice Frederick, Assistant Principal of Student Services at McHenry Community High School, nominated Class for the award, recognizing her exceptional contributions to student health and well-being. Frederick noted that Class has quickly emerged as an unofficial department leader in her short time at McHenry Community High School.

In addition to attending to the Health Office's routine needs, Class actively participates in Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings, Section 504 meetings (ensuring student accommodations are in place to remove barriers to learning), provides crucial medical training to administration and staff, takes the lead in

medical situations, and offers support to parents with their questions and concerns. Amidst these accomplishments, Class undertook additional studies to complete the School Nurse Certification program.

Class's commitment extends beyond the traditional school nursing role. She played a vital role in the district planning committee, contributing to the redesign of the 4th year of the Biomedical Science Program. Her involvement included grant writing, room design for the new CNA program, and establishing community partnerships to enhance clinical experiences for students. Leah Pelletier, a Biomedical science teacher at McHenry Community High School, praised Class's passion for nursing, noting her inspirational impact on students and her dedication to preparing them for futures in healthcare.

Pelletier shared, "Nicole is passionate about school nursing and nursing in general. She took time earlier this year to come speak to my Medical Residency students about her nursing career which included labor & delivery nursing and correctional care (she was a nurse in a prison). She was inspiring to my students and was a great example for them of someone who loves what they do. She is enthusiastic about preparing our students for futures in health care by providing the opportunity for them to become CNAs. This certificate will open so many doors for students of all backgrounds and socioeconomic status to have equal opportunities towards reaching their goals. She is an above and beyond school nurse!"

The McHenry County Department of Health is thrilled to acknowledge Class for her outstanding contributions and dedication to advancing the well-being and education of students.

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## Pet of the week

Avalanche, is about 5-1/2 years old, neutered, up-to-date on shots (incl. rabies), tested negative for heartworm and on preventative and micro-chipped.

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](http://www.saveapetil.org/adopt).

## Environmental/natural history scholarship applications due by Sunday

The Friends of Volo Bog and Friends of Moraine Hills State Park are offering a total of five scholarships for outstanding Illinois students interested in pursuing an environmental science or natural history career.

The Friends of Volo Bog has three \$1,500 Scholarships that are awarded at two levels – Entering College and Continuing College.

### Entering College scholarship

To be eligible for the Entering College scholarship, the applicant must have a permanent residency and attend a accredited Illinois high school in Lake, McHenry, Cook, DuPage, Will, Kendall or Kane County, have a minimum B average, and plan to attend an accredited college or university. The applicant should be planning to enter a career directly related to preserving the natural environment.

### Continuing College scholarship

To be eligible for the Continuing College scholarship the applicant must be currently enrolled in an accredited college or university pursuing a degree directly related to preserving the natural environment.

have a permanent residence in Illinois, have graduated from an Illinois high school in Lake, McHenry, Cook, DuPage, Will, Kendall or Kane County, and currently hold a minimum B average in their college studies.

Recipients are determined by a review committee of Friends of Volo Bog. The Friends of Volo Bog is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to promoting citizen awareness of the local natural heritage of Volo Bog State Natural Area, portions of which are dedicated to state nature preserves, and to preserving the same through special events, educational and training programs, acquisitions of properties for such purposes and taking whatever steps deemed necessary to insure the continued care and preservation of Volo Bog State Natural Area as a natural site.

Applications are due by March 31 for the school year starting in the fall. Winners are announced in May. Find an application with complete instructions at [www.friendsofvolobog.org](http://www.friendsofvolobog.org). The Friends of Moraine Hills State Park is offering two \$2,000 scholarships to outstanding Illinois students interested in pursuing an en-

vironmental science or natural history career.

To be eligible for these 'Entering College' scholarships, the applicant must have a permanent residency in and be attending an accredited Illinois high school in McHenry or Lake County, have a minimum B average and plan to attend an accredited college or university.

The applicant should be planning to enter a career directly related to preserving the natural environment.

Applications are available at [www.friendsofmoraine-hillsstatepark.org](http://www.friendsofmoraine-hillsstatepark.org) and are due by April 30 for the school year starting in the fall.

Recipients are determined by a review committee of Friends of Moraine Hills State Park. The Friends of Moraine Hills State Park is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to promoting citizen awareness of the local natural heritage of Moraine Hills State Park, portions of which are dedicated to state nature preserves, and to preserving the same through special events, educational and training programs, acquisitions of properties for such purposes and taking whatever steps deemed necessary to insure the continued care and preservation of Moraine Hills State Park.

## County hosting Vietnam War Veterans Day ceremony on Friday

McHenry County will be hosting area veterans' groups to honor and share the stories of those who served during the Vietnam War.

The event, "Voices from Vietnam," will take place at 8 a.m. Friday, March 29, at the County Government Administration Building, 667 Ware Road, Woodstock. The event will start with an outdoor ceremony in front of the county's Vietnam War memorial, followed by an indoor program and a continental breakfast provided by

the participating veterans' groups.

American Legion Post 412 in Woodstock is leading the event, with the help of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5040 in McHenry, and the McHenry County Veterans Assistance Commission.

A federal law enacted in 2017 designated March 29 as Vietnam War Veterans Day to honor the more than 2.7 million American men and women who served in Vietnam; the date was chosen on account of being the anniversary of

the 1973 withdrawal of the last American combat soldier. More than 58,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines died during the war, with another 1,200 still counted as missing.

The event is free, but attendees are encouraged to RSVP by calling or texting 815-527-1891.

While the Administration Building will be open for the ceremony, all county offices are closed March 29 in observance of the Good Friday holiday.

## Nineteenth Judicial Circuit names Walldorf new Executive Director

Chief Judge Daniel B. Shanes is pleased to announce that Karl Walldorf will join the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit as Executive Director on April 29.

Mr. Walldorf has extensive experience in local government leadership and public

safety. He began his career as a patrol officer with the Lake Forest Police Department in 1994, ultimately rising to Chief of Police in 2016. In that role, he managed a diverse staff with an annual budget of \$14 million. In addition, Karl regularly engaged with local elected officials on topics ranging from budgets, operational issues, facilities, and capital projects. As part of those duties, Karl successfully negotiated and administered four separate collective bargaining contracts.

"The Circuit Judges of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit conducted a nationwide search for an Executive Director over several months. Our Court's many successes are due to the talents and dedication of the outstanding professionals who work for our Circuit Court. Mr. Walldorf's proven track record of successful organizational administration and effective leadership made him the clear choice to help lead our Circuit Court in the years ahead.

Karl has experience, strong managerial skills, and an exceptional understanding of our judicial system. He recognizes the importance of building and maintaining trust and confidence in the courts with the public, justice partners, and employees. We look forward to Karl joining

ing the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit," said Chief Judge Shanes.

Mr. Walldorf received his Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of Illinois at Chicago and his Master of Science in Public Administration from the Keller Graduate School of Management, emphasizing public/private partnerships. He also holds an Executive Management Certificate from Northwestern University.

In addition to his duties in Lake Forest, Karl has been called upon to serve in various leadership positions, including on the boards of directors of several local and state organizations, including the statewide board of government administrators, social justice advocates, and academics. The board reviews the state's various data collection practices and recommends to the Illinois General Assembly to improve the program's accuracy and ensure equitable policing statewide.

"I am deeply honored to have been selected as the new Executive Director of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit. Working alongside the respected Judges and dedicated staff, I am eager to continue serving the residents of Lake County with such a talented and committed team," said Mr. Walldorf.

# \$1.9 million earmarked towards Lake County Public Works infrastructure as part of new legislation

Lake County is slated to receive more than \$1.9 million as part of a bill that President Biden signed into law on March 9. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, includes federal funding for two Lake County Public Works infrastructure projects:

## Idlewild and Dady & Decker Water Main

### Replacement

Installation of 10,000 linear feet of new water main in the Idlewild and Dady & Decker neighborhoods in unincorporated Grayslake. These communities are celebrating their centennial anniversaries, and this modernization is essential for maintaining their access to water for the decades to come.

### New Century Town Water Reclamation Facility Upgrades

Project to replace wastewater treatment equipment that is in need of updates at the New Century Town Water Reclamation Facility in Vernon Hills. Lake County Public Works owns and operates this facility which treats wastewater coming from

thousands of local homes and businesses.

Earlier this year, US Representative Brad Schneider (IL-10) submitted these projects for Congress to consider as part of a federal initiative called Community Project Funding.

"We once again can't thank Congressman Schneider enough for advocating for

these critical projects," said Lake County Board Chair Sandy Hart. "Continued investments in public works infrastructure is one our top priorities because it's crucial for ensuring access to safe drinking water."

The Lake County Board regularly works with local legislators on opportunities through its Legislative Com-

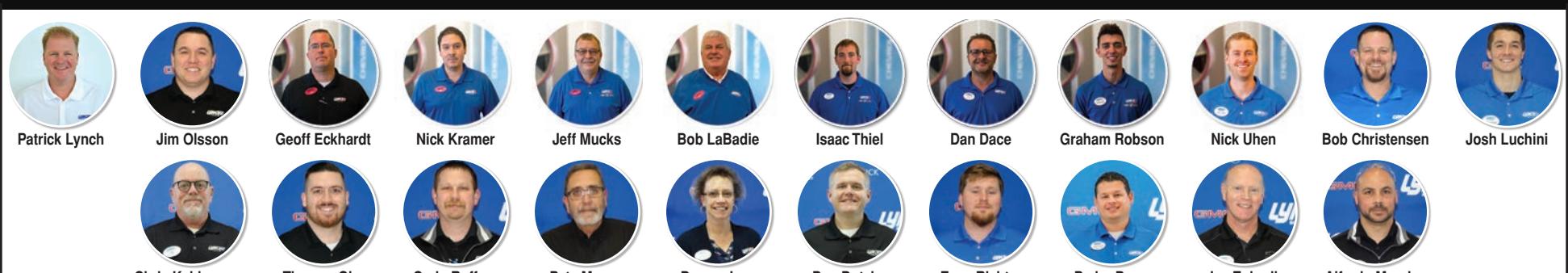
mittee.

"Our partnerships at both the state and federal levels have helped bring several large infrastructure projects to the finish line," said John Wasik, Lake County Legislative Committee Chair. "These funds will go a long way to support clean and accessible water systems in our county."

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# For the most part, incumbents beat back challengers amid low primary turnout statewide

By Peter Hancock  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

With only a few exceptions, incumbent officeholders in Illinois cruised to easy victories in primary elections last week that were marked by historically low voter turnout.

Although final numbers won't be known for several more days, preliminary returns from many of the state's larger counties showed turnout hovering in the range of 20-25 percent.

That compares to a statewide average of 47 percent in 2016, when the White House was an open race, and 28 percent during the pandemic-impacted primaries in 2020.

That may have been due to the fact that there were few truly competitive races for voters to decide, especially at the top of the ballot. Democratic President Joe Biden and Republican former President Donald Trump had both secured enough delegates to win their respective party nominations a full week before polls even

opened in Illinois.

One race that did prove competitive, though, was the 12th Congressional District race in southern Illinois, where incumbent Republican Mike Bost, of Murphysboro, survived a challenge from former state Sen. Darren Bailey, the unsuccessful GOP candidate for governor in 2022.

Bost is a former state legislator who was first elected to Congress in 2014. Bailey had served only one term in the state House and half a term in the state Senate before running for governor.

Both portrayed themselves as pro-Trump Republicans. Although Trump had endorsed Bailey in his bid for governor, he endorsed Bost in the primary.

Bailey conceded the race Tuesday night when unofficial returns showed Bost ahead by about 3 percentage points, with 96 percent of the votes counted.

Another close congressional race was in the 7th District of Chicago, where longtime in-

cumbent Democrat Danny Davis fended off challenges from Chicago City Treasurer Melissa Conyears-Ervin and community organizer Kina Collins among others.

Davis, who is 82, was first elected to Congress in 1996. Before that, he served on the Cook County Board of Commissioners and, starting in 1979, the Chicago City Council. Although his challengers argued it was time for a new generation to step into leadership, Davis drew on his support from Gov. JB Pritzker and other established Democrats to win the race with an estimated 53 percent of the vote.

In state legislative races, two Democratic lawmakers from the Chicago area were ousted by challengers in the primaries.

In the 20th Senate District, Democratic Sen. Natalie Toro was defeated by challenger Graciela Guzman.

Democratic Party officials appointed Toro to that seat to fill a vacancy when the last elected senator, Christina Pa-

cione-Zayas, resigned to take a job in Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson's administration. Toro had backing from Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, but Guzman was endorsed by liberal U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt.

And in the 31st District, Rep. Mary Flowers, the longest-serving member of the House who had fallen out of favor with Democratic leaders in recent months, lost her seat to challenger Michael Crawford.

House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, D-Hillside, appointed Flowers to his leadership team when he was elected speaker in 2021. But Welch removed her from leadership in 2023 amid allegations that she was abusive to staff. Welch endorsed and raised money for Crawford, who carried roughly 70 percent of the vote as of Wednesday.

Republican Rep. Blaine Wilhour, of Beecher City, fended off a challenge in the 110th House District from Matthew Hall, of Vandalia, who had the

backing of teachers unions and other organized labor groups.

Results were not immediately available, however, in the 102nd House District where another labor-backed candidate, Jim Acklin, of Ogden, was trying to unseat Rep. Adam Niemerg, of Dieterich. That's because both men were running as write-in candidates after Niemerg was removed from the ballot due to a technical error in his candidate filing and Acklin entered the race after the filing deadline.

In the 88th District of central Illinois, Decatur native Regan Deering, who ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 2022, edged out McLean County Board member Chuck Erickson in the Republican primary. That's a seat where incumbent Rep. Dan Caulkins, R-Decatur, is stepping down. No Democrat has entered that race so far.

In a race to replace retiring Sen. Win Stoller in the 37th Senate District, former Dixon Mayor Li Arellano Jr. won a three-way primary against

Henry County Board member Tim Yager and Chris Bishop, a former teacher and high school wrestling coach who now works in crop insurance.

In the 53rd Senate District, where incumbent Sen. Tom Bennett, R-Gibson City, is stepping down, Grundy County Board member Chris Balkema came out ahead in a four-way race against Susan Winn Bence, Jesse Faber, and Mark Kirkton.

And in the 58th District in southern Illinois, Sen. Terri Bryant, R-Murphysboro, the only incumbent senator to face a primary challenge, won her race against local attorney Wesley Kash.

In the 1st District Democratic primary for a Cook County seat on the Illinois Supreme Court, incumbent Justice Joyce Cunningham defeated challenger Jesse Reyes, an appellate court justice, by a roughly 75-25 percent margin. Cunningham was appointed to the seat in 2022 to replace retiring Justice Anne Burke.

## With recession fears subsiding, new state economic forecast expects 'firm but steady growth'

By Jerry Nowicki  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The state's two main fiscal forecasting agencies agree: Illinois' finances will see a strong close in the final 3 1/2 months of the fiscal year before things tighten a bit next year.

It's a picture laid out in Gov. JB Pritzker's budget proposal last month, and it got a vote of confidence last week from the legislature's fiscal forecasting body, the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability.

"So looking into fiscal year 25, what are we seeing? There is some concern going forward that the economy, or not necessarily the economy, but the revenues are slowing down," COGFA revenue manager Eric Noggle said at the annual revenue briefing to the bipartisan commission of lawmakers.

Still, COGFA staff noted general nationwide fears of a recession have subsided, and the scope of the potential slowdown is reflected in Pritzker's proposed spending plan for the upcoming fiscal year.

"During our last annual revenue meeting, we mentioned that many of the economic firms were still forecasting such a chance of a recession," COGFA executive director Clayton Klenke said. "But we mentioned that the data that we saw coming in month to month gave us greater confidence that the economy would continue to chug along. And that is what we have continued to see."

COGFA's revised revenue estimates expect the current fiscal year to end with \$52.6 billion in revenue, or about \$2 billion ahead of what lawmakers budgeted for last May. That estimate tracks closely with the revenue estimate released by the Governor's Office of Management and Budget in February. The GOMB estimate was about 0.7 percent, or \$374 million, below COGFA's updated projection.

Current-year revenue estimates have been driven upward by strong economic performance, as seen by an annual transfer from the state's income tax refund fund that exceeded expectations by \$255 million. Larger than expected transfers from that fund are a general indicator that individual household incomes are performing strong-

ly, driven by such factors as strong stock market or interest gains in the previous fiscal year.

But state coffers also saw about \$881 million in unexpected one-time revenues this year, according to COGFA. That includes \$633 million received from the federal government as reimbursement for Medicaid services the state failed to collect in previous fiscal years.

Because those one-time sources are not expected to repeat, COGFA is expecting revenues to decrease to about \$52.1 billion in the fiscal year that begins July 1.

That's \$916 million below GOMB's estimate that was included in Pritzker's budget proposal. But Pritzker's plan also anticipates raising more than \$1 billion in additional revenue through tax law changes, including more than doubling the state tax on sports betting and extending a cap on a tax credit for net operating losses that businesses can claim.

Factoring in those changes, COGFA's estimate would be about \$182 million above what the governor's office projected in February — a difference of just 0.3 percent.

Benjamin Varner, COG-

FA's chief economist, said the state's economic projections are largely based on data from the financial analytics group S&P Global.

S&P projected a 55 percent likelihood that the economy will progress "with firm but slowing growth." It projected a 30 percent likelihood of a "pessimistic" scenario which would entail "a short, two-quarter recession." A more optimistic scenario, marked by "stronger consumer demand and more banking support," was given a 15 percent likelihood.

Noggle noted sales tax revenues are a main area of concern, driven by a slowdown in "big item purchases." He said that was a result of the federal reserve keeping interest rates high, which discourages borrowing.

Growth in sales tax has also slowed as federal stimulus funds have waned, he said, and consumers are slowly moving back toward pre-pandemic trends of spending more money on untaxed services than on taxable goods. Wages and employment are still growing in Illinois, but at a slower pace than one year ago.

Sen. Elgie Sims, D-Chicago, noted Illinois' recent string of revenue overperformance is

at least partially attributable to the fact that lawmakers have adopted conservative revenue estimates.

"In these times of uncertainty, if things go bad, it could go really bad," Noggle responded. "And I think it's our responsibility to not provide a number that is too optimistic or too pessimistic."

Caution, Noggle noted earlier in the meeting, is one reason COGFA did not update its personal income tax estimates for the current fiscal year. April and May have generally been volatile and difficult to predict as far as state revenues go, he noted.

But Noggle said his "gut" tells him an upward revision in that category could still be on the horizon.

"Just personally doing my own taxes and talking to my father-in-law and my dad, that all three of us have had to pay more taxes than we expected," he said. "But the good news is, that's because the higher interest income that we've gained from our savings accounts and our CDs and stuff like that. So if that is the same case throughout the state, which it probably will be, I think revenues will turn out to be pretty good from final tax payments in this fiscal year."

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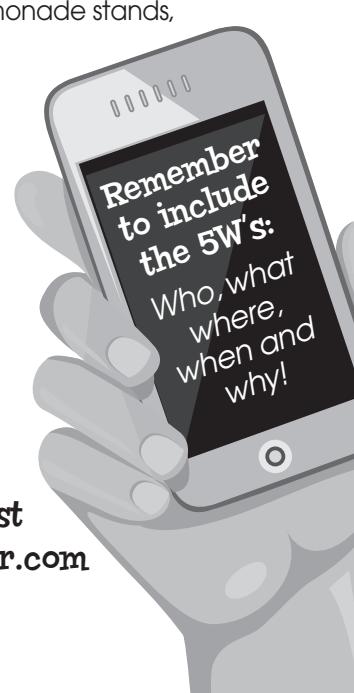
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# Lake County Sheriff's arrest bulletin

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.

## Feb. 17

Tyeshia R. Vaughn, 35, Waukegan, was cited for DUI – alcohol;

Estefania Cisneros, 26, Mundelein, was cited for disorderly conduct (misuse of 911);

## Feb. 18

Dawn M. Morgan, 47, Lake Barrington, was cited for DUI – alcohol;

Dennis G. Burdick, Jr., 55, McHenry, was cited for aggravated DUI.

## Feb. 19

Deidre A. McAllister, 33, Beach Park, was cited for a warrant arrest: aggravated assault;

Zaza Ramishvili, 57, Brooklyn, NY, was cited for operating a commercial vehicle without a CDL, and overweight on registration;

## Feb. 20

Wilber Pacheco Cisner, 23, Chicago, was cited for retail theft, and possession of stolen property;

Jose Hernandez, 27, Chicago, was cited for possession of stolen property;

Frankline Paez Padron, 28, Chicago, was cited for possession of stolen property;

Ronny Suarez Villalba, 30, Chicago, was cited for possession of stolen property and no driver's license;

Darus D. Wheeler, 34, Fort Lauderdale, FL, was cited for a warrant obtained: identity theft, burglary, unlawful use of a credit card, theft, and possessing the debit card of another;

Adrene L. Foreman, 31, Gainesville, FL, was cited for a warrant obtained: identity theft, burglary, unlawful use of a credit card, theft, and possessing the debit card of another;

Michael L. Lewis, 39, North Chicago, was cited for

a warrant arrest: unlawful use of a weapon;

Jonathan W. Brooks, 60, Round Lake, was cited for domestic battery;

Dale W. Simmons, 31, Chicago, was cited for DUI – alcohol;

David M. Dolan, 19, Lake Villa, was cited for theft;

## Feb. 21

Wayne L. Buechel, 54, Fox Lake, was cited for a warrant obtained: theft;

Tanveer Gill, 34, Waukegan, was cited for a warrant arrest: DUI – alcohol;

Bryon E. Kilgore, 66, Fort Mohave, AZ, was cited for a warrant arrest: arson (Wisconsin);

Luis A. Garcia, 45, no permanent address, was cited for a warrant arrest: DUI;

Melissa L. McAuly, 46, Grayslake, was cited for theft; Samuel Lopez-Alvarado, 25, Round Lake, was cited for domestic battery;

Diamonds J. Keys-Davis, 25, Waukegan, was cited for driving while license suspended;

Charles A. Draper, 63, Waukegan, was cited for aggravated speeding (78 mph in 40 mph zone);

## Feb. 22

April M. Reins, 27, Twin Lakes, WI, was cited for attempt escape, damage to state supported property, and resisting causing injury;

Thaxter O. McKnight, 30, Waukegan, was cited for driving with registration suspended, and obstructing identification;

Malcolm D. Green, 30, Waukegan, was cited for improper transportation of cannabis;

Brian W. Stedronsky, 43, Lake Villa, was cited for battery;

Ashlie Thatcher, 40, Mundelein, was cited for unlawful possession of meth, and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia;

Lawrence Duncan, 67, Vernon Hills, was cited for unlawful possession of drug

paraphernalia;

Lacrecia D. Jordan, 48, Zion, was cited for driving while license suspended;

Ricardo Jiminez, 45, Wadsworth, was cited for no driver's license;

Dylon J. Williams, 24, Zion, was cited for driving while license revoked;

Nichelle N. Edwards, 51, Zion, was cited for aggravated speeding (72 mph in 40 mph zone);

Carlos A. Murillo-Padilla, 24, Zion, was cited for driving while license suspended;

Vasyl Petruniak, 33, Harwood Heights, was cited for aggravated speeding (110 mph in 65 mph zone), and reckless driving;

Raul Orduno, 31, Des Plaines, was cited for DUI – alcohol;

Estefania Cisneros, 26, Mundelein, was cited for disorderly conduct – creating a false alarm;

Timothy Kinf, 36, Maywood, was cited for DUI – alcohol;

Jack D. Collins, 18, Wauconda, was cited for aggravated unlawful possession of a firearm, and unlawful use of a firearm;

## Feb. 23

Sean L. Crowder, 33, Beach Park, was cited for driving while license revoked, and unlawful possession of pyrotechnics;

James R. Fryar, 44, Volo, was cited for domestic battery;

Robert L. Minter, 35, North Chicago, was cited for leaving the scene of a crash;

Justice J. Gatlin, 26, Waukegan, was cited for driving while license suspended, and aggravated speeding (60 mph in 35 mph zone);

## Feb. 24

Luis E. Miranda Perez, Mundelein, was cited for domestic battery;

Luis A. Cartagena Osegura, 26, Waukegan, was cited for DUI – alcohol, and no insurance;

Dominic A. Kuhnelin, 22, Zion, was cited for DUI – drugs, and improper transportation of cannabis;

Michelle H. Lee, 30, Ver-

non Hills, was cited for harassment by electronic communication and disorderly conduct;

## Feb. 25

David J. Miller, 62, Gurnee, was cited for a warrant arrest: resisting a peace officer (Milwaukee County, WI);

Kirlyan J. Salazar, 43, Chicago, was cited for criminal trespass to property, obstructing identification and attempt unlawful possession of a controlled substance;

Juvenile, was cited for no driver's license;

Daniel T. Juarez, 30, Waukegan, was cited for aggravated speeding (90 mph in 55 mph zone).

## Feb. 26

Estefania Cisneros, 26, Mundelein, was cited for disorderly conduct – creating a false alarm;

Timothy Kinf, 36, Maywood, was cited for DUI – alcohol;

Jack D. Collins, 18, Wauconda, was cited for aggravated unlawful possession of a firearm, and unlawful use of a firearm;

## Feb. 27

Rachelle L. Kurth, 32, Zion, was cited for driving while license revoked;

Michael D. Edwards, 54, Zion, was cited for driving with suspended registration;

Adam S. Foster, 30, Fox Lake, was cited for criminal trespass to land;

Joshua B. Kurtz, 49, Spring Grove, was cited for a warrant arrest: theft;

Elizabeth Moore, 46, Waukegan, was cited for DUI – alcohol.

## Official misconduct charges brought against Waukegan City Clerk

The Lake County State's Attorney's Office brought charges of felony official misconduct and misapplication of funds against Waukegan City Clerk Janet Kilkelly after an extensive investigation by the Illinois State Police.

Kilkelly is accused in a 15-count indictment of illegally providing credits to Waukegan businesses that were applying for liquor and gambling licenses. The City Council and her own office repeatedly established that the credit would only go to businesses that were in "good standing." Despite the express language of the ordinance and Kilkelly's own recommendation to the City Council, Kilkelly gave thousands of dollars in credits to businesses that did not qualify for the financial support.

In 2022, felony charges were brought against Waukegan Alderman Roudell Kirkwood related to his application for liquor and gambling licenses. Those charges were investigated and filed by the Kane County State's Attorney's Office because State's Attorney Rinehart had previously represented a family member of Alderman Kirkwood. The Illinois State Police, Kane County State's Attorney's Office and the Lake County State's Attorney's Office concluded that no conflict existed with Lake County charging Kilkelly.

"The public must be able to trust that those who work in public service will follow the law and use our tax dollars as intended," said Illinois State Police Director Brendan F. Kelly. "The ISP Special Investigations Unit will continue working to ensure accountability at all levels of government."

After the indictments were filed in a Lake County

court, State's Attorney Eric Rinehart stated, "Public officials must be held to the highest standards. I want to thank the Illinois State Police for their diligent, thorough, and fair investigation into this matter. Taxpayers lost a significant amount of revenue. The City Clerk violated the public trust when she ignored her own recommendation and the final decision of the Waukegan City Council."

The case will be prosecuted by Chief Kevin Berrill and ASA Russell Caskey of the Lake County State's Attorney's Office Financial Crimes & Public Integrity Unit. The Unit worked with the Illinois State Police on the case throughout 2023 and 2024.

In 2022, felony charges were brought against Waukegan Alderman Roudell Kirkwood related to his application for liquor and gambling licenses. Those charges were investigated and filed by the Kane County State's Attorney's Office because State's Attorney Rinehart had previously represented a family member of Alderman Kirkwood. The Illinois State Police, Kane County State's Attorney's Office and the Lake County State's Attorney's Office concluded that no conflict existed with Lake County charging Kilkelly.

Kilkelly's first court date is April 2.

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