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~ including McHenry County News

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McHenry County Regional Training Center – Firearms Facility celebrates grand opening

McHenry County Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with the McHenry County Board, Village of Cary, Cary Police Department, Algonquin Police Department, McHenry Police Department, and Lake in the Hills Police Department, celebrated the grand opening of the McHenry County Regional Training Center – Firearms Facility with a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 23.

McHenry County Chairman Mike Buehler, Village of Cary Mayor Mark Kownick, and Sheriff Robb Tadelman spoke on the opening of the range, noting McHenry County's collaborative spirit. Chaplain Ron Rovner performed the invocation and blessed the building, praying for the safety of all police officers.

The Firearms Facility is an indoor law enforcement range with 11,000 square feet of space consisting of a ten line 50-yard range with a 35-person classroom, firearm cleaning room, and a range control room. The range is

designed specifically for law enforcement training, with mechanical targets and room for vehicles and other large objects for tactical training. The building was built within Village of Cary's Public Works property.

In the past, McHenry County Sheriff's Office utilized an outdoor range in Hartland or would travel across Chicagoland for trainings. Other participating agencies would rent space at private ranges to complete mandatory firearms training. Much like the Regional Training Center, the Firearms Facility will help to keep "McHenry County police officers trained to high standards efficiently and affordably in their backyard," said Sheriff Tadelman.

McHenry County Regional Training Center is set to host its first training in early June. McHenry County Regional Training Center, which is a complimentary building to the Firearms Facility, opened in October of last year.



Above: Village of Cary Mayor Mark Kownick, Chief Finlon, Chief Birk, Sheriff Tadelman, Chief Walker, Chief Frake, and Chairman Buehler pose before the ribbon cutting. Far left: MCSO Sgt. Eric Ellis demonstrates features of the range. Left: the building includes a classroom that seats 35 people. SUBMITTED PHOTOS HI-Liter/MCN

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Left: It's not uncommon to find a band playing outside of the Bremer Team Taphouse and Snack Bar before the movies start at the McHenry Outdoor Theater. Shown are members of the Bridgeport Ramblers. Right: A pair of moviegoers approach cashier



CYNTHIA WOLF PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Savannah Heidler at the fully renovated Bremer Team Taphouse and Snack Bar at the McHenry Outdoor Theater, that is now open seven days a week. For theater ticket prices, movie schedules and other information visit goldenagecinemas.com.

Excitement builds for starstruck summer at theater

Movies Make Memories Getaway contest adds to suspenseful season

Cynthia Wolf
CONTRIBUTOR

Kids kick a soccer ball across the grassy expanse below the towering screen. Heretofore strangers bond over a shared love of dogs. Families stake out the perfect seating arrangement in their truck beds.

The Rockwellian tapestry that plays out long before the sun sets and the first film credits roll is back in full force at the McHenry Outdoor Theater, 1510 Chapel Hill Road, Lakemoor, where the theater's weekends-only spring schedule transformed to seven days a week as of May 24.

"It's going to be an espe-

cially exciting summer season," said Scott Dehn, owner. "And the fun once again will continue through the fall and into December, like last year."

In addition to the thrill and anticipation of first-run films like "Inside Out 2" (June 21), "Despicable Me 4" (July 3), "Deadpool & Wolverine" (July 26), "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" (Sept. 6) and much more, a getaway contest currently in the works will spell a \$6,000 Universal Studios vacation for some lucky family.

The Movies Make Memories Getaway will include roundtrip airfare, four nights at the Cabana Bay Resort,

four-day park-to-park passes good for both Universal Studios Florida and Universal's Islands of Adventure theme parks, plus round-trip airport transfers for two adults and two children — with the ability to upgrade the length of the stay, the resort and the number of guests at the winner's expense.

The giveaway is a joint venture between the Outdoor, The Bremer Team — Keller Williams Success Realty and Worldwide Traveler.

For Worldwide Traveler, it's part of their 40th anniversary celebration, said Darrellynn Hanes, president. "We are so happy to be a part of

this wonderful sweepstakes to help send a family to Universal Orlando," Hanes said. "Creating travel memories is what we do best!"

Dawn Bremer is owner and president of The Bremer Team, which two years ago formed a business partnership with the Outdoor that has led to extensive and now fully completed renovations at the concession building. Now known as the Bremer Team Taphouse and Snack Bar, choices there include pizza, treats from Rita's Italian Ice & Frozen Custard, beer, wine, soft drinks, popcorn and more.

Bremer said getaway ex-

citement is sure to build as the season goes on, and is just what a frenzied world needs. "We just want to spread joy and hope that it's contagious," she said.

Dehn said he's thrilled to add yet another element of suspense to moviegoers' experience.

"I've always wanted this place to be more than just a movie theater," he said. "I'm always trying to find ways to increase the content of what visitors receive for the price of admission, and getaway prize eligibility is one way to do that. This is one heck of a prize!"

Ten names will be drawn

each month starting in June and continuing into December. Of the 70 who gain eligibility, the grand prize winner will be drawn in December, and will have until December 2025 to use the getaway. Full contest details will be posted soon on all three businesses' websites as well as on their Facebook pages, Dehn, Bremer and Hanes said.

For theater ticket pricing, carload specials, movie schedules and other information, visit goldenagecinemas.com. Also visit worldwide-traveler.net and bremerteam.com to watch for the latest getaway news, and eligibility opt-in opportunities.

Nursing home industry unlikely to see much help from Springfield in tough budget year

Nursing homes still grappling with worker shortage, cost increases

By Hannah Meisel
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

It's been four years since some of the worst scenes of COVID-19 played out in locked-down nursing homes during the early months of the pandemic.

But while most of the world has moved on, the nursing home industry is still reeling from COVID, which exacerbated pre-existing challenges in long-term care—difficulties hiring and retaining staff and a population more reliant on government-funded care chief among them.

Employment in skilled nursing facilities nationwide as of February was down 8.3 percent compared with February of 2020, the month before the pandemic hit. Although the current staffing levels have somewhat recovered from their lowest point in early spring 2022—when staffing was down 15.5 percent from pre-pandemic levels—other areas within health care have recovered much faster, according to a Kaiser Family Foundation analysis.

The hourly cost of hiring a registered nurse increased 12.5 percent nationwide between 2020 and 2022, to \$40.84 on average, according to a recent report by national consulting firm Marcum LLP. But amid a shrinking pool of RNs applying for jobs at skilled nursing facilities, many operators are forced to hire temporary contract nurses who earn, on average, 70 percent more than the average RN salary. Hiring certified nursing assistants, or CNAs,

has followed a similar trend.

Marcum's report, which focused on the three-year period after COVID hit in 2020, cited rising wages in other industries as a key reason for CNAs to leave the industry "and further drive up wage rates and increase the agency pool usage."

For brothers Moe and Sam Freedman, owners of St. Louis-based Accolade Healthcare, the increase in staffing costs and the inflation-driven increase in other costs for operating the home—from food to medical supplies to insurance—have become "very unmanageable," president and CEO Moe Freedman said in a recent interview. His company has been operating in the red.

Accolade runs seven skilled nursing facilities in central Illinois, in addition to one assisted living facility in East Peoria. The Freedmans entered the industry in 2017, growing from their first acquisition of a pair of nursing homes in Paxton and Pontiac. They've since bought homes from independent operators and said operating a long-term care facility as a "mom-and-pop shop" is "virtually impossible," as rising costs need to be spread across a portfolio of homes for the business to be workable.

"Our cash flow is—we're hemorrhaging and it's dire," Moe Freedman told Capitol News Illinois. "I don't see us growing anytime soon and I don't know if we'll be at the same level in a year from now

at the rate that we're at right now."

Keeping staffing up has also been a challenge due to the changing nature of who lives in nursing homes. In recent years, wealthier people have trended toward staying in their homes and receiving care from visiting nurses and CNAs. As a result, facilities are more dependent on—and at the mercy of—Medicaid reimbursement rates instead of private payers, which had long been a more stable source of revenue.

Overall nursing home census rates haven't recovered since the pandemic either.

"We're forced to cut staff because more patients don't come in the door, yet, when we do see new patients, their level of care has intensified," Nikki Dinsmore, regional director of operations for Zahav Healthcare Consulting said last month at a Capitol news conference. "They're being discharged from the hospital sooner and their care needs are greater."

Zahav, which operates a nursing home in Des Plaines, has been "losing workers to jobs in the hospital or telehealth," Dinsmore said, not to mention jobs in totally different sectors like retail and food service.

But even as the industry grapples with greater reliance on Medicaid instead of private payers, state Sen. Dave Syverson, R-Rockford, said nursing homes have to be ready to absorb patients when their needs become too great

for home care—like his mother, who died earlier this year at age 93.

"We provided home care for her but that started to get more expensive as we had to have visiting nurses, we had to have an aide in there," he said, adding that 24-hour care at a nursing home also felt safer toward the end. "Then you had to have oxygen brought in. And when you start looking at what the daily cost was for us to have her at home, it ended up being cheaper for us in the last couple of months of her life to move her to a nursing home."

'We are still well underwater'

Forty-nine Illinois nursing homes closed between 2019 and 2022, according to the state's Department of Public Health; 2023 data is not yet available. In that same time period, six new facilities opened, for a net loss of 43. The closures mean more than 2,500 nursing home beds have vanished.

Peoria-based Petersen Health Care, which operates more than 90 nursing and senior care homes in Illinois, Iowa and Missouri, filed for bankruptcy in March, estimating it had nearly \$300 million in debt. A federal bankruptcy judge approved a plan last week for the company to borrow \$45 million to keep operating throughout bankruptcy proceedings.

Petersen plans to sell off its assets this summer, according to the company's proposed

timeline. Whether the homes remain open beyond that will be up to the winning bidder.

Petersen is far from the only nursing home operator to face bankruptcy; according to a new report from national law firm Polsinelli, health care companies' levels of real estate distress—a term for properties on the brink of or already in foreclosure—is the highest it's been in 15 years. The report noted significant distress in nursing homes in particular.

The Freedmans said it's scary to look around their industry and see operators they admired having to close their facilities. They told Capitol News Illinois they worry about the possibility of facing that outcome themselves.

Sam Freedman, Accolade's CFO, said federal stimulus money during the pandemic "kind of bridged the gap" between losses and an increase in Illinois' Medicaid reimbursement rate the General Assembly approved in 2022.

"The increased rate really helped us get over the hump once that (stimulus) money started running out," he said. "It's not helping us, you know, be profitable, but it's helping us survive."

The \$700 million increase in funding for nursing home staffing came after two years of negotiating with the industry. Matt Pickering, executive director of the for-profit nursing home advocacy group Health Care Council of Illinois, pointed to the state's years of depressed Medicaid

reimbursement rates before the 2022 increase, which he said in a recent interview represented a 12 percent increase—but only "brings us up to 2017 costs."

"Even though we got that increase, we are still well underwater," he said. "We're not ungrateful. But we're still scrambling."

The law also included \$83 million to help long-term care providers launch recruitment efforts with an apprenticeship model.

But operators say it's not nearly enough to stem the bleeding in their staffing levels.

Accolade has set up its own CNA "school," in which CNAs are pre-hired as "auxiliary aides" and do weeks of classroom and clinical work at two of its locations. While the setup has helped Accolade wean itself off depending on agency CNAs, except in rural areas, Moe Freedman said the state has lagged on paying for the CNA incentive program by about six months.

"We are compensating CNAs at a rate that is not really appropriate for the Medicaid reimbursement rate," he said. "But we are anticipating this revenue source that (the state) promised us and they continuously drag out that reimbursement."

But with a tight budget year, leaders in the General Assembly can't promise a huge windfall for the struggling industry. House Major-

Treasurer's office open on Saturday before first property tax installment due

The McHenry County Treasurer's Office will be open the Saturday before the first property tax installment is due, to offer more options for those wishing to pay in person.

The Treasurer's Office at 2100 N. Seminary Ave., Woodstock, will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, June 8 – two days before the Monday, June 10 due date for the first installment. Taxpayers can pay in the lobby, or through one of the office's four drive-thru lanes. The Treasurer's Office accepts check, cash, and debit/credit card payments.

Also, the office will hold the same hours on Saturday, Sept. 7, prior to the Sept. 10 due date for the second and final installment.

"Last year was the first time we offered Saturday hours before the installment due date. Our goal is to provide our taxpayers with the payment flexibility they deserve," Treasurer Donna Kurtz said. "We strive to make paying taxes as easy and convenient as possible – and with our new VIP Taxpayer program and our hassle-free E-Check system, it's easier than ever before."

The VIP Taxpayer program unveiled earlier this month allows property owners to regis-

ter to schedule electronic payments, get reminders of due dates, and sign up to receive next year's bill electronically. Taxpayers still can pay by electronic check (E-Check) without paying any processing fees as a VIP Taxpayer, or as a one-time online payer.

To sign up as a VIP Taxpayer or simply make a one-time payment, you can scan the QR code on the upper right of your property tax bill or visit treasurer.mchenry-countyil.gov.

To pay your property taxes electronically via E-Check, visit treasurer.mchenry-countyil.gov and click on "Look Up/Pay Your Tax Bill." Once you look up your tax bill, you can click on "Pay Taxes" to begin the process. To pay by phone, call 877-220-2247 and follow the prompts. When you pay via E-Check, write down the payment confirmation code you will receive so you have this for your records.

If you wish to pay by mail, send the payment (please do not send cash) along with the payment coupon to: McHenry County Collector, PO Box 8730, Carol Stream, IL 60197-8730, or use the payment envelope provided. If paying by check, please write your property parcel number on it.

Many local banks accept walk-in property tax payments. A list of these participating McHenry County banks, and the communities where they are located can be found at treasurer.mchenry-countyil.gov. Keep in mind that credit and debit card payments are not accepted at these local banks – you must bring your tax bill or a copy of it, and there may be other procedures.

Regular office hours for the Treasurer's Office are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. In addition, the Treasurer's Office has two 24-hour drop boxes, one walk-up and one drive-up. Dropoff payments can be a check or money order (no cash), made payable to the McHenry County Collector and placed in an envelope with the payment coupon.

If you have questions, please call the Treasurer's Office at 815-334-4260, or email treasurer@mchenry-countyil.gov. The Treasurer's Office is responsible solely for collecting property taxes and does not calculate a property's value or determine its tax rates. Contact information for taxing bodies and township assessors is printed on your tax bill.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Palm Warblers are among the millions of birds that migrate through Lake County each year.

County Board passes groundbreaking bird-friendly building design policy

The Lake County Board approved a new policy that will keep birds at the top of mind on all newly constructed and renovated Lake County government-owned facilities. The primary aim of the policy is to mitigate hazards for birds posed by the building environment, particularly from collisions with glass surfaces.

The policy, which went into effect May 14, 2024, requires newly constructed Lake County government-owned facilities to use at least 80 percent bird-friendly glass on their exteriors from ground level to 100 feet high. If Lake County renovates or adds on to one of its facilities, then 80 percent of the glass and reflective materials utilized in the project must be bird-friendly as well.

"As many as one billion birds are potentially killed by collisions into buildings every year in the United States," said Sandy Hart, Lake County Board Chair. "I'm proud of our Board and staff for being leaders on this issue that will truly make a difference for our resident and migratory birds that live or pass through Lake County."

Lake County lies within the Mississippi Flyway, one of the major bird migratory routes in North America. According to Birdcast, a service managed by Colorado State University, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst, more than 30 million birds have crossed the region thus far this spring. On any given night, hundreds of thousands of birds pass through the area.

"Bird-friendly design is so important for us to incorporate into structures in Lake County," said Paul Frank, Lake County Finance and Administrative Committee Chair

and Board Member for District 11. "We are situated in a major migratory bird flyway. We must find ways to reduce the numbers of birds killed in building collisions. Bird-friendly design is entirely affordable and achievable. Our County is once again leading the way and we hope that municipalities, other counties, businesses and residents will join us and adopt bird-friendly practices in the near future."

The Lake County Planning, Building, Zoning and Environment (PBZ&E) Committee also gave the green light at its last meeting to move forward with a proposed ordinance for bird-friendly design requirements on new construction and renovations on non-residential properties and non-residential planned unit developments (PUDs) in unincorporated Lake County. The ordinance is expected to be voted on for adoption by the Lake County Board on June 11.

"The Lake County Board and staff have been working on a bird-friendly design ordinance for several years," said Jessica Vealitzek, Chair of the PBZ&E Committee and Board Member for District 10. "Taking accountability for our own government buildings is the first step; next we will consider a revised ordinance for commercial buildings. Each year, these actions will save the lives of an increasing number of birds, who are such an important part of our ecosystem."

The Lake County Board continues to put a strong emphasis on protecting and enhancing the natural environment through its strategic plan. Learn more about the County's sustainability efforts at lakecountyil.gov/sustainability.

MCCD upcoming events

Glacial Park Team Challenge

Saturday, June 1, 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., North Branch Conservation Area, Richmond.

Grab a friend for this non-competitive biking, paddling and off trail hiking adventure. Ages 14+. Registration required.

Cicada Celebration

Sunday, June 2, noon to 4 p.m., Fox Bluff Conservation Area, Cary.

Join in on a self-directed afternoon full of education, hikes and fun about the amazing life cycle and ecology of cicadas.

Cycling without Age - Hebron Trail

Saturday, June 1, multiple time slots available, Petersen Park, south of Peterson Park Road.

Feel the wind in your hair! Bring an elder out for a pleasant ride along one of the beautiful McHenry

County Conservation District trails, provided by Cycling Without Age McHenry County and conducted by trained volunteers in a comfortable, open-air tri-shaw. One passenger must be age 55+.

Bubbling Bobolinks

Wednesday, June 5, 6-8:30 p.m., Glacial Park Conservation Area, Kettle parking lot, Ringwood.

Join resident bird enthusiast Dave Miller for an evening walk in search of grassland birds at Glacial Park. Listen for the 'bubbling' calls of the bobolink along the way. After the walk gather at the Lost Valley Visitor Center to tally bird counts. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. Ages 14+.

First Friday Concert: Mike Novello Acoustic Explosion

Friday, June 7, 7-8:30 p.m., at Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park, Ringwood.

Join us on the first Friday of each month for an evening of music under the oaks. Mike Novello Acoustic Explosion perform acoustic versions of your favorites from the 70s to current. All ages welcome.

Discovery Days: Soil Friends

Friday, June 14, 10-11 a.m., Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park.

Enjoy a morning of fun, educational activities focused on our special theme of the day: creatures that call soil home! Ages 2-6.

Explore Birds

Friday, June 14, 2-3 p.m., Silver Creek Conservation Area, Cary.

Search for birds and other wildlife as you hike through the various habitats along the trail. Binoculars are provided. Ages 7+.

Stroller Strut

Saturday, June 15, 10-11 a.m., Fel-Pro RRR Conserva-

tion Area, Cary.

Enjoy nature on this casual stroller walk. By using your senses and descriptive words, you become more familiar with the natural world around us. Ages less than 6.

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

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New vendors at Riverwalk Shoppes open for business

The ribbon cutting for this season's occupants of the McHenry Riverwalk Shoppes was held on Friday, May 3 at 1202 Riverside Drive, McHenry. This year's tenants are: AteaCo Coffee and Tea, Bright Nest, Edge Designs, KEST Jewelry,

Marvin's Toy Store, Patina Wine Shop, Preserved Peculiarities, The Bumble Bread Co., The Pieceful Project and Vintage Mercantile. Riverwalk hours are Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sundays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Jennifer Clark, Lake County Board member, is shown speaking at the Broadband Communities Summit in Texas. The Summit brought leaders together to discuss strategies for delivering connectivity to communities across the country.

Board member addresses broadband infrastructure at national summit

Lake County Board Member Jennifer Clark recently spoke about the county's efforts to address digital equity at the Broadband Communities Summit in The Woodlands, Texas.

The Summit brought together community and industry leaders, property owners and network infrastructure builders to discuss strategies for delivering connectivity to communities across the country.

Illinois is positioned to gain more than \$1 billion in federal broadband funding over the next five years in addition to state investments. Community and industry leaders came together to collaborate as to how to make sure this record investment leads to sustainable economic opportunity for all communities.

Clark, Chair of the County Board's Special Committee on Broadband, served as one of the panelists where she shared the

steps Lake County is taking to expand countywide access to reliable high-speed broadband infrastructure. This includes researching opportunities to remove barriers to affordable internet and expand digital literacy programs.

"High-speed internet access is so important for everything from remote work to school to telehealth to keeping in touch with friends and family," Clark said. "Lake County is committed to investing in broadband infrastructure and digital access programs, so all residents are equipped with the resources needed to participate in an increasingly digital society."

The County has emerged as a leader in addressing digital equity after launching the Lake County Digital Growth Initiative (DGI) to better understand the current state of high-speed internet service availability and digital equity

within the county and implement solutions. More than 3,800 households and businesses in the county are located in areas with internet service considered unserved or underserved, which are below the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) standards for high-speed internet.

As part of our countywide initiative, a Digital Equity Coalition has been launched. Open to government, private, community and nonprofit organizations, the focus is to connect those interested in improving digital equity in the county. The Coalition will meet regularly to discuss projects and collaborate with members to implement these plans.

Learn more at the Lake county Digital Growth Initiative page on the website at <https://www.lakecountyl.gov/4930/Digital-Growth-Initiative>.

Regional Planning Commission completes Draft 2050 Comprehensive Plan

The McHenry County Regional Planning Commission tasked with reviewing the county's Comprehensive Plan has completed its draft of the update that will guide the county into 2050.

McHenry County's 2050 Comprehensive Plan, developed with the assistance of the consulting firm Houseal Lavigne Associates, is the first update of the county's current plan, which was adopted in 2010. The Comprehensive Plan is intended to guide land use, development and redevelopment, as well as the preservation of natural, water and agricultural resources.

The draft plan includes the following subject chapters:

- Land Use and Development
- Agricultural Resources
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Transportation
- Water Resources
- Green Infrastructure
- Energy Infrastructure
- Historic Preservation

The Regional Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to solicit comments on the draft 2050 Comprehensive Plan prior to its submission to the County Board for adoption. The hearing will start at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 16, in Conference Room A of the County Administration Building, 667 Ware Road, Woodstock. The hearing will begin with an overview presentation of the plan, after which attendees can offer

See PLAN, Page 6

You ought to be in pictures!

THIS IS AN OPEN CALL FOR SUBMITTED PHOTOS TO BE USED IN YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER.

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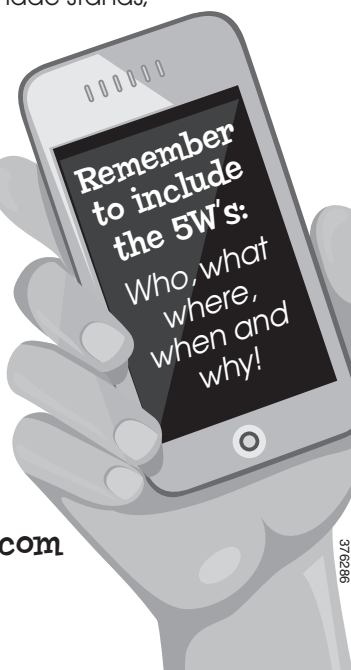
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PHOTOS MAY ALSO APPEAR ON OUR WEB SITE.

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Pet of the week

Quaid, is about 4 years old, neutered, up-to-date on routine shots, tested negative for FIV, feline leukemia and heartworm 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.

College news

Findlay earns degree from Utah Tech University

Skye Findlay of Antioch, was among the 2,967 students at Utah Tech University that celebrated at its 113th Commencement ceremonies on May 3 in St. George, Utah.

Wagner honored for media work at UW-Whitewater

Heidi Wagner, a Histo-

ry major from Antioch, at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, is one of 17 Warhawks to claim a Wisconsin Community Media Best of the Midwest award for their work on UWW-TV during the 2023-24 academic year.

Wagner earned the following award: third place, UWW-TV News - "Warhawk Marching Band is off to Lambeau Field"

Award winners were rec-

ognized at the Best of the Midwest Media Fest banquet and show on May 16 in Eau Claire.

The 2024 Best of the Midwest Media Fest celebrates local Public, Education, and Government (PEG) Access programming and Low-Power Community Radio programming. The event recognizes local programming produced by both professionals and amateurs and provides producers

with feedback on their work from a slate of four judges.

Lindstrom receives academic award

Antioch student Annika Lindstrom received recognition for having one of the highest GPAs among the Class of 2026 at the Honors Convocation held during Albion College's recent Elkin R. Isaac Student Research Symposium.

Albion College faculty nominate the recipients of departmental awards based on the students' exemplary work, academic potential, and leadership contributions.

Lindstrom is a junior at Albion College and is a member of the Prentiss M. Brown Honors Program. Lindstrom is a resident of Antioch and is a graduate of Antioch Community High School.

Johnson featured on UW-Whitewater's 'Hired Before Graduation' campaign

Mckayla Johnson, from Antioch, who recently graduated with a B.S. in communication sciences and disorders at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, was recognized in the university's Hired Before Graduation campaign.

See COLLEGE, Page 6



SUDDENLY IT'S SUMMER SALE!*



 240580A 2018 NISSAN ROGUE SV \$10,140	 P15887 2021 KIA FORTE LXS \$13,897	 P15877 2021 NISSAN VERSA SV \$14,187	 P15924A 2018 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING L PLUS \$15,964	 P15923 2021 NISSAN ALTIMA SV \$17,132
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 240473C2 2018 GENESIS G80 \$22,790	 P15693A 2017 GMC SIERRA 1500 SLT \$22,986	 P15968 2022 TOYOTA RAV4 XLE \$24,986	 P15942 2021 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER RS \$25,211	 P15914 2022 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING L \$25,737
 P16059 2022 AUDI Q3 S LINE PREMIUM \$28,372	 P16008 2022 ALFA ROMEO STELVIO TI \$30,490	 F240294A WILLYS 2021 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED \$34,737	 P15589 2022 CADILLAC CT4-V SERIES \$39,990	 P15684 DIESEL 2021 CHEVY TAHOE HIGH COUNTRY \$59,719


 Patrick Lynch


 Jim Olsson


 Geoff Eckhardt


 Nick Kramer


 Jeff Mucks


 Bob LaBadie


 Isaac Thiel


 Tyler Swanson


 Graham Robson


 Nick Uhen


 Bob Christensen


 Josh Luchini


 Chris Kahlmorgan


 Thomas Gier


 Craig Roffers


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 Dan Dotzler


 Evan Richter


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Sheriff's reports

Man arrested for sexually assaulting intellectually disabled woman

A Beach Park man was taken into custody by Lake County Sheriff's Detectives following an investigation that revealed he had sexually assaulted a woman with an intellectual disability.



Alfredo De La Cruz

On May 17, Lake County Sheriff's Deputies responded to an area hospital because a woman being treated at the hospital for a panic attack disclosed her daughter had been sexually assaulted. Sheriff's detectives responded and spoke to the woman more in-depth about the allegation.

Sheriff's detectives learned the victim's mother cleans a home in the 10200 block of West Fairbanks Avenue, Beach Park. She has been cleaning the home for approximately two years and

brings her adult non-verbal, intellectually disabled daughter with her when she cleans. The victim usually stayed in the living room of the home while her mother cleaned.

The mother of the victim became suspicious of the homeowner, Alfredo De La Cruz, 70, of the above address, after she noticed he appeared to be zipping his pants when she came downstairs into the living room area, where her daughter was located. When at the house to clean last week, the mother of the victim placed a recording device to monitor her daughter. After leaving the home, she watched the video and found De La Cruz was forcing her daughter into sexual acts.

Sheriff's detectives reviewed the facts and circumstances with the Lake County State's Attorney's Office which approved the charges of: Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault of an In-

tellectually Disabled Person (Class X Felony), Two Counts of Criminal Sexual Assault (Class 1 Felonies), and Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse of an Intellectually Disabled Person (Class 2 Felony)

Sheriff's detectives obtained an arrest warrant and arrested De La Cruz on May 21. Sheriff's detectives also conducted a search warrant at De La Cruz' home following his arrest and obtained evidence related to the crime.

The Lake County State's Attorney's Office filed a petition to detain De La Cruz in custody. De La Cruz was being held in the Lake County Jail pending his detention hearing.

Serious injury crash under investigation

A 29-year-old Marengo woman was injured following a two-vehicle crash on Illinois Route 176 at Union

Road in unincorporated Union.

On Thursday May 23, at 10:13 a.m., members of the McHenry County Sheriff's Office, Marengo Fire & Rescue, Union Fire Protection District and LifeNet responded to a crash involving two vehicles which resulted in injuries to one driver.

Preliminary investigation indicates that a 2021 Dodge Durango was traveling westbound on Illinois Route 176. A 2001 International Dump Truck was traveling northbound on Union Road. The International failed to stop for the posted stop sign at the intersection of Route 176 and struck the Dodge on the driver side of the vehicle. The vehicles exited the roadway to the northwest, coming to rest in an upright position. There are no traffic controls on Route 176 at this intersection.

The driver of the Durango was flown by LifeNet from the scene to Condell Medical Center in Libertyville and is listed in stable condition. The driver of the International, a 41-year-old Mundelein man, refused medical treatment on scene and appeared to be uninjured.

Both drivers were wearing seatbelts and alcohol is not believed to be a factor of the crash.

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

Drug trafficker detained under new system that ensures 'drug money' doesn't lead to a 'revolving door'

On May 14, a Lake County Judge granted the State's petition to detain Travier Bunch, 32, who is being charged with 17 counts of Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Deliver (Class X, 1, and 2 Felonies).

On May 9, Bunch was arrested after Waukegan Police Officers conducted a traffic stop and located several controlled substances including cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and fentanyl.

Bunch had been placed under surveillance following an investigation conducted by the Lake County Sheriff's Special Investigations Group (SIG), a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) funded task force, in which Bunch sold drugs to undercover SIG detectives.

During the detention hearing, the State argued that Bunch's pre-trial release would pose a real and present threat to the safety of the community because there is no doubt that Bunch intended to distribute the dangerous substances that were discovered in the vehicle he was driving.

The State further argued that the illegal substances are highly addictive with dangerous withdrawal symptoms and that the substances are also very likely to lead to death when consumed.

After the detention hearing, Lake County State's Attorney Eric Rinehart stated,

"Drug traffickers, like this offender, often have access to large amounts of cash. Now, under the SAFE-T Act, when someone sells Fentanyl or other deadly drugs, we can end the revolving door of people using drug money to post bond. Look at the Lake County case of Anthony Brown – a drug dealing case recently highlighted by the Sheriff's office. Brown posted \$22,500 in 2020 and then in 2021, he was arrested again on drug charges and posted cash again. In total, Brown posted \$75,000, to obtain release. Brown then fled the state and has active warrants for his arrest. Now, when we catch Brown, he won't be able to post any bail – of any amount."

In April 2021, Anthony Brown was arrested and charged with Manufacturing/Delivery of More than 900 Grams of Cocaine (Class X Felony), Unlawful Possession of More than 900 Grams of Cocaine (Class X Felony), Felon in Possession of a Firearm (Class 2 Felony).

Bunch is scheduled for a preliminary hearing on June 13.

Plan (Continued from page 4)

verbal comments to the commission.

The draft 2050 Comprehensive Plan can be found on the project website at <https://www.hplanning.com/portals/>

mchenrycountycomplan. The public also can submit comments by email to RWHanlon@mchenrycountyil.gov, or by mail to McHenry County Department of Planning and Development, 2200 N.

Seminary Ave., Woodstock, IL 60098. All email and written comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 10, and will be provided to the commission in advance of the public hearing.

College (Continued from page 5)

Every year, UW-Whitewater showcases the many students who have landed a job, earned a job promotion, been accepted to graduate school or started a company before commencement. These students are invited to take a professional photo and be recognized on the university's social media channels. The photos can be viewed on UW-Whitewater's Facebook page.

reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University is located in Manchester, NH.

Western Technical College names Watkinson to President's List

Matthew Watkinson, from Antioch, was named to Western Technical College's President's List of High Distinction for the Spring 2024 term.

To be included on the President's List, students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher and carry six or more credits in an associate's degree or technical diploma program.

UW-Whitewater announces spring 2024 Dean's List

The following students were named to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Dean's List for the 2024 spring semester.

- Antioch, Alex Barbarise
- Antioch, Bryanna Dati
- Richmond, Hailey Fish
- Richmond, Joy Holian
- Antioch, Mckayla Johnson
- Antioch, McKenna Kalisz
- Antioch, Haley Kozlow
- Antioch, IL Jennifer Moffat
- Richmond, Leland Robinson
- Antioch, Riley Signa
- Antioch, Tyler Skutnik
- Antioch, Sarah Smith
- Antioch, Emily Thatcher
- Antioch, Alyssa Ulmer
- Antioch, Madelyn Welbel

These students have demonstrated their academic abilities by receiving a grade point average of 3.4 or above in a single semester.

Budget (Continued from page 2)

ity Leader Robyn Gabel, D-Evanston, who leads a working group on Medicaid issues, told Capitol News Illinois the industry asked for \$75 million to make up for increased property taxes, which the state had at one time subsidized.

But in the waning days of legislative session, Gabel said the working group is still exploring ways to help the industry but was explicit that General Assembly can't give the industry anywhere near the \$75 million it requested.

"You know, last year we gave just about every sector a rate increase," she said. "Did we give them what they wanted? No; we probably cut every request in half. And it still added up to a billion dollars... It was like a huge, huge increase. So this year, we've really tried to rein back and just not do those kinds of rate increases."

Gov. JB Pritzker last summer used his power of amendatory veto to nix a provision in a broader property tax bill that would have brought property taxes for nursing homes in Cook County in line with those for other residential health care settings. The industry claimed it would have provided "critical relief" to 300 nursing homes in Cook County.

But Pritzker disagreed, siding with local mayors who complained the resulting shift in property tax burden would especially hurt municipalities in Chicago's south suburbs. Despite the General Assembly's unanimous support on the original bill, lawmakers declined to override the gov-

ernor during their fall veto session, and Gabel indicated the issue wouldn't be taken up again "in that way."

Minimum staffing rule

The industry is also fearful a new federal rule designed to implement minimum staffing ratios will have the unintended effect of further closures. More than two years after announcing a plan to set mandatory staffing minimums at skilled nursing facilities, President Joe Biden's administration last month implemented a new rule to phase in those minimums over the next five years.

Organized labor, including caregiving juggernaut Service Employees International Union, supported the rule, which will require skilled nursing facilities provide residents with a minimum 3.48 hours of nursing care per day, including at least 33 minutes of care from a registered nurse and nearly 2 1/2 hours of care from a nurse's aide. Additionally, the rule will require facilities have a registered nurse on site at all times.

In a statement after the rule was finalized, Katie Smith Sloan, president and CEO of nonprofit nursing home industry group LeadingAge, pointed out that "schools are not graduating enough nurses" to fill either currently open positions or those projected to open in the future. She added that registered nurses, or RNs, are leaving the workforce, and those who are staying are "typically choosing to work in environments that are not long-term care."

"How can providers hire more RNs when they do not exist?" she said in a statement.

After the Biden administration released its proposed rule in September, a KFF analysis found that fewer than one in five nursing homes nationwide would be able to meet the staffing minimums outlined in the rule without having to hire more staff.

Gabel said she was attempting to address staffing issues by sponsoring a measure that would allow CNAs to dispense some medications in order to free up RNs to provide more care. She shepherded Senate Bill 774 through a House committee earlier this month, despite pushback from several groups that represent nurses, and it awaits a vote in the full chamber. It previously passed the Senate with only one vote against it.

Syverson, who's long been involved in nursing home issues, blamed Democrats for prioritizing funding for Medicaid-style health care for noncitizens—a pair of recent programs that could cost nearly \$700 million in the current fiscal year – and mandating that insurers cover an increasing roster of procedures.

But, Gabel said, the state can only do so much when the entire nursing home industry is up against trends that have been festering for years.

"I mean, there are nursing homes closing," she said. "And, you know, it's just possible that there aren't enough people to fill the beds ... There's nothing I can do about that business model."

HI-LITER

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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.

April 1
Frederick G. Warren, 37, Grayslake, was cited for a warrant obtained: unauthorized video recording;

Tatiana L. Freeman, 23, Round Lake Beach, was cited for no driver's license, and suspended registration;

Allison J. Sweeney, 31, Grayslake, was cited for attempt possession of a controlled substance;

Casey S. Marshall, 32, South Bend, IN, was cited for criminal trespass to property;

April 2
Zion M. Fleming, 23, Beach Park, was cited for a warrant arrest: burglary;

April 3
Dorothy F. Seitz, 37, Martinsburg, WV, was cited for a warrant obtained: violating an order of protection;

Juvenile, was cited for no driver's license;

Andrew J. Price, 25, Silver Lake, WI, was cited for leaving the scene of an accident;

Kenneth D. Grays, Jr., 27, Zion, was cited for a warrant arrest: DUI, and theft;

April 4
Victor M. Murillo, 21, Waukegan, was cited for a warrant arrest: DUI - alcohol (Kane County);

Nilsen Ocampo, 31, Beach Park, was cited for driving while license suspended;

April 5
Mirianna Best, 31, Park City, was cited for no driver's license, suspended registration and no insurance;

Gerardo A. Yanes, 44, Round Lake, was cited for aggravated speeding (90 mph in 55 mph zone);

Dillon D. Leeds, 27, Russell, was cited for a warrant arrest: attempt to disarm a peace officer;

Joshua P. Hayhurst, 20, Antioch, was cited for a warrant arrest: resisting arrest, criminal damage to property, domestic battery and disorderly conduct;

Minhaj M. Haji, 28, Skokie, was cited for aggravated speeding (72 mph in 35 mph zone);

April 7
Leticia Martinez Sanchez, 47, Beach Park, was cited for no driver's license;

Andrew D. Lockett, 42, Zion, was cited for driving while license revoked, and no insurance;

April 8
Jose Diaz, 34, Lisle, was cited for a warrant arrest: domestic battery (DuPage County);

Robert E. Price, Jr., 34, Beach Park, was cited for disorderly conduct;

Logan M. Loquacious, 46, Fox Lake, was cited for DUI - alcohol, reckless driving, open transportation of alcohol, and no insurance;

April 9
Alillia D. Fisher, 24, Waukegan, was cited for a warrant arrest: aggravated battery;

Sydney A. Torres, 26, Kenosha, WI, was cited for a warrant obtained: DUI - alcohol;

Jeanie B. Sarnowski, 53, Wadsworth, was cited for a warrant arrest: criminal damage to property;

Lawrence J. Morrical, II, 55, Wadsworth, was cited for obstructing justice;

Michal Mutnan, 35, Inglewood, was cited for a warrant arrest: contempt of court (McHenry County);

Reina D. Beauchamp, 29, Waukegan, was cited for a warrant arrest: theft;

Felix L. Feliciano, 51, Waukegan, was cited for a warrant arrest: battery;

April 10
Zion Fleming, 23, Beach Park, was cited for possession of a stolen firearm, burglary, and felon in possession of a firearm;

Juvenile, was cited for violating a civil no contact order;

Justin M. Fields, 33, Grayslake, was cited for disorderly conduct;

Lee M. Pippin, 42, Inglewood, was cited for a warrant arrest: DUI;

April 11
Kendale L. Brown, 20, Mundelein, was cited for battery, and resisting a correctional officer;

Brian Craig, 19, Waukegan, was cited for battery;

Christopher L. Cannon, 43, Chicago, was cited for a warrant obtained: armed robbery;

Michael G. Malombo, Jr., 42, Beach Park, was cited for a warrant obtained: criminal damage to property and aggravated assault;

Ana G. Arellano Jimenez, 24, Round Lake Beach, was cited for endangering the life of a child and obstructing identification;

Lauren H. Kuetemeyer, 57, Lake Bluff, was cited for DUI - alcohol;

April 13
Nolbert H. Rivera, 27, North Chicago, was cited for no driver's license and no insurance;

Ebert G. Quiroz, 20, Chicago, was cited for no driver's license and no insurance.

Jonathan Gonzalez, 25, Wheeling, was cited for leaving the scene of an accident;

Kevin R. Selvaggio, 50, Antioch, was cited for a warrant arrest: theft (DuPage County);

Xavier I. Cruz, 31, Lake Villa, was cited for a warrant arrest: unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.

FOR SALE

Announcements

CLASSIFIED IN-COLUMN ADS cannot be credited or refunded after the ad has been placed. Ads canceled before deadline will be removed from the paper as a service to our customers, but no credit or refund will be issued to your account.

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Burial Needs

7 CEMETERY PLOTS Willing to sell as a group or individually. Located at Roselawn Memory Gardens 3045 WI-67, Lake Geneva, WI 53147. This is a private sale. Contact Randy, the seller at randy@slpublishers.com.

Wanted to Buy

ALL BEER-SODA-GAS-OIL SIGNS All related items-TAP HANDLES-BEER CANS. 262-825-0932 Will Travel CASH PAID.

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Help Wanted

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SEEKING FEMALE IN-HOME CAREGIVER IN PELL LAKE, WISCONSIN. The position requires availability on Saturdays, Sundays and two weeknights, totaling approximately 28 hours per week. The ideal candidate must be capable of assisting with personal care, lifting and must be a dependable team player. A successful background check and the ability to provide references are also required. Additional hours may be available in the future. Please contact Kim at 262-527-5471.

AUCTION

RICHARD SORENSEN AUCTION

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DIRECTIONS: Racine County: 75 & A E on A 2.8 mi to N Britton Rd N 3/10s to property. Watch for signs. www.bobhagemannauctionrealty.com or www.auctionzip.com ID #9051. Food service available on site.

Auctioneers Note: This is just a few High Lights of what will be in This Auction Please come and Join us Something for everyone.

Tractor & Parts: MH 101 Jr, Ford 9N Tran Axle, 36 in Tires on Rims, Farmall A-B-C Parts **Farm Toys:** See Pictures, **Automotive:** Ford Spare Tire Carrier, 50's car parts, Ford Hub Caps, 60's Air Conditioner Compressor, Automotive Tools, Ford Flat Head Engines (parts), Snap-on Remote Start, Rohn Auto Trunk, Parking Meter **Household & Collectables:** Milk Cans, Sanipro Macerating System, Johnsonville Sauge Grill, Ninja Specialty Coffee Maker, Waffle Maker, SS 18Qt Bowl, Pressure Cooker (new), 12 Setting Iron Stone Dish Set, Craft Cookware Set, Assortment of Baking Pans **Advertising & Signs:** Layena Eggs, Road Signs, RR Wig Wag Sign **Jewelry:** Large Assortment **Tools:** 9 in Milwaukee Grinder, Ridgid 18V saw Zall, Ridgid Circular, DeWalt Buffer, Snap-on 3/4 Dr Ratchet, Snap-on Torque Wrench, Snap-on Stubby Wrench Set, Snap-on Air Gasket Scraper, Pullers, Vise Grips, OMT 22 Disc Brake Caliper Tool, Coil Spring Compressor, Bar Clamps, Air Die Grinders, Do Mor Electric Die Grinder, 12V 90 Degree Die Grinder, C Clamps, Files, Engine Testers, Bender, Central Dial Indicator, Air Compressor, Wenches, OEM 12V Grease Gun, Craftsman Router, Air Caulk Gun, Grease Guns, Circular Saws, Craftsman Band Saw, Craftsman Radio Arm Saw, Pantograph, Detail Sander, 16 Pc Forst Bit Set & Tin, Router Template Set, 71/4 & 10 in Saw Blades, Dry Wall Screw Shooter, Sanding Drums & Arbore, Clamps, Levels, Squares, 6in Cut Off Saw, Brad & Pin Nailer 18Ga, Battery Charger, Menard 6in Joiner **Lawn & Garden:** Push Mowers, Snow Blower, Long Handle Tools, String Trimmers & Accessories, Light House Project Yard Art **Misc:** Caster Wheels & Parts, Hardware, JD Tractor Lawn Art, Oil Can Collection, Project Metal Pieces, Coolers, Fisher All in One Stereo, Flashing Yellow Light, Fire Proof Box, Tractor Caps, Cat Enclose Litter Boxes, Pet Carriers, Heated Bird Bath, Electric Supplies, Xmas Wire Deer, & Much More.

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2000 SUPRA LEGACY, Indmar inboard, very low hours, always garaged or lift kept, Elkhorn. \$11,500. (262) 949-6997.

SEARS GAMEFISHER 14FT Fiberglass Tri-Hull, 18hp Evinrude, MinnKota, Lots more. Elkhorn \$1450. Call or text 262-374-8602.

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1994 WINNEBAGO WARRIOR 22' V8 454 engine, 97,200 miles. Newer tires, new battery, new sub floor and flooring. Rooftop A/C works great. Rust free, runs good and ready for travel! Some updates have been done to the interior, but still needs some minor finishing. Asking \$11,500. Located near Rockford. Call 815-520-0997.

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2022 COACHMAN FREEDOM EXPRESS 20SE. \$19,900. 262-470-4083.

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2007 FORD F150 One owner, 142,000 mi., new A/C & tires. \$5,200. 847-946-7660.

CARGO TRAILER 5x8 Enclosed, needs cosmetic work. Elkhorn location \$99 262-949-6997.

SERVICES

Antiques/Collectibles

THE POTTERY SHOPPE is OPEN! Hand crafted pottery from local artisans. Open 9-2 Fri-Sat-Sun through September. Hurry in for best selection. 3465 TK Lane, Delavan, WI 53115.

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GARAGE SALES

Moving Sale

W5025 PLEASANT LAKE RD. ELKHORN. May 31, June 1 & 2. Friday & Saturday 9am-5pm and Sunday 10am-2pm. Packer items, HH, Stand up freezer, washer & dryer, Maple buffet & fishing items.

Burlington Garage Sales

29329 RIVER VIEW PARKWAY May 30, 31 & June 1. Thurs. & Fri. 7-6, Sat. 7-3. Kitchen appliances, household items, camping tents, tools, sports memorabilia, motor cycle jack, fish/reptile tank, small green houses & planting items, exercise equipment, books, crafts, clothes and more!

717 CHESTNUT ST. May 30 - June 2. 8 - 4. Much misc. including Miller welder & antiques. Clearing out house & barn

Kansasville Garage Sales

3826 VANDENBOOM RD Friday June 7, 8am-3pm & Saturday June 8, 8am-1pm. A little bit of everything, priced to sell! Tools, toys and games, men's and women's clothing, baby gear and much more! Come check it out.

Union Grove Garage Sales

VILLAGE WIDE SALES Saturday June 1st, 9am-3pm. Union Grove Area. Sidewalk Sales/Garage Sales/Special Offers ALL DAY LONG!! For Details - www.UnionGroveChamber.org Use the Events Tab or search Facebook for Union Grove Chamber Maps also located in Main Street Businesses.

Waterford Garage Sales

303 S. JEFFERSON ST. June, 1st & 2nd, 8-4. 28th ANNUAL MAN SALE! Hunting, fishing, divorce furniture, motorcycles, tools, etc. No baby clothes. Soon to be famous Cold Beer Band starts at Noon Sat., June 1st.

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The Hi-Liter is looking to publish the news of your lives in stories and photos. Are you hosting an event? Send us a preview story. Do you know someone who recently won an award? Send us a photo along with the pertinent information. Community events, school activities and family milestones are all fair game and will be considered for print.

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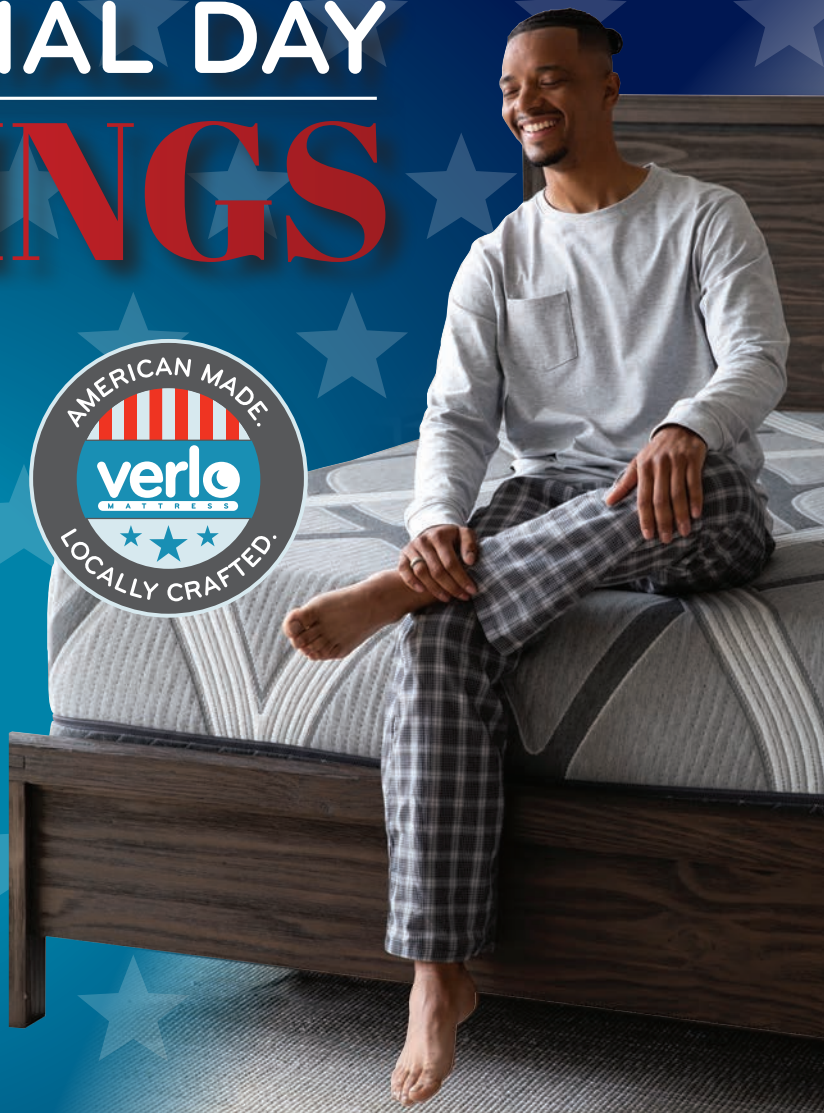
Other Real Estate

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MEMORIAL DAY SAVINGS



v1 FIRM 1-Sided No Flip
QUEEN SET STARTING @

\$699

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



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QUEEN SET STARTING @

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TWIN \$749
FULL \$899
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SAVE UP TO
\$200 OFF
v3 Set Purchase*

SAVE UP TO
\$250 OFF
v5 Set Purchase*

SAVE UP TO
\$350 OFF
v7 Set Purchase*

SAVE UP TO
\$450 OFF
v9 Set Purchase*

*On set purchase with factory select covers. Not applicable on previous purchases. One coupon per set purchase. See store for details. Offer ends 6-10-2024.

FINANCING AVAILABLE See store for details.

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Twin XL Starting @
\$399

With Verlo Mattress purchase. Does not apply to previous purchases. See store for details.

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

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