~ including McHenry County News

SEPT. 18-24, 2024

VOLUME 13 • NUMBER 20

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Celebrate SeptOberfest at Independence Grove

Lake County Forest Preserves has organized a lineup of entertainment for SeptOberfest at Independence Grove Forest Preserve in Libertyville. Enjoy live music by local artists, along with various events and programs on Wednesday and Thursday evenings through October.

Lakeside fire pits and free firewood are available on a first come, first served basis. S'mores kits are also on hand for purchase. If you're hungry, grab a light dinner, snack or beverage from the walkup café, brought to you by Relish Catering at Independence Grove. For added convenience, order directly from your table, and your food will be delivered to you.

Throughout SeptOberfest, the Beer Garden at Independence Grove is open 5-9 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday and 1-9 p.m. on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holidays. The venue features an array of local craft beers on tap from Lake County breweries. Wine, ciders, non-alcoholic beverages, cold brew coffee and packaged snacks are also available. Beer flights and tastings are included in the offerings.

"The Beer Garden has become a go-to destination for outdoor relaxation and enjoyment," said Angelo Kyle, president of the Lake County Forest Preserves. "With its stunning views of the 129-acre lake, it's an ideal place for families to gather and savor the transition into fall.

Musical entertainment line-up (Performances are 6–7:30 pm) · Mojo Daddies from Libertyville and Grayslake will perform rock, pop and blues on Thursday, Sept. 19. er-songwriter, plays on Thursday, day, Oct. 30. Sept. 26.

• The Complex performs rock and **Programs** pop from the 50s to present on Thursday, Oct. 3.

· Singer James Bruebach will perform rock and country on Wednes-

• Ryan Lindsey will present classic rock, country and pop on Thursday,

• Megan Lick plays acoustic covers on Wednesday, Oct. 16.

• Singer-songwriter Brett Ratner returns with acoustic guitar on Thursday, Oct. 17.

• Ryan Lindsey will perform classic rock, country and pop on Wednesday, Oct. 23.

Singer and guitarist James Bruebach will return to perform rock and country on Thursday, Oct. 24.

Donna Brooks and Ironwood present contemporary and PD.org for details and pricing.

As the days cool down, the • Chuck Wilson, a guitarist and sing-folk-rock-Americana on Wednes-

• Trivia Night takes place 5:30–7 pm, Wednesday, Sept. 25.

• Enjoy Hike & Hops on Wednesday, Oct. 2 from 5 - 6:30 PM and learn facts about nature. Registration re-

· Halloween Party, DJ and Costume Contest for all ages 6-7:30 pm, Thursday, Oct. 31.

Independence Grove entrance fee and Beer Garden details

Vehicle parking is free for Lake County residents. Nonresidents are charged \$12 per car on weekends and holidays. Bring your own blanket and lawn chairs.

Group rates and reservations are available at the Beer Garden. Email IndependenceGrove@LCF-





Enjoy live music by local artists, along with various events and programs on Wednesday and Thursday evenings through October. Fire pits are available to use during SeptOberfest on a first come, first serve basis.

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HI-LITER / MCN • SEPT. 18-24, 2024 • 2



Actors (from left) Jake Heelein, Damian Zayas, Gianah Tomczak, Rachel Loeding, Libby Einterz and Rachel Nedza will portray a ghostly bellhop, vampire, flapper, pilot, clairvoyant saloon girl and Titanic passenger, respectively, during upcoming Halloween Experience trolley tours at the Volo Museum. Bottom right photo: Volo Museum Director Brian Grams shows off the museum's new Pennywise inflatable, one of dozens of spooky, illuminated characters that will dot the landscape during upcoming Halloween Experience trolley tours.



A ribbon cutting was recently held at the Foglia CATI at McHenry County College, and it is open to students. The state-of-the-art facilities will expand workforce training programs to train the next generation of skilled manufacturers and tradespeople.

MCC debuts Foglia Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation

McHenry County College (MCC) has opened the Foglia Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation (CATI), a state-of-the-art facility establishing a transformative hub for skilled trades education and innovation. A groundbreaking partnership with the Griffin Museum of Science and Industry (Griffin MSI), will bring additional expertise and resources to Foglia CATI.

The Foglia CATI provides opportunities and resources for those looking to start successful careers in the skilled trades, change careers, or increase their value to current employers. The new, innovative facility features 45,000 square feet of open-concept classrooms and labs outfitted with the newest equipment and technologies available that are used in industry applications, including geothermal systems, 3D printing, and welding. Students will work on industry-standard HVAC units, CNC machines, welders, computers, and

The center includes offerings of nine degrees and over 39 certificates and certificate options in: Architectural and Engineering Design Technology; Automation, Robotics, and Mechatronics; Construction Management; Engineering Technology; Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC); Industrial Maintenance; Industrial Management and Technology; Precision Machining; and Welding and Fabrication.

"The Foglia Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation is a place of learning that sponsors the imagination of everyone and creates innovation in everyone," said MCC President Dr. Clint Gabbard. "Our creative, talented,

and motivated students will make an indelible impact on companies throughout our community. And this center will most certainly change the economic future of our county," he

The Foglia CATI was officially unveiled with a special ceremony on Tuesday, September 3, featuring remarks by Gabbard, as well as manufacturing management faculty member and department chair, Heather Zaccagnini, Congressman Bill Foster, McHenry County Board Chair Mike Buehler, and friend of the College, Vince Foglia. The Foglia Family Foundation has been a strong advocate of this initiative and a variety of other college efforts over the years. Attendees included MCC Board Members, donors, leadership from local businesses, and city and county officials. The ceremony highlighted the center's positive impact on economic development, career growth opportunities in the skilled trades, and the successful partnership between MCC, philanthropy, and the State of Illinois Capital Development Board (CDB) to complete the building project.

This is the Foglia CATI," stated Gabbard. "Learning, with a giant slice of opportunity and promise. Collaborations and connections that stretch our reach farther than we imagined we could reach.'

Through the Griffin MSI @ MCC collaboration, the Foglia CATI will further enhance its role in fostering world-class innovation and handson learning. A key component of this partnership is the pursuit of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Fab Lab certification for the

Foglia CATI's Fabrication Lab, which will provide both the community and students with access to advanced, production-level prototyping equipment. MCC has also welcomed a Griffin MSI liaison to collaborate on innovative projects that will drive innovation and inspire the next generation of thinkers

'We are excited to partner with MCC as Griffin MSI continues to expand beyond the limits of our campus in Hyde Park and bring our programming to new communities" said Manny Juarez, senior director, creativity, and innovation programs at Griffin MSI. "Through the Foglia CATI, we want to expand on the terrific programming offered by MCC and broaden the scope of our outreach by promoting our mission to 'inspire the inventive genius in everyone' with new audiences and encourage young people to consider a wide range of STEAM educational and career pathways.'

The Foglia CATI will feature a Maker's Space, open to the community for work on initial concepts or hobbies. This space will leverage Griffin MSI's expertise to provide year-round programming, including MCC's existing Kids and College program, personal development classes, and other K-12 partnerships.

Foglia CATI is one of three donorfunded innovation centers on campus, alongside the Liebman Institute for Science Innovation (LISI) and the Center for Agrarian Learning (CAL). Each of these innovation centers expand access to informative and enriching content, bringing the community together to celebrate curiosity and be inspired.

Take an 'undead' guided tour through realms of **Halloween Town**

Halloween Experience trolley tours start September 20 at Volo Museum

Cynthia Wolf CONTRIBUTOR

Beware the looming spider dangling from the trees. She's bigger than a Bentley, and she minated inflatables are a sight has her eyes on you.

At least, she will have, if you're among the brave Road. who embark on a Halloween Experience trolley tour at the Volo Museum this season. The monstrous spider may be the first, but she's just one of dozens of fabulous, creepy, giant inflatables tour-goers will encounter as they traverse a 75-acre expanse north highway. It's another to expeof the museum. There's everything from a colossal King Kong to a 75-foot-tall Pennywise, plus alien archways, 'Ghostbusters" characters and more.

"We bought out the entire Halloween Experience show that formerly operated in Elgin," said Brian Grams, director of the museum at 27582 Volo Village Road. "We are taking it to the next level by adding the Volo touch."

Indeed, the inflatables are only part of the fun that museum officials have in store for families to enjoy on these spooky and spirited tours of delightfully segmented frights. Those taking the full-hour tour will enjoy the animated narrations of a costumed, "undead" guide steeped in the museum grounds' history of the paranormal, Grams said.

"The first half of our full tours will go into the real haunted stories of the Volo Museum property," Grams said. "Each of the guides has a background story. For example, one guide portrays a girl who perished on the Titanic. When our Titanic Exhibit flooded recently, her spirit flowed in with the water."

Passengers will hear and see depicted on video - engaging tales of myriad metaphysical sightings experienced on the museum grounds over the years, some captured on security footage. Then, it's time for a singalong as the group heads out toward the eerie landscapes of Halloween Town. What can go wrong on a sing-along? Be on the trolley to experience

Grams said it has been a blast to put the tours together, adding that the looming, illuto behold from U.S. Route 12 north of North Fox Lake

"You come over the hill on Route 12 [heading south] and you see just this towering white, red and black Pennywise with outstretched hands. It makes the Jupiter train look small," he said. "It's one thing to see the inflatables from the rience riding through them on the trails with a whole group of people sharing the same cool story experience.'

Full tours will be available from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Friday evenings or 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays from Friday, Sept. 20, to Sunday, Nov. 3, for \$16.95 each. Halloween Experience Express Tours, which last about a half hour and head straight for Halloween Town with a voice-over production, cost \$7.95 each and are available from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, Oct. 8-31.

Tours are suitable for all ages. For either tour, children 4 and younger are admitted free if they can sit on a parent's lap. Additionally, full tour tickets come with a \$5 voucher good toward any Volo attraction admission ticket. For more information, and tickets, visit www.volocars.com/train-tours-haunted-

The Volo Museum which features hundreds of classic, muscle, bizarre, celebrity and movie cars, and much more — is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Admission is \$24.95 for adults and \$13.95 for children ages 5 to 12, with free entry for children ages 4 and younger. Platinum and Gold passes provide a twoday experience with free admission the second consecutive day. Separate single-day admission to the Jurassic Gardens dinosaur park is \$16.95 each; free for children 4 and younger.

For more details, visit volofun.com, find Volo Museum on social media, or call 815-385-3644



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Federal judge rejects Illinois' bid to end court oversight of disability programs

Illinois has made 'significant progress' but not yet met mandates of 2011 Ligas consent decree, judge rules hospital-like settings. And to the state inappropriately tunity to live in the least ing. She said in a statement

By Molly Parker and Beth Hundsdorfer CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

A federal judge Sept. 6 denied Illinois' request to end court oversight of its disability services.

Judge Sharon Johnson Coleman, with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, agreed with legal advocates who argued that the state still hasn't met its decade-old promises to help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities live outside large institutions.

The ruling stems from a legal settlement that established court oversight of the Illinois Department of Human Services' programs in

Known as the Ligas consent decree, it followed a 2005 lawsuit accusing Illinois of failing to support people who wanted to live in community settings whether with family, in their own homes, or in small group homes. The lawsuit claimed Illinois violated a 1999 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, which mandated that states provide options for care in integrated community settings.

Illinois has long been an outlier in the number of people and the amount of money it puts into maintaining large state-run and private institutions that house people in

over the past two years, Capitol News Illinois and Pro-Publica have exposed severe conditions, including extreme abuse and life-threatening neglect, in the state's seven developmental cen-

Some residents and their caregivers have sought to leave these facilities but told reporters they've been unable to find suitable group home placements due to a shortage of options that meet their specific medical and behavioral needs.

In a court filing late last year, the state argued that it had substantially increased funding for community-based care and, as a result, saw the number of people served in family homes and group homes increase from 13,500 in 2011 to over 23,000 in 2023. The state also said it had raised pay for workers who assist with daily tasks like eating and bathing in community settings and had reduced wait times for services, especially for those in crisis.

In late May, Ronnie Cohn, an independent monitor in the case, told the judge in a court filing that referenced the news organizations' reporting that she believed it was crucial to maintain oversight. She argued that a lack of crisis support and specialplacing people in state-operated developmental centers.

Once there, she said people struggled to return to the community in a timely manner because of additional state failures to help people identify new community placements and develop independent living skills that would ease the transition. In a prior court filing, Equip for Equality, the plaintiffs' attorney, made similar arguments and also expressed alarm about safety issues inside the facilities.

In her ruling, Coleman acknowledged that while the state had made "significant progress" since 2011 in excommunity-based services, it had not fully met the mandates of the consent decree. Her one-page decision denying the state's request to end oversight did not provide specific opinions on these issues but indicated that they will remain the focus in future proceedings.

A spokesperson for the Illinois Department of Human Services said the agency is reviewing the order to determine next steps.

"We are proud of the significant progress that has been made by our administration to date, and we remain committed to ensuring that individuals with intellectual and developmental ty services had contributed disabilities have the opporrestrictive setting of their choosing," the spokesperson

Equip for Equality praised the judge's ruling, saying more work still is needed.

"People with these disabilities have a right to live fully independent lives in the community," Zena Naiditch, Equip for Equality's president and chief executive, said in a statement. "Sadly, Illinois is a national leader in placing people with disabilities in institutions, relying on antiquated, discriminatory service systems."

Heidi Dalenberg, interim legal director at the ACLU of Illinois, which filed the original lawsuit nearly 20 years ago, also welcomed the rul-

that thousands of people in Illinois are still trapped in institutional care against their

"It has been clear for years that the key to solving this problem is for Illinois to invest its energy in building a strong network of community-based resources," Dalenberg said.

Samantha Alloway, executive director for The Arc of 9-year-old who is on the autism spectrum, said she worries about continued care for her son in the event she could no longer provide it. She expressed relief that the court will maintain oversight and continue to hold IDHS ac-

"We give credit to the Pritzker administration who has invested more in people with developmental disabilities than any administration in history, but while we are grateful for the unprecedented support of this administration, there is still so much to do," Alloway said.

Alloway said she hopes IDHS will use this time to "aim higher" and grow community services to allow con-Illinois and the mother of a tinuity of services for people with developmental disabilities as they and their caregiv-

> "This can be a time to plan as people move from homebased services to community-based services so we aren't just going from one crisis to another," Alloway said.

30 Days for 30 Vets program accepting nominations until Sept. 30

Cynthia Wolf CONTRIBUTOR

Do you know a deserving McHenry County veteran whose home could use some TLC? Nominate them to be a 30 Days for 30 Vets winner, and you just might change a life.

But do it soon. Nominations close Monday, Sept. 30, for a program that will provide more than \$200,000 worth of home improvements ranging from appliances and flooring to a new roof or complete kitchen remodel. Thirty recipients will be selected based on nominations detailing military service, current living conditions, specific needs and other supporting factors.

The program, coordinated by The Bremer Team - Keller Williams Success Realty, to date has received 64 applications since nominations opened Aug. 1.

"This is the chance to greatly enhance the lives of some of our area's incredibly deserving heroes, and we are so proud to stand behind it," said Dawn Bremer, owner and president of the McHenry-based Bremer Team. "We have been blown away by the nomination stories so far, as well as by the enthusiastic response from generous business owners who've offered to help.'

It all started when Courtney Wander and Rhett Wilborn of Innovative Home Concepts of Crystal Lake met with Bremer over the summer to discuss their idea of providing a free roof for a veteran in need. Bremer took that ball and ran with it, launching 30 Days for 30 Vets within a matter of weeks.

We now have pledges of products and services from appliance retailers, kitchen remodelers, a flooring firm, gutter installers, HVAC system suppliers, plumbers, painters, roofers and more," Bremer said. "It has been so great to see

the community rally around this initiative." The Bremer Team, whose agents include U.S. Marine veteran Michael Adams, also launched a Heroes Savings Plan in the spring that cuts closing costs for qualifying

To nominate a deserving veteran to be a home renovation project recipient, click "apply" and complete the form at 30daysfor30vets.com no later than Monday, Sept. 30. A committee of community members and veterans will review all nominations and select the

Each day in November — the month of Veterans Day — one deserving recipient's story will be shared on the 30daysfor30vets website as well as on the 30daysfor30vets Facebook page, Bremer said. Recipients' renovation projects will be scheduled in the months ahead.

To date, along with The Bremer Team and Innovative Home Concepts, more than two dozen local businesses are participating, including Home Depot, WeatherWise Heating & Cooling, Above Par Construction, Koehlinger Garage Door Inc., Superior Installations and more. For the complete list, visit 30daysfor30vets. com, click on "About" and scroll down.

Others interested in contributing goods, services or monetary donations are encouraged to call Bremer at 847-456-6334 or email her at bremerteaminfo@gmail. com. A list of available sponsorships also is available at 30daysfor30vets.com.

"This program has been so well received in its first year that we plan to make 30 Days for 30 Vets an annual event," Bremer said, adding that next year it may be expanded into Lake County. "Meanwhile, we can't wait to see who our first year's winners will be. It is exciting."

Community briefs

Congressman Schneider to nominate Antioch Library for national award

Congressman Schneider to nominate the Antioch Public Library District for the 2025 National Medal for Museum and Library Services. The National Medal for Museum and Library Services is an esteemed program that has honored 222 libraries and museums over the past 29 years for meaningful community im-

"This is the highest honor that a library or museum can receive in our country and speaks to the amazing work that all of us do—from staff, Board, volunteers, patrons and community partners when we work together, we truly make an impact worthy of national recognition. We are humbled and incredibly grateful to be nominated for this prestigious award by Congressman Schneider.' -Executive Library Director Jennifer Drinka

Antioch Library is located at 757 N. Main St., Antioch.

Daily travel survey underway this fall

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is launching a major survey called "My Daily Travel" this fall to better understand the travel needs of residents in northeastern Illinois, including Lake County. They will soon start mailing out invitations to a number of Lake County households to

request your participation. As travel behaviors change

the next few years, transportation planners will use the results of this survey to investments and prioritize improvements for a more efficient transportation system.

At least 4.000 households in northeastern Illinois are expected to participate in the survey over the next year. Households will receive an invitation by U.S. mail to participate in the survey and are strongly encouraged to complete the survey to help northeastern Illinois plan for a transportation system that meets their needs.

If you've received an invitation to participate in the My Daily Travel Survey, please visit MyDailyTravelSurvey. com to learn more and complete the survey. Keep an eye er drug epidemics occuron your mailbox now through ring in the United States. received an invitation already. Participants who complete the survey will receive a gift card for their time.

County receives additional funds in opioid lawsuit settlement

In 2022, McHenry Coun-

and technologies evolve over ty State's Attorney Patrick Kenneally, on behalf of McHenry County, joined the national litigation lawguide future transportation suit against pharmacies and drug manufacturers for the opioid epidemic which has raged across this nation. During the last week of July, McHenry County received an additional \$252,979 in settlement funds. These funds are in addition to the previously received approximately 1.3 million dollars. McHenry County is expecting to receive settlement funds from the various defendants in the national litigation suit over the next 12-18 years.

The monies received by McHenry County must be accounted for and used for specific and strict purposes fighting the opioid and othspring of 2025 if you haven't The funds are managed and disbursed by the McHenry County Mental Health Board through grants to eligible applicants.

McHenry County State's Attorney Patrick Kenneally states "These manufacturers will be held accountable for what their drugs have done and continue to do our com-

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 $Hike \ Lake \ County \ is \ an \ annual \ walking \ program \ that \ encourages \ residents \ to \ explore \ a \ variety \ of \ forest \ preserves.$ A periodical cicada is featured on this year's commemorative shield.

It's the 26th annual Hike Lake County challenge

For those seeking a fresh way to embrace fall, the Lake County Forest Preserves has a challenge – or seven of them. Grab some walking shoes and head to the trails to participate in the 26th annual Hike Lake County program while enjoying the change of seasons, fall breezes and autumn colors.

Medical research shows that being outdoors in nature has many wellness benefits. Hike Lake County provides a way to get a dose of wellness while walking in a beautiful preserve.

Complete seven of 12 designated walks before Nov. 30 and earn a free commemorative shield for a walking stick or a zipper pull. Each year features a new lineup of trails, shields and zipper pulls. shield or zipper pull, This season, the medallion fittingly showcases a periodic cicada.

At each selected preserve, look for Hike Lake County logo signs at the preserve entrance and trailhead to get on the right route. Not that bicycling or horseback riding do not county toward the program.

To get started, walkers need an

routes, which can be found online at lcfpd.org. One travel log can be submitted for up to five

participants. For larger groups, submit additional travel Let a canine

companion join in the fun and complete the hikes with you. Record their name on the travel log and receive a free commemorative dog tag (up to three dogs per participant). To receive a free

dog tag, zipper pull or commemorative shield, submit your travel log online, or mail it with a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Lake County Forest Preserves, 1899 W. Winchester Road, Libertyville, IL 60048 by Jan. 31, 2025.

Walkers can also stop by the general office in Libertyville or the Ryerson

Remember

to include

the 5W's:

Who, what

where,

when and

why!

0

N. Riverwoods Road, Riverwoods, to pick up free commemorative

> County locations Captain Daniel Wright Woods in Mettawa; Cuba Marsh in Deer Park; Fourth Lake in Lake Villa; Fox River in Port Barrington; Half Day in Vernon Hills; Heron Creek in Lake Zurich; Lake Carina in Gurnee; Lyons Woods in Waukegan; Raven Glen in Antioch:

The 2024 Hike Lake

Ryerson Conservation Area in Riverwoods; Sedge Meadow in Wadsworth; Sun Lake in Lake Villa.

Participants can also choose a 2-mile trail location in any Lake County Forest Preserves as a "Wild Card".

For more information and travel log

Nineteenth Judicial **Circuit Judges name new Lake County Public Defender**

Chief Judge Daniel B. Shanes and the Circuit Judges of the 19th Circuit Court are pleased to announce the appointment of Assistant Public Defender Gregory Ticsay as the new Public Defender of Lake County. Chief Judge Shanes will officiate Mr. Ticsay's swearing-in ceremony on September 23.

member of the Lake County legal community for nearly three decades. He has proven that he has and always will ensure his client's rights are protected. The Judges look forward to continued collaboration between the courts and our justice partners, including the Public Defender's Office under Greg's leadership, to ensure that justice is available to all," said Chief Judge Shanes.

Mr. Ticsay received his Juris Doctor from The John Marshall Law School and began his career with the Lake County Public Defender's Office in 1995, where he has served with distinction for 29 years. During that time, he consistently demonstrates his commitment and dedication to the Public Defender's Office and Ticsay.



Ticsay

Defenders. "Greg has been a respected Mr. Ticsay was a member of the capital litigation trial bar from 2002 until the abolishment of the death penalty in 2011. Mr. Ticsay was an integral attorney with Veterans Court, Therapeutic Intensive Monitoring Court, from its inception in 2011 until 2021. Throughout his career, he has represented indigent criminal defendants charged with felony and misdemeanor charges from arraignments through the conclusion of cases with integ-

> "I am deeply honored and excited to have been selected to serve as the next Public Defender. I am committed to continuing the legacy of my predecessors by providing the best legal representation to the indigent accused," said Mr.

MCCD events

Discovery Days: Who Lives in These Woods?

Friday, Sept. 27, 10-11 a.m., Harrison Benwell Conservation Area, Wonder Lake.

Enjoy a morning of fun, educational games, lessons and other hands-on experiences focused on woodland animals. Ages 2-6 with adult. Children must be accompanied by an adult..

Sites Seldom Seen: Seed **Processing Facility**

Saturday, Sept. 28, 9-11 a.m., location to be shared prior to the program.

Join District ecologists to learn what happens to the over 4,000 pounds of native seed that the Conservation District collects every fall in this unique behind-the-scenes

tour. Ages 14+.

Talk & Trek: Autumn Wildflowers

Saturday, Sept. 7, 4-5:30 p.m., Kishwaukee Headwaters Conservation Area, Woodstock.

Join a naturalist as we explore some of the last wildflower blooms of the season. Learn new species, what makes them unique and how they contribute to their ecosystem. Ages 14+.

Prairie Trail Riders: Camping Out!

Saturday, Sept. 28, Sunday, Sept. 29. Hillside parking lot, Crystal Lake to North Branch Conservation Area, Richmond.

Join us for our first overnight biking program! Ride 18 miles from Crystal Lake to North Branch Conservation Area for a night of camping. Bring your bike, camping gear, a water bottle and helmet. Ages 12+.

Sunrise on the Prairie

Sunday, Sept. 29, 6:15-7:30 a.m., Prairieview Education Center, Crystal Lake.

Join for a short scenic hike, ending at the perfect spot to enjoy the sunrise with orange juice and sparkling grape juice! All ages welcome.

Twilight at the **Farmhouse**

Thursday, Oct. 3, 6-8 p.m., Powers-Walker House, Glacial Park, Ringwood.

Enjoy the twilight ambiance of the Powers-Walker House by candlelight and lamplight while viewing the ever-changing colors in the Lost Valley Marsh. See how early settlers tried to get the remains of their work done at the day's end. All ages welcome. Dro in any time during the program, no reservation required.

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

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Man arrested and charged after soliciting seven-year-old relative during Labor Day party

HI-LITER / MCN • SEPT. 18-24, 2024 • 6

County Sheriff's Detectives arrested a man after he attempted to solicit a seven-yearold relative and showed her pornogra-

Benedicto

M. Aviles

phy during a Labor Day party in unincorporated Mundelein.

On September 2, Lake County Sheriff's Deputies took a report that Benedicto M. Aviles, 60, of the 15300 block of West Apple Orchard Lane, unincorporated Lincolnshire, tried having a seven-year-old relative perform a sexual act on him.

Lake County Sheriff's Detectives began an investigation, working closely with the Lake County Children's Advocacy Center. Sheriff's detectives determined that while at a Labor Day Party, Aviles offered to take a seven-year-old relative swimming. Instead of going in the pool, Aviles began showing the child videos of pornography. He then pulled his pants down, and attempted to convince the child to perform sexual acts that were shown in the video. Fortunately, the child's mother called for her, as she did not see her in the swimming pool. This interrupted Aviles from his plan.

The girl disclosed to her mother what occurred after Aviles left, and the family immediately made a report of the

Sheriff's detectives attempted to locate Aviles several times, but he was not at his home, he was staying elsewhere. On September 10, 2024, sheriff's detectives located Aviles and arrested him.

After reviewing the facts and circumstances of the case, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office approved the charges against Aviles: indecent solicitation of a child, and attempted predatory sexual assault of a child.

Additional charges are pos-

The state's attorney's office filed a petition to detain Aviles in jail pending trial.

On Sept. 11, a Lake County Judge ordered Aviles held for a detention hearing on Sep-

"No child should ever endure the trauma of victimization, especially at the hands of

a trusted adult," said Sheriff Investiga-John D. Idleburg. "The Lake tions (HSI), County Children's Advocacy Center plays a crucial role in supporting children impact- a ed by sexual abuse and other Grove man crimes. With a full-time sheriff's detective dedicated to the center, we are fully committed to this important partnership, ensuring that every effort is made to protect and provide tion that Zans Batjuks, 33, the best possible resources to the children of Lake County."

Man in critical condition after single motorcycle crash

A 60-year-old Marengo man was injured following single motorcycle crash on Marengo Road, east of Seeman Road, in unincorporated McHenry County.

On Sunday, Sept. 15, at 12:29 a.m., members of the McHenry County Sheriff's Office and Huntley Fire Department responded to a crash in the 14700 block of Marengo Road involving a motorcycle, which resulted in serious injury to the driver.

Preliminary investigation indicates that a 1993 Harley Davidson Cruiser was traveling westbound on Marengo Road. The motorcycle exited the roadway to the left and traveled in the ditch for a significant distance. The driver was located in the ditch, with the motorcycle partially on top of him.

The driver was transported Huntley and was later transported via Lifenet to Advocate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville. He is listed in critical condition.

The driver was not wearing a helmet, and alcohol is believed to be a factor of the

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

SIG arrests man for possessing large amounts of MDMA, other drugs

The Lake County Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Group (SIG), a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) funded task force, concluded a joint investigation with Homeland Security

that led to the arrest of Buffalo who was selling MDMA (ecstasy) and other drugs.



Zans Batjuks

SIG received informaof the 400 block of Castlewood Lane, Buffalo Grove, was acquiring large amounts of MDMA for distribution. SIG detectives initiated an undercover operation, and as a result of that operation, obtained a search warrant for Batiuks' home.

On September 11, members of SIG and HSI conducted the search warrant at Batjuks' home. During the search warrant, detectives located and seized over 315 grams of MDMA, 15 ecstasy pills, cocaine, and over 5,200 grams of cannabis.

After reviewing the facts and circumstances of the case, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office approved the following charges: Two Counts of Manufacturing Ecstasy (Class X Felonies)

Two Counts of Unlawful Possession of Ecstasy (Class 1 Felonies), Manufacturing/ Delivery of Cannabis (Class X Felony) and Unlawful Possession of Cannabis (Class 1

Batjuks remains held in the Lake County Jail pending to Northwestern Medicine in an initial court hearing this

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "Our Special Investigations Group has once again collaborated with our local and federal partners to identify a person selling dangerous drugs in our community. I am proud of their continued work and their continued success removing deadly drugs from our community."

The current members of SIG are: Highland Park Police Department, Lake County Sheriff's Office, Park City Police Department, Round Lake Beach Police Department, Round Lake Park Police Department, Round Lake Police Department, U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)

U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Homeland Security Investigations

(HSI), Wauconda Police Department, Waukegan Police Department, Winthrop Harbor Police Department and Zion Police Department.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office thanks the Buffalo Grove Police Department for their assistance during the search warrant.

One suspect arrested in armed robbery investigation, one still at large

The Fox Lake Police Department has obtained an arrest warrant for an armed robbery that occurred on February 10, 2024, at approximately 6:50 a.m. in the area of Grace Ave and Rolland Pl in Fox Lake.

Investigators determined the victims were followed home after they won a considerable amount of money at the Rivers Casino in Des Plaines. After arriving at their residence, the victims exited their vehicle and were confronted by a male subject who pointed a handgun at them and tore a paper bag from the victim's hands, which was believed to contain the money. The male subject fled the scene on foot before getting into a vehicle and fleeing at a high rate of speed. Neither victim was injured during the robbery.

With the assistance of the Rivers Casino security and license plate recognition cameras, investigators were able to identify Marcell Britton of Chicago and Aramie Kent of Maywood as the subjects who followed the victims.

Charges were approved by the Lake County States Attorney's Officer for Armed Robbery (a class X felony), Aggravated Robbery (a class 1 felony) and Robbery of a Victim 60+ (a class 1 felony). Arrest warrants were issued for Marcell Britton and Aramie Kent on August 19. Britton was arrested by the Chicago Police Department on August 28, and is currently awaiting

Officers are still looking for Aramie Kent. The Fox Lake Police Department asks if you have any information on the location of Aramie Kent, please contact your local police department.

Aranda sentenced to 8 years for two

counts of residential burglary

Patrick D. Kenneally, McHen-County State's Attorney. announced that on September 10, Miriam Aranda, a 43-year-old



female from Elgin, was sentenced 8 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for two counts of Residential Burglary. The sentencing was held before the Honorable Judge Mark Gerhardt.

Over the course of a week in February several reports of residential burglaries in the Chasefield Lane area were made to the Crystal Lake Police Department. On February 20, a female matching the description given by the victims was observed entering a locked apartment building in the Chasefield Crossings condominiums. This female was identified by officers as Miriam Aranda. Aranda was taken into custody on an outof-county warrant, and upon being searched, officers located several lock picking tools on her. Aranda further informed officers that she was soliciting cleaning services from Crystal Lake residents, however, no cleaning supplies were observed on her person or in her vehicle.

Aranda's cell phone data was collected and reviewed by Crystal Lake detectives. The data showed Aranda in the area of Chasefield Lane around the times of the reported burglaries. The data further showed that just after the burglaries, Aranda traveled to a Cash For Gold location, where it is believed she took the proceeds from the burglaries. Detectives reviewed Aranda's history of pawning items which showed that she'd pawned over 200 items starting as early as July 2018 making approximately

McHenry County State's Attorney Patrick Kenneally praises the exceptional investigative work of the Crystal Lake Police Department. This case was successfully prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorney Maria Marek. We remain dedicated to protecting personal property and deliv-

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Serious single-vehicle traffic crash under investigation

Lake County Sheriff's Crash Investigators are investigating an early morning serious traffic crash that occurred in Wadsworth.

On September 15, at approximately 4:15 a.m., Lake County Sheriff's Deputies responded to Route 41 and Kelly Road in Wadsworth for a single-vehicle traffic crash. Sheriff's deputies arrived and located a Dodge Ram 1500 with serious damage.

Preliminary investigation shows the Dodge, driven by a 19-year-old man of Kenosha, Wis., was traveling northbound on Route 41, approaching Kelly Road. The driver said he was looking at his GPS and failed to properly negotiate a curve in the roadway. The Dodge left the roadway and struck a light pole, then drove into a ditch. The vehicle went airborne, struck two trees, then landed on its driver's side.

The driver, and a passenger in the vehicle, a 19-year-old man from Kenosha, Wisconsin, were trapped inside the vehicle. Fire officials extricated the men, and both were transported to an area hospital. The passenger sustained life-threatening injuries and remains in critical condition. The driver sustained minor

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

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.

July 26

Derek A. Miks, 44, Grayslake, was cited for DUI - alcohol, improper transportation of cannabis, no driver's license and no insurance; July 27

Andrews Serrano-Hernandez, 18, Round Lake Beach, was cited for aggravated speeding (/8 mph in 40 mph zone);

James K. Obrock, 60, Bolingbrook, was cited for DUI – alcohol;

Joshua J. McCarthy, 37, Zion, was cited for a warrant arrest: theft and warrant arrest: parole violation (Wisconsin Dept. of Corrections);

Donald J. Hertel, 75, Grayslake, was cited for criminal sexual abuse and battery;

Sebastian Soto-Uresti, 21, Mundelein, was cited for unlawful restraint, domestic battery, interfering with the reporting of domestic violence and criminal trespass to residence;

July 28 Thomas Hiedbrick, 24, Antioch, was cited for a warrant arrest: driving while license suspended;

Javier Alonso-Garcia, 36, Zion, was cited for no driver's license and no insurance.



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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.

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332 CONKEY ST. Wed. 9/18-

Wed. 9/25; 9am-7pm. A lot of nice lady clothes, shoes, coats, scarves, gloves. Cleaned out sewing room. Materials, threads, yards, crochet needles & much more. Sewing table for 2 machines, quilting frame, embroidery hoops, old dresser w/ mirror, 1 without. Crafting material, vases, gardening pots, misc. furniture, woodshop supplies, tools, work benches. Buyers market!

4101 376TH AVE. WHEATLAND Multi-Family Barn Sale. Thurs.-Fri. 9/19 & 9/20, 9am-4 pm. Sat. 9/21, 9am-Noon. No Early Sales. CASH ONLY.

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2622 N. RIVER ROAD Thurs. Fri. & Sat. 9/19-9/21. 10am-6pm HUGE SALE! Some rummage, mostly new stuff. Many mark downs & lots of new items added since previous sale.

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31601 HIGH DRIVE, BURL-INGTON 9/21 & 9/22, 9:00am - 3:00pm. Estate Sale. Hobby Farm, horse troughs, chicken feeders, power tools, turbo heaters, household furniture, misc. household items.

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