

Hi-LITER

~ including McHenry County News

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\$6,750 WAS \$9,995



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Black Friday Price: \$6,750

\$199 MTH** WAS \$13,995



Includes 65" 4K Smart TV

SAVE \$5,199

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Black Friday Price: \$8,796

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Includes 65" 4K Smart TV

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2009 Nissan Murano
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\$199 MTH** WAS \$14,995



Includes 65" 4K Smart TV

SAVE \$5,278

2017 Kia Sorento LX
Auto, AWD, Bluetooth, 3rd Row Seat, Keyless Entry, Rear View Camera, & Cruise Control. #44368B
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\$199 MTH** WAS \$12,995



Includes 65" 4K Smart TV

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\$50,815 MSRP
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Stk# 35036

\$41,379 SALE PRICE*

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\$48,025 MSRP
- \$4,833 MILLER DISCOUNT
- \$7,500 DODGE CASH

Stk# 34033

\$35,692 SALE PRICE*

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2024 FORD BRONCO SPORT 4x4

Includes 65" 4K Smart TV

\$33,565 MSRP
- \$806 MILLER DISCOUNT
- \$750 FORD CASH
- \$2,000 FORD FLEX CASH**
- \$1,000 JEEP OWNER CASH***

Stk# 44498

\$29,009 SALE PRICE*

OR LEASE FOR **\$358** MTH**

2024 FORD F-150 4x4

Includes 65" 4K Smart TV

\$52,210 MSRP
- \$2,033 MILLER DISCOUNT
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Stk# 44468

\$45,177 SALE PRICE*

PLUS 1.9% FOR 66 MTHS** OR LEASE FOR **\$347** MTH**

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FOR \$1**

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Lawmakers return to Springfield as projected budget deficit looms

Key Senate Dem says no tax increases being discussed; GOP calls for seat at table

By Ben Szalinski
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS
Illinois lawmakers returned to Springfield last week for the first time since May following news earlier this month that they're facing a projected \$3.2 billion budget deficit for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

The news didn't surprise Republicans, who condemned "drunken spending" policies, but the Senate's top Democratic budget leader defended the state's spending priorities and cautioned next year's budget is still more than six months away from passage.

"This was not unexpected and certainly there's a long time between now and the end of the fiscal year and we'll be prepared," Sen. Elgie Sims, D-Chicago, said.

The Governor's Office of Management and Budget released a report on Nov. 1 projecting the state will face a \$3.2 billion deficit for fiscal year 2026, which begins July 1. The annual report from the governor's budget office typically sets a benchmark for state lawmakers as they begin budget talks early in the year.

How this shortfall will be addressed, either through corresponding spending cuts or new revenue increases, will be the focus of lawmakers and Gov. JB Pritzker during the spring session that begins in January.

The General Assembly was scheduled to be in town last week and this week for its annual fall veto session, and Senate Republicans held a news conference about the projected deficit a top priority.

Republicans said Democrats should start by cutting out programs for noncitizens and migrants.

"These are tradeoffs. So when Gov. Pritzker supports spending over \$1 billion on illegal immigrants, that means that schools aren't being properly funded in Illinois, that means developmentally disabled aren't being properly funded in Illinois," Senate Republicans' budget leader Sen. Chapin Rose, R-Mahomet, told Capitol News Illinois. "That's a choice the Democrats are making."

Preliminary estimates show the state is on pace to spend \$568 million this year on a program that provides

health care to undocumented immigrants, according to the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services. State lawmakers appropriated \$629 million in the spring for the programs, which are currently paused to new enrollment, plus \$182 million to pay for services for migrants sent to Illinois from Texas. Rose argued there's not enough transparency about the programs to know the true amount of state spending.

Senate Republican Leader John Curran, R-Downers Grove, also demanded Democrats spend more time negotiating with Republicans on the budget this spring, alleging that Democrats closed out the minority party earlier this year.

Sims noted recent budgets have also significantly increased education funding.

"If they want to classify investments in education and making investments in health care as overspending, I'll let them make that case," Sims said. "We've tried very hard to work with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle and we'll continue to do so." Pritzker declined to give

many details when asked last week how he plans to propose closing the deficit when he presents his budget in February.

"It's kind of a flat projection forecast. It's been wrong every year, I guess you might say, or we've defeated it every year," Pritzker said, adding the budget he will present to lawmakers is going to be balanced.

The Illinois Constitution requires the General Assembly to pass a budget that is balanced on paper, meaning lawmakers won't pass a budget that contains a sizeable deficit according to their calculations.

But Pritzker also received some of his first significant pushback to a budget in May when multiple Democrats in the House and Senate voted against parts of the spending plan.

This year's \$53.1 billion budget is currently expected to meet spending and revenue expectations and run a \$16 million surplus when accounting for contributions to the state's "rainy day" fund, according to the report. Lawmakers chose to raise about \$1 billion of new revenue to

support this year's spending, such as by raising taxes on sportsbooks and video gambling and capping a sales tax discount for retailers.

One thing lawmakers can't do is implement across-the-board spending cuts, according to GOMB. The report said about 40 percent of state spending is required by courts, state law and other obligations. Another 24 percent is for education and higher education, including the \$350 million increase to education funding that is called for as part of the state's evidence-based funding formula for K-12 schools each year.

"We're looking at everything," Sims said. "That's the beauty of the budget process. Each budget has its own identity and this budget's no different."

Sims said there have been no discussions about tax increases to close the revenue gap. Curran said Democrats should pledge not to hike any taxes to balance the budget.

"What we're not interested in is making life worse for working families," Rose said. "The clear message

from this election, whether you're in Illinois or Montana, is real people are tapped out. They don't have more money to give."

State lawmakers face a variety of spending pressures this year outside of what is already in the state budget. Chicago officials have asked Springfield to step up funding for Chicago Public Schools, sports teams want money from the state to build new stadiums and the Chicago area's transit agencies are facing a \$730 million budget gap next year that many hope the state can help fill.

Sims acknowledged the "infinite needs, but finite resources" of the state budget, but said Democrats will continue to prioritize investments in education, health care and other areas.

If Republicans get a better seat at the table, they would be looking for ways to reduce spending, Curran said.

"We are going to have to constrain spending," Curran said. "We're going to have to go line by line. Everything needs to be on the table for that and that's a process that needs to start early."

Federal judge strikes down Illinois assault weapons ban, setting up likely appeal

Southern District court says law violates 2nd Amendment; other cases still pending

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

A federal judge in East St. Louis on Nov. 8 struck down Illinois' assault weapons ban on the grounds that it violates the Second and 14th amendments to the U.S. Constitution and issued an order barring the state from enforcing it.

That order, however, was stayed for 30 days, giving the

state time to file an appeal before it takes effect.

In a 168-page opinion, Judge Stephen McGlynn sided with plaintiffs in the case who argued the assault-style weapons banned under the law are commonly used for legal purposes such as self-defense.

"What is particularly disturbing is that the prohibition of weapons that are commonly owned and used by citizens are now banned, depriving citizens of a principal means to defend themselves and their property in situations where a handgun or shotgun alone would not be the citizen's preferred arm," McGlynn wrote.

In March, before the case went to trial, McGlynn issued a preliminary injunction blocking enforcement of the law, saying the plaintiffs challenging the law were likely to prevail on the merits of the case.

But the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals reversed that decision, and in July the U.S. Supreme

declined to review it—along with several other cases challenging the law—and remanded all the cases back to district courts for full proceedings.

The case before McGlynn was the subject of a week-long trial in September. Two other cases, each with multiple sets of plaintiffs, are pending before district court judges in the Northern District of Illinois in Chicago.

Meanwhile, a three-judge panel of the 7th Circuit was scheduled to hear oral arguments last week in a case challenging Cook County's local assault weapons ban.

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul did not immediately comment on McGlynn's ruling. Gov. JB Pritzker issued a statement saying he expects the attorney general will file "an immediate appeal" and for the law to be "upheld through this process."

"The Protect Illinois Communities Act was the result of hundreds of hours of deliber-

ation between legal experts, legislators, and advocates, and it makes Illinois a safer place for everyone," Pritzker said in a statement. "Despite those who value weapons of war more than public safety, this law was enacted to and has protected Illinoisans from the constant fear of being gunned down in places where they ought to feel secure."

Gun rights groups like the Firearms Policy Coalition, meanwhile, issued statements celebrating the ruling.

"We are gratified that the Court properly found that these bans violate the constitutionally protected rights of Illinois residents and visitors. As we clearly showed at trial, PICA fails even under the Seventh Circuit's misguided test that conflicts with binding Supreme Court precedent," said FPC President Brandon Combs, noting the group was "hopeful" the U.S. Supreme Court would strike down similar bans.

FEMA hosting flood map open house for Nippersink Creek Watershed residents

The Federal Emergency Management Agency will be hosting an open house to present the preliminary flood maps for portions of the Nippersink Creek Watershed.

Experts from FEMA will present the tentative maps, which aid community leaders and residents in identifying known flood risks and using that information to make decisions about future development and purchasing flood insurance.

The open house takes place from 3-6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4, at Nippersink Public Library, 5418 Hill Road,

Richmond. The watershed includes portions of Fox Lake, Greenwood, Richmond, Ringwood, Spring Grove, Wonder Lake, and parts of unincorporated McHenry County.

Homeowners, renters, and business owners are encouraged to attend and meet with experts one-on-one to check their own addresses on the new maps. Attendees will learn about their specific risk and ways to help prevent flood loss. McHenry County Planning and Development Department staff will be available during the first hour

of the open house to answer any questions about stormwater management.

Preliminary maps can be viewed prior to the open house by visiting <https://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/prelimdownload>.

Attendees who require accommodations such as sign language interpreters can request assistance by emailing FEMA-Region5-FloodInsuranceOutreach@fema.dhs.gov at least 48 hours before the open house.


For more information, contact FEMA-R5-MAP@fema.dhs.gov.

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Wednesday, Nov. 27 at 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 28 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Santa Claus 

HEY KIDS!


Christmas is coming soon! Have you sent Santa your letter yet? Send us your Christmas letter and he will send you one back.

Some of the letters will appear in the December 18 edition of the Hi-Liter.

Send to: Santa's Elves
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Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

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R. SCOTT MCNEILL PHOTO HI-LITER/MCN

An anonymous private foundation and Wintrust Financial Services donated \$1.5 million to endow two popular forest preserves, including Greenbelt in North Chicago (shown above).

Major donations support essential green spaces for residents in Northeastern Lake County

An anonymous private foundation and Wintrust Financial Services, a financial services company founded in Lake County, have together donated \$1.5 million to endow two popular forest preserves. The funds will be used to care for nearly 1,000 acres of public land and ensure they remain ecologically healthy for future generations.

Greenbelt Forest Preserve in North Chicago and Lyons Woods Forest Preserve in Waukegan are islands of green in one of Lake County's most densely populated regions. "Homes, businesses, roads and industry surround and place pressure on the two preserves," said Angelo Kyle, president of the Lake County Forest Preserves. "We are actively restoring these lands through grants, volunteer support and capital funds. These generous charitable gifts will help ensure the preserves remain healthy for residents today and forever."

Northeastern Lake County bears the heaviest burden of environmental and health inequities in the area, as highlighted in a Brushwood Center study, "Health, Equity and Nature: A Changing Climate in

Lake County." The opportunity to invest in two of the most important green spaces serving residents in this region aligns with Wintrust's commitment to build thriving communities and protect the environment.

"Wintrust aims to meet these goals by improving business operations, offering climate-friendly investments and making deeply impactful charitable gifts like this one," said Steve Madden, chief executive officer of Libertyville Bank & Trust and north region market head, Wintrust Financial Corporation. "Lake County has more biodiversity than any other county in Illinois, and we all have a role to play in protecting it for plants, animals and people."

The Forest Preserves relies on public funds to preserve land and restore it to diverse woodlands, wetlands, prairie and savanna. Charitable gifts like these protect the preserves against ongoing threats such as invasive species, exotic pests and climate change.

The Wintrust gift is the first major corporate gift in support of "Every Acre Strong," a community campaign for the Forest Preserves. Managed by the Forest Preserves' charitable partner, the Preser-

vation Foundation, the campaign aims to raise \$20 million to endow beloved forest preserves including Greenbelt and Lyons Woods. "We are thrilled that Lake County's leading bank, with its deep roots and commitment to community, has stepped forward as our first major corporate donor," said Nels Leutwiler, president of the Preservation Foundation.

These two lead gifts will provide about 75% of the funds needed to endow Greenbelt and Lyons Woods, Leutwiler reported. "Our goal is \$2 million, so we have just \$500,000 to go. We hope Wintrust's generosity will inspire other Lake County companies to step forward and help us close the gap."

The Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves was established in 2007. A nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, the Foundation raises private support for forest preserve projects, programs and initiatives that might otherwise go unfunded. Its mission is to extend and accelerate the Forest Preserves goals through private philanthropy to restore and preserve natural and cultural resources in perpetuity.

Lake County Board adopts \$659 million budget

The Lake County Board approved a \$659 million Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Budget at its meeting on November 12. The operating funds, which support most government services, are balanced at \$386.2 million.

The budget funds Lake County's services, including transportation and infrastructure, health services, courts and public safety. This year's budget themes - Excellence, Innovation and Sustainability - align with the County Board's Vision. The budget includes several new initiatives that advance Lake County's six strategic priorities. The budget allocates resources to open Lake County's newest building, the Regional Operations and Communications (ROC) facility, in 2025.

It also incorporates salary adjustments from a compensation study aimed at enhancing recruitment efforts and supporting employee retention.

"This unanimously approved budget reflects Lake County's commitment to delivering vital services to our residents," said Lake County Board Chair Sandy Hart. "It ensures we can meet essential needs in public safety, housing, health, infrastructure and more while also supporting the dedicated employees who make these services possible every day."

After discussions during October's public budget meetings, the County Board approved a property tax levy increase of just over two percent to ensure funding for critical infrastructure and new programming. This is well below the maximum increase allowed, which is 3.4 percent.

"Our budget makes significant investments in our people, clean energy infrastructure, public safety and human services and once again demonstrates our commitment to transparency and budgeting excellence," said Finance and Administrative Committee Chair Paul Frank. "I thank our department leaders, County Administrator Sutton, CFO Gallagher, the Finance Committee members and all the County Board Members for their work and contributions to this year's budget."

While individual tax bills will vary based on property assessments and other local government levies, the Lake County portion of the average homeowner's tax bill is expected to increase by only a few dollars.

Lake County received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for its FY2024 Budget, recognizing its commitment to high standards in governmental budgeting.

"We are honored by this recognition, which underscores our dedication to transparent and effective budget management," said Melissa Gallagher, Chief Financial Officer. "We are committed to upholding these standards with our FY2025 Budget as well."

The FY2025 Budget is available for viewing at lakecountyil.gov/Budget.

Lake County launches countywide Safety Action Plan

In partnership with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, the Illinois Department of Transportation, and five other counties in northeastern Illinois, Lake County is proud to announce its involvement in Safe Travel for All, <https://engage.cmap.illinois.gov/hub-page/safetravelforall>. This regionwide initiative aims to identify existing conditions and trends causing safety hazards and make recommendations to reduce severe and fatal crashes and ultimately save lives.

As part of Safe Travel for All, Lake County is developing a safety action plan, a roadmap for improving traffic safety countywide. Completing this plan will open opportunities for the county and its communities to access federal funding to

implement changes that will keep people safer on our roads.

"The safety of all users of our transportation network of roads, paths and sidewalks is always our top priority," said Shane Schneider, Lake County Division of Transportation Director. "Everyone is encouraged to participate in this effort. Helping us identify a safety issue now could lead to a project that improves the network for everyone."

The Lake County Safety Action Plan (LCSAP) will use a data-driven approach to identify high crash areas, including those in disadvantaged areas that experience a disproportionately higher share of traffic-related harm. To complement this effort, Lake County encourages community residents to

share their own experiences and take an active role in the Lake County Safety Action Plan by identifying traffic locations in need of attention, including areas with pedestrian and bike traffic. Participate

Anyone who lives, works, or travels in Lake County can participate in the planning process by:

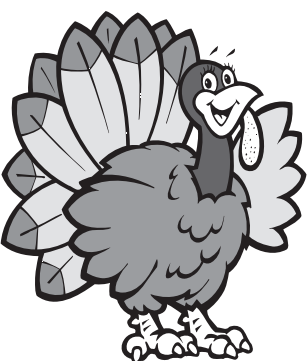
- Providing input on the interactive Safety Hot Spots map at <https://engage.cmap.illinois.gov/lake/maps/safety-hotspots-map>
- Signing up for email updates at <https://engage.cmap.illinois.gov/register?next=/lake>
- Attending in-person events throughout the next 10 months. Events listed at https://engage.cmap.illinois.gov/lake/widgets/90719/key_dates#31928.

The LCSAP will be guided by a steering committee made up of a broad, inclusive group of stakeholders designed to capture a diverse range of perspectives. Current committee members include representatives from:

- Lake County Transportation Alliance
- Lake County Major Crash Assistance Team

- Lake County Health Department
- Lake county Regional Office of Education
- Mano a Mano Family Resource Center
- Lake County Center for Independent Living
- Lake County Forest Preserves
- NAACP Lake County Chapter

- Representatives from multiple city governments
- By directly engaging with county residents, the LCSAP aims to prioritize safety improvements that most benefit the community. If you have any questions about the project, please email the Project Manager, Mike Klemens, at mkle-mens@lakecountyil.gov.



HI-LITER

~ including McHenry County News
1102 Ann Street, Delavan, WI 53115

As of Feb. 9, 2022 Hi-Liter is the successor publication to McHenry County News

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County participates in Operation Green Light to show support for America's veterans



SUBMITTED PHOTO HI-LITER/MCN

Green lights are shown on the county building earlier this month in observation of Operation Green Light to show support to America's Veterans and raise awareness of resources available to them.

Once again, McHenry County joined local governments nationwide in observing Operation Green Light to show support for America's veterans and raise awareness of the resources available to them.

Operation Green Light started on Nov. 4 and ended with the Veterans Day holiday on Nov. 11. The nationwide observance honors the service and sacrifice of the men and women who served our country in the Armed Forces through the shining of green lights at county government buildings – and symbolically bringing attention to the benefits they earned, and how they can access them.

Green lights were shining at the entrance to the County Administration Building, 667 Ware Road, Woodstock, where the office of the McHenry County Veterans Assistance Commission is located.

"Veterans who served this great nation earned their benefits many times over – and we as a great nation have an obligation to make sure they get them," County Board Chairman Mike Buehler said. "Through Operation Green Light, we

not only honor their service and sacrifice, but also make them aware that our Veterans Assistance Commission stands ready to help them."

The VAC provides many services to veterans and their eligible survivors, including financial assistance, processing and advocating for Veterans Administration claims, transportation to the Lovell veterans' health care center in North Chicago, and assistance for those caring for a veteran and/or a veteran's spouse.

On Veterans Day, McHenry County partnered with local chapters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion to hold a ceremony honoring our men and women in uniform. The ceremony was held at the County Administration Building, and the VAC was on hand to talk to veterans about their benefits.

Veterans and their dependents and caregivers can learn more about the VAC by visiting their website at www.mchenrycountyil.gov/vac, by contacting the office at 815-334-4229, or by emailing veterans@mchenrycountyil.gov.

Illinois school Superintendent Tony Sanders discusses strategy to boost math scores

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The Illinois State Board of Education recently released the 2024 School Report Card, showing a record-high proficiency rate for students in grades 3-8 in English language arts while math scores still have not fully recovered from the low point they hit during the pandemic.

In response, ISBE has announced plans to develop a comprehensive, statewide strategy for boosting math skills across the board.

In a podcast interview recorded Wednesday, Nov. 6, State Superintendent of Education Tony Sanders spoke with Capitol News Illinois about the report card and the need to address the sagging math scores.

Following is an edited transcript of that interview.

CNI: Before we get to this math plan, what is this state report card that comes out every year. Why do we do this?

Sanders: So the state report card really is a result of federal requirements. All the

way back to the early 2000s, school districts had to start under—then the law was called No Child Left Behind—had to start reporting annually, school-by-school, on the progress being made by students. Individual states developed their own accountability systems, so they all look different. But it was a way to inform parents, taxpayers and others on how students were doing across the state and within your local community.

CNI: You use the words "accountability report." In what way do these reports hold schools and districts and state departments like yours accountable?

Sanders: The accountability system focuses on schools and districts that are underperforming. So the school districts that really are struggling the most in student growth and student attainment are the ones that typically are identified for supports. And with that comes additional monetary support. So they get more money to do additional strat-

egies to improve student outcomes at those schools.

Within Illinois, parents can expect to see their schools currently labeled in one of four areas. They're either going to be labeled as "exemplary," meaning they're in the top 10 percent of the state; "commendable," which is about 72 percent of our schools; or they're going to be "comprehensive" or "targeted status." Those are the schools that are the lowest performing schools in the state academically.

CNI: And roughly how many of those do we have, and are they located in particular areas?

Sanders: So it is limited to the 5 percent of the schools. There's about 400 schools that are currently on that list, and they're all over the place. They're in large urban systems. They're in small, rural communities. So you'll find schools being labeled as "targeted" or "comprehensive" everywhere in the state.

CNI: Getting back to the math scores, a lot of people

will just say in casual conversation, "You know, math was never really my subject. I was never good at math. I can't balance my own checkbook." And the test scores have always borne that out. The achievement scores are rarely as high in math as in other subjects. Why is that? Is that a cultural thing for Americans? Are we just not a math-prone society?

Sanders: No. If you look back over the history of standardized tests, all the way the NAEP assessment (the National Assessment of Educational Progress), which is given across the nation, the scores have not changed significantly all the way back to the 1950s.

I try to think back to the time when Sputnik went up, and suddenly there was this urgency to improve math and science across the nation. And despite all those efforts back in the 50s and 60s, we still haven't seen a lot of significant gains in math over decades of time.

CNI: What goes into developing a plan like this?

The Literacy Plan took a long time.

Sanders: Yeah, it took a couple of years. That one was spurred on, really, by the General Assembly. They saw our English language arts results and prompted us. Nationwide, there's been a conversation about the "science of reading" and shifting practice of literacy instruction. But we've not yet had that national conversation about math. So we intend to follow, again, the same type of process we did before: pulling together experts from across the state and the nation to look at what are best practices currently in terms of math instruction, pulling in curriculum experts, pulling in experts in English language learning.

CNI: You did a media briefing about the report card itself, and kind of walking us through step by step. And one of the things you said when it came to math was that Illinois adopted new learning standards for math back in 2010. It's been almost 15 years. And you also added that there's never been a concerted statewide effort to provide teachers and educators with training in how to implement these standards. And it struck me that a child who started kindergarten in 2010 has now already graduated high school, but we still haven't implemented a training program for teachers to deal with these new standards. Was that a failure on the state's part?

Sanders: Every state adopted new standards for math and English language arts around the same time, around 2010.

CNI: Those were the Common Core Standards.

Sanders: The Common Core Standards were implemented. And then they became the Illinois Learning Standards. When that shift happened, teachers, principals and local school districts all began taking a harder look at their curriculum and their practices in both English language arts and math.

The challenge with math, from a local district perspective and a teacher perspective, is that there's too many standards within a student's one-year span of time for a teacher to be able to hit every single standard and ensure every child is competent in that standard.

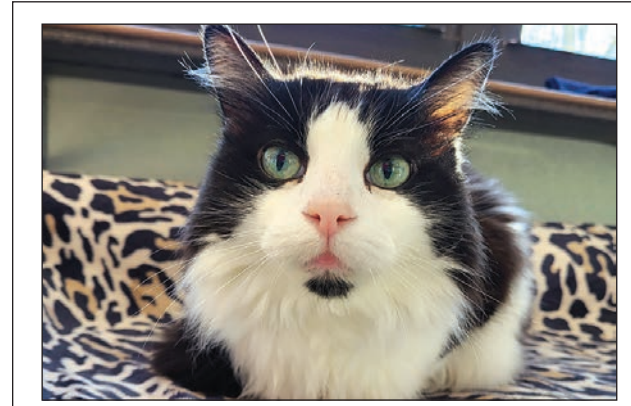
If you're taking a look at them grade-by-grade, it's a lot that we're asking our teachers to cover. And so I think part of our work—and I would never call it a failure—but I think part of our work is really being very explicit about which are the power standards. Which are the ones that we need to ensure students must master by a particular grade level in order to progress to the next grade level? And I think that's going to be part of the work that we'll have to do as we roll out this math plan.

CNI: Is there anything else in the report card that you think should be highlighted?

Sanders: We have so much to be proud of in this year's report card. Our students need to be very proud of the work they did. Our teachers need to stand up and take a bow for working so hard, not only during the pandemic, but after the pandemic, to fully prepare our kids.

We've seen historic rates of proficiency in English language arts, 40.9 percent of our kids being proficient in English language arts, which is an all-time high for the state of Illinois. That's something to celebrate. The highest ever known graduation rate on record. That is something to celebrate. Lowering our chronic absenteeism, so more students are showing up on a daily basis to school. That's a win.

So much of this year's report card is positive news. Even the math scores are an improvement. They're just not moving as fast as our English language arts scores. So, by and large, Illinois has a lot to be proud of in this report card. It demonstrates a lot of hard work on the part of our teachers and students over this last academic year.



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Miles, is about 11 years old, spayed, up-to-date on routine shots (including rabies), tested negative for FIV, feline leukemia and heartworm and microchipped.

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Court & crime news

Lake County Sheriff's Office, community prevent threat against Lake County school

Lake County Sheriff's Deputies and Detectives seized two firearms and filed a juvenile petition for charges against a juvenile who threatened a school shooting.

On November 13, Lake County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a report of a school threat directed at Fremont Middle School in unincorporated Mundelein. Deputies learned that a student had threatened a school shooting while riding the school bus home after an altercation with other students.

Further investigation revealed that, upon arriving home, the juvenile retrieved a firearm from home and initiated a video call with one of the students involved in the earlier altercation, displaying the firearm during the call.

Sheriff's deputies promptly responded to the juvenile's residence, made contact with the juvenile, and seized the shotgun used in the video. Sheriff's deputies also sought a Firearm Restraining Order

(FRO) from the 19th Judicial Circuit Court, which was approved. Sheriff's deputies and detectives located and seized an additional firearm and ammunition that was inside of a safe in the home.

The juvenile was petitioned to juvenile court on the charges of unlawful possession of a firearm and aggravated assault. Charges against the juvenile's guardians are pending. Sheriff's detectives made notification to the Illinois State Police regarding the Firearm Owner Identification Card (FOID) status of the adults living in the home with the juvenile.

Throughout the investigation, members of the Sheriff's Community Engagement and School Resource Team and the school district collaborated closely to ensure the safety and well-being of the school community.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "We are incredibly grateful to the witnesses who stepped forward to report this

threat. The community plays a critical role in preventing tragedies. Across the country, we've seen too many instances of school violence where warning signs went unreported. Thanks to the diligence and swift action of my dedicated staff, we were able to seize these weapons and ensure the safety of the school and our community. Together, we can make a difference by speaking up when something doesn't seem right."

Franklin sentenced as an armed habitual criminal

On November 6, Quinelle Franklin, a 33-year-old male from Crystal Lake, was sentenced to 9 years 6 months in the Illinois Department of Corrections for the offense of



Quinelle Franklin

Armed Habitual Criminal, a Class X Felony. Franklin entered into a negotiated plea to the charge before Judge Mark R. Gerhardt.

On August 30, 2024, deputies with the McHenry County Sheriff's Office pulled over a vehicle for speeding near the intersection of Route 31 and 14 in Crystal Lake. They made contact with the driver, identified as Franklin. Franklin questioned why he was being pulled over, and soon after, he quickly sped away from the stop. Deputies observed him travel behind the Regal Crystal Lake Showplace before crossing Pingree Road and stopping in the parking lot of a dispensary. Deputies proceeded to search the area behind the movie theater, where a Smith and Wesson .40 caliber handgun was found. Franklin's DNA was later collected, and his DNA connected him to the handgun. Based on criminal history, his possession of the

handgun rises to the level of classifying him as an Armed Habitual Criminal.

McHenry County State's Attorney Patrick D. Kenneally thanks the McHenry County Sheriff's Office for bravely pursuing Franklin and their investigation into the stolen firearm. A special thanks goes out to the Illinois State Police Crime Lab for testing the forensic evidence in this case at a rapid rate. Thank you to Assistant State's Attorney Maria Marek for prosecuting this case.

Marinas sentenced to six year for drug-induced homicide

Patrick D. Kenneally, McHenry County State's Attorney, announces that on November 6, 2024, 35-year-old RJ Marinas of Rockford, Illinois, entered a negotiated plea of guilty to the charge of Drug-Induced Homicide, a Class X felony, before the Honorable Tiffany Davis

and was sentenced to 6 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

On June 4, 2022, a woman was found deceased by an apparent overdose at a recovery home in Woodstock, Illinois. Through an investigation by the Woodstock Police Department, it was determined that Marinas gave a substance containing fentanyl to the woman and she ingested the fentanyl. A forensic pathologist determined that her death was caused by the fentanyl provided to her by Marinas.

The investigation was led by Detective David Sharp of the Woodstock Police Department and was prosecuted by Matthew Brodersen of the McHenry County State's Attorney's Office.



RJ Marinas

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.

Sept. 27
Tristian A. Rice, 18, Gages Lake, was cited for no driver's license, and suspended registration;

Gregor G. Kloss-Bliznick, 27, McHenry, was cited for a warrant arrest: parole violation - Wisconsin, and new charges: unlawful use of an ID card, and obstructing identification;

Jeremy D. Johnson, 34, Salem, WI, was cited for unlawful possession of LSD, unlawful possession of meth, unlawful possession of cocaine, driving while license revoked, and no insurance;

Barmerly C. Linares-Luna, 27, Beach Park, was cited for no driver's license;

Sept. 28
Lance M. Nissen, 40, Gurnee, was cited for DUI -

alcohol;
Kahdijah Terry, 30, Chicago, was cited for a warrant obtained: burglary, and retail theft;

Larry J. Barela, 24, no permanent address, was cited for a warrant arrest: battery;

Fernando Salazar, 35, Waukegan, was cited for DUI - alcohol, open transportation of alcohol, child endangerment and no insurance;

Lesley Arizmendi, 26, Waukegan, was cited for endangering the life of a child;

Sept. 29
Scottie R. Altpeter, 36, Grayslake, was cited for a warrant arrest: resisting arrest (Cook County);

April L. Bucklew, 55, Twin Lakes, WI, was cited for aggravated DUI, and no insurance;

Gabriel Garcia, 25, Lake Villa, was cited for a warrant arrest: criminal damage to property;

Rodolfo Ramirez, 41, Evanston, was cited for crimi-

nal trespass to property;
Elias Rivera, 47, Lake Villa, was cited for interference with emergency communication.

Sept. 30
Akiyah Robinson, 26, Barrington, was cited for endangering the life of a child;

Ariel G. Rodriguez, 41, Winthrop Harbor, was cited for no driver's license;

Patrick Carlton, 60, Zion, was cited for aggravated speeding (89 mph in 45 mph zone), and no insurance;

Oct. 1
Jesus C. Deleon, 34, Lakemoor, was cited for no driver's license and suspended registration;

Oct. 2
Christopher S. Carstens, 24, Kenosha, WI, was cited for aggravated unlawful possession of a weapon by a felon;

Oct. 3
Jacorey N. McKnight, 18, Waukegan, was cited for bat-

tery;
Erica K. Cross, 42, Beach Park, was cited for a warrant obtained: aggravated battery and domestic battery;

Joshua J. McCarthy, 37, Waukegan, was cited for unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, and attempt obstructing identification;

Oct. 4
Erica K. Cross, 42, Beach Park, was cited for aggravated battery and domestic battery;

Luke Marva, 19, Antioch, was cited for a warrant obtained: burglary;

Joshua Hayhurst, 21, Antioch, was cited for a warrant obtained: burglary;

Gilberto Valdez Martinez, 23, Aurora, was cited for driving while license suspended, no insurance and a warrant arrest: obstructing a peace officer;

Oct. 5
Dominique T. Douglas, 27, Waukegan, was cited for no driver's license;

Diamond D. Rogers, 29, North Chicago, was cited for no driver's license;

Oct. 6
Sandra V. Gomez, 31, Grayslake, was cited for a warrant arrest: driving while license suspended (McHenry County);

Garney Lester, 55, McHenry, was cited for attempted possession of cocaine;

Kendra S. Lockhart, 36, Lake Zurich, was cited for disorderly conduct;

Oct. 7
Jose R. Munoz-Murillo, 27, Grayslake, was cited for child neglect;

Oct. 8
Daniel R. Wilnau, 45, Huntley, was cited for a warrant obtained: theft;

Terry Kahdijah, 30, Chicago, was cited for a warrant obtained: burglary, and retail theft;

Pearl Tia, 41, Waukegan, was cited for a warrant arrest: fugitive from justice (Wisconsin);

Whitney D. Harris, 39, Waukegan, was cited for driving while license suspended;

Jerome Hankins, 45, Chicago, was cited for driving while license suspended and no insurance;

Maria D. Martinez, 40, Zion, was cited for driving while license suspended, suspended registration and no insurance;

Fletcher J. Aplin, 29, Kenosha, WI, was cited for DUI - alcohol;

Kirk G. Laya, 30, Round Lake Beach, was cited for

driving while license suspended;

Oct. 9
Arthur J. Scarborough, 23, Zion, was cited for criminal damage to government property;

Anthony P. Shields, 20, Lake Villa, was cited for battery;

Ivan Jimenez-Rosendo, 20, Waukegan, was cited for battery;

Karla L. Ransel-Tirado, 30, Park City, was cited for no driver's license;

Anthony L. Rios, 37, Chicago, was cited for driving while license suspended;

Oct. 10
Rasheen Devon Linder, 27, Milwaukee, WI, was cited for a warrant obtained: burglary, possessing credit card of another;

Armond S. Phillips, 33, Waukegan, was cited for driving while license suspended, and improper transportation of cannabis;

Oct. 11
Renne A. Zamora, 41, Round Lake Heights, was cited for DUI - alcohol;

James Charleston, 64, Waukegan, was cited for driving while license revoked and suspended registration.

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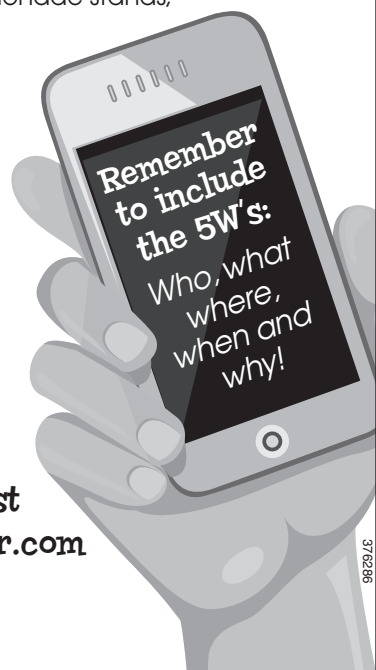
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Lake County unveils new bird-friendly building design at Central Permit Facility

On Friday, Nov. 8, Lake County officials gathered to celebrate the bird-friendly enhancements at the Lake County Central Permit Facility in Libertyville in an effort to mitigate bird strikes against glass windows.

After a study was conducted at the facility, the building was retrofitted with improvements in high-strike zones. Proven bird-friendly modifications were added to the building, including a dot pattern applied to the windows on the front of the facility and paracord hung four inches apart on the south side of the building.

The Central Permit Facility is now the first Lake County government building outfitted with a bird-friendly building design. Earlier this year, the Lake County Board approved amendments to the building code to mitigate bird collisions with glass on new and renovated non-residential buildings in unincorporated Lake County as well as a policy for newly constructed Lake County government facilities.

"Incorporating bird friendly building design may prevent the death of thousands of birds every year," said Lake County Board Chair Sandy Hart. "I'm proud that Lake County is making these simple, cost effective improvements and

continues to be a leader in protecting wildlife."

Lake County lies within the path of the busy Mississippi Flyway, one of North America's major bird migratory routes, with millions of birds flying through the area each year. Bird collisions into glass have become a common occurrence in our region and nationwide. It is estimated over 1 billion birds are killed annually in the United States due to building strikes. Birds do not see glass the way humans do, making it an invisible threat, and the reflection of trees in glass further confuses birds leading to additional collisions.

"Lake County is committed to reducing man-made threats to our bird populations," said Paul Frank, Lake County Financial and Administrative Committee Chair and Board Member for District 11. "Earlier this year we adopted one of region's first bird-friendly building design ordinances. This is an exciting step today as we lead by example adding low-cost decals to our own buildings in Lake County."

Lake County staff monitored and surveyed the area around the Central Permit Facility to collect data connected to the amount of bird strikes that occur around the building. When the build-



Lake County officials gathered at the Central Permit Facility in Libertyville on November 8 to celebrate the bird-friendly improvements put in place at the building.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCON

ing was determined to be a good candidate for measures to make it more bird-friendly, staff researched the best solutions to retrofit the building to limit bird strikes. A dot pattern was chosen because it breaks up glass reflection, therefore increasing glass visibility for birds. Hanging paracord was

chosen because it helps the building adhere to the 2 x 4 rule. Research has shown birds will not fly through spaces less than two inches high or four inches wide. Further information about bird-friendly building design solutions is available on Lake County's website.

While the Central Permit

Facility is the first bird-friendly Lake County government building, it won't be the last. The Regional Operations and Communications Facility, currently under construction in Libertyville, is being built as a bird-friendly facility. The Administrative building in Waukegan had a recent entrance renovation and is

planned to be retrofitted with bird-friendly solution improvements.

The Lake County Board continues to emphasize protecting and enhancing the natural environment through its strategic plan. Learn more about the County's sustainability efforts at lake-countyil.gov/sustainability.

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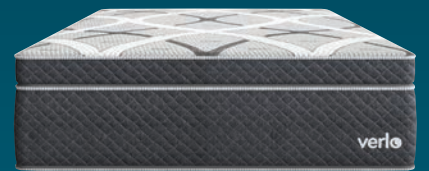


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