

HI-LITER

~ including McHenry County News

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Spring music concerts at College of Lake County include Kristin Korb at 'Art of Jazz'

Music lovers unite with College of Lake County's (CLC) spring music concerts beginning in March. Critically acclaimed Kristin Korb will be the guest artist at the 48th annual "Art of Jazz" concert series on Sunday, March 16.

Based in Denmark, Kristin Korb is a rare breed of musician who effortlessly blends her talents as a bassist and vocalist, captivating listeners with her crystal-clear voice while expertly maneuvering the bass. Korb will also lead a free masterclass, open to the public, on Saturday, March 15 at 11 a.m. in Room P101, on CLC's Grayslake campus.

"We are excited to welcome bassist and vocalist Kristin Korb to CLC to perform with our award-winning jazz ensemble," says Michael Flack, CLC Music instructor. Her time with the great bassist Ray Brown (with whom she made her recording debut) along with her impressive teaching resume at the University of Southern California combine to offer our voice and instrumental students as well as the Lake County community a unique opportunity to learn from an experienced performer and educator."

This spring's concerts include:

- Wind Ensemble Concert: 4 p.m., Sunday, March 9
- 48th Annual "Art of Jazz" Concert Series: 4 p.m., Sunday, March 16
- Gospel Choir Concert: 4 p.m., Saturday, April 5
- Jazz Ensembles Spring Concert: 4 p.m., Friday, May 2
- Wind Ensemble Spring Concert: 4 p.m., Sunday, May 4
- Choral Ensembles Spring Concert: 4 p.m., Saturday, May 10
- Jazz Combo Spring Concert: 7 p.m., Monday, May 12, Room P101
- Concert Band Spring Concert: 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 14

To purchase tickets, visit www.jlcenter.clcillinois.edu or call (847) 543-2300. Tickets can also be purchased at the James Lumber Center for the Performing Arts Box Office 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. All concerts take place on the Mainstage at the James Lumber Center for the Performing Arts, 19351 W. Washington Street, Grayslake, with the exception of the free Jazz Combo spring concert.

Become a fan of the College of Lake County Music Department on social media at:
Facebook: @CollegeofLakeCountyMusicDepartment
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SUBMITTED PHOTO HI-LITER/MCN

Arrest warrants issued for gravestone thefts

On September 3, 2024, members of the McHenry County Sheriff's Office were called to the McHenry County Memorial Park Cemetery in reference to theft. It was discovered that approximately 200 decorative metallic gravestone vases were removed from individual gravestones and stolen. Each decorative vase ranged in value of approximately \$200-\$900 each.

Upon receiving this report, the McHenry County Criminal Investigations Division began investigating the incident.

In collaboration with the Lake County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division and McHenry County States Attorney's Office, the McHenry County Sheriff's Office was able to identify Fermin Tonche Gallardo and Marcos Mendez as the suspects in the theft of the vases.

Arrest warrants have been issued for Gallardo and Mendez.

- Fermin Tonche Gallardo, 30, Waukegan, IL
- Marcos Mendez, 41, Waukegan, IL

Both on charges of: Theft <\$10,000 (Class 2 felony) and Damage to Gravestone (Class 4 felony).



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Illinois Supreme Court hears arguments on a challenge to Illinois' concealed carry law

State appellate defender says law infringes on Second Amendment right to 'open carry'

By Ismael M. Belkoura and Medill Illinois News Bureau
Amid multiple recent challenges to state gun control laws, the Illinois Supreme Court recently heard arguments concerning the constitutionality of concealed carry licenses and open carry bans. Under Illinois' aggravated unlawful use of a weapon

statute, individuals are not allowed to carry a firearm in public unless the person has a valid Concealed Carry License. Tyshon Thompson, the defendant, was convicted of violating the statute in March 2022 after having been involved in a highway shooting two years earlier.

Thompson, represented by

the state appellate defender's office, has since challenged the statute as unconstitutional based on the 2022 U.S. Supreme Court case New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen. After a lower court affirmed his conviction in June 2023, Thompson appealed the decision.

Most states have some type

of licensing process, characterized as either "shall-issue," meaning they are issued if they meet the criteria set by the law, or "may-issue" licensing done at the discretion of authorities. Shall-issue licensing allows citizens to obtain permits through a non-restrictive process, while may-issue licenses require ap-

plicants to give a proper reason for needing a weapon.

In the Bruen case, the U.S. Supreme Court found that may-issue licenses were unconstitutional, ruling the New York law at issue violated the Fourteenth Amendment by making it difficult for people to show "proper cause" in order to exercise their basic Second Amendment right to bear arms. The court also decided states must show that their laws are consistent with the nation's historical tradition of firearms regulation.

Eric Castañeda, of the state appellate defender's office, argued Illinois' concealed carry law was unconstitutional according to the Bruen precedent because of the license's prerequisites.

One of the requirements for a concealed carry license is another permit—a Firearm Owner's Identification, or FOID, card. A FOID card allows an Illinois native to purchase and possess firearms and ammunition. Thompson had a FOID card but was still found guilty of violating state law for having a firearm in his vehicle in 2020. He was sentenced to 30 months in prison. One point of contention for Castañeda was the requirement to obtain two licenses to carry a weapon in public.

"The test provided by Bruen shows that the state has to point you in the direction of a historical analog that is well established," Castañeda said. "And it simply can't do that. ... There's simply no historical analog to show a double licensing regime."

Because of the need for a secondary permit, as well as the required 16-hour training, Castañeda said, Illinois' requirements for concealed carry were equivalent to a may-issue license.

Castañeda also argued the double licensing requirement did not pass the historical tradition test because there was no equivalent to Illinois' concealed carry license requirements at the time of the drafting of the Second Amendment, which protects the rights of citizens "to keep and bear arms."

Assistant Attorney General Garson Fischer, who represented the state, said the concealed carry law was shall-issue in nature. He cited the Bruen decision itself, which referenced 43 states, including Illinois, that have shall-issue licensing processes.

"The court said in no uncertain terms that shall-issue licensing regimes, including explicitly Illinois, are constitutional," Fischer said.

Fischer also said the defendant never applied for a concealed carry license and would have likely been approved for the license if he had gone through the appropriate steps.

The assistant attorney general noted the historical tradition test does not require an exact copy from the 18th century, but that the purpose of the regulation must have a similar purpose to regulations from that era.

Castañeda made additional arguments against any regulation prohibiting open carry, which is illegal under state law. In a court filing, the defense argued the concealed carry law is "facially unconstitutional as it categorically bans a law-abiding citizen's Second Amendment right to public open carry a handgun."

"We think that concealed carry and open carry are two categorically different conducts, one which is protected under the Second Amendment and the other which is not," Castañeda said. "So the government can regulate concealed carry as it pleases, but the same doesn't apply for open carry."

Thompson was convicted for violating a specific part of the aggravated unlawful use of a weapon statute concerning the concealed carry licenses, so it's unclear if Castañeda's client has standing to challenge Illinois' open carry ban.

"What the relevant provision of AUUW (aggravated unlawful use of a weapon) says is that you cannot legally carry a firearm in public unless you have a currently valid concealed carry license," Fischer said. "It doesn't say anything about open versus concealed carriage."

Illinois is not the only state to face challenges under the new Bruen framework. The U.S. Supreme Court recently declined to hear a challenge to a pair of Maryland state firearm regulations after the laws were affirmed by lower courts.

One of the challenged Maryland regulations was a ban on assault rifles, which is similar to an Illinois law that was temporarily struck down as unconstitutional by a federal judge in November. Illinois immediately appealed that decision, and a federal appeals court allowed the law to remain in place until it hears full arguments from both parties.

The other Maryland regulation included a licensing process similar to the dual system in Illinois.

The Illinois Supreme Court did not indicate when a final decision would be issued in the Thompson case.

Ismael M. Belkoura is a graduate student in journalism with Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications, and a Fellow in its Medill Illinois News Bureau working in partnership with Capitol News Illinois.

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Fox Lake holding Polar Plunge

The Village of Fox Lake Parks and Recreation Department is holding the Fox Lake Polar Plunge for Special Olympics on Sunday, Feb. 23 at Lakefront Park in Fox Lake.

Registration opens at 10 a.m. and the Plunge begins at noon. There will be a grilled cheese, soup, and hot beverage food truck on-site, so plungers and spectators can warm up.

Register your team or donate to this year's event by visiting this link: <https://support.soill.org/.../2025-letr-polar.../e626696>

Mentalist Joe Diamond launches The Secret Show in Woodstock

Cynthia Wolf
CONTRIBUTOR

Imagine if you will a mind-bending performance — equal parts magic, mystic and comic with a dash of history lesson — that has its audience erupting with laughter, applause and astonishment.

Now picture it is set in an eerie, intimate local haunt, one rich with the vibes of long-passed, oft-tortured souls, and put yourself there.

With The Secret Show on the Woodstock Square, you can do just that. It's the latest incarnation of a Joe Diamond Live performance. And you can catch it at the Sheriff's House, a newly renovated Events by Ethereal space in a "secret" location within the Old Courthouse Center in Woodstock.

Upcoming show dates include Saturdays, Feb. 1 and 22, as well as March 1, 8, 15 and 22. Tickets range from \$40 for general admission to \$125 for a two-guest, VIP experience, and are available at joediamondlive.com. Upon purchase, video directions are sent to guests revealing how to find The Secret Show. Attendance is limited to 30 guests, so those interested should not delay in snapping up their tickets. In-

deed, the first Secret Show on Jan. 18 sold out quickly.

Dressed in a sparkly, burgundy, corseted gown with a black lace shawl, "ghostess" Angie Wilgenbusch greeted excited guests as they entered the Sheriff's House for the cocktail hour preceding the premier show.

Her long black hair glistened and metallic black nails clicked on her keyboard as she checked in attendees, several of whom seated themselves in the original 1800s jail cell spaces across the room. In one cell, Madame Creatrix Lauren Manicke gazed into her crystal star and offered readings for intrigued guests.

Among those attending was Christine Bell of Chicago, a longtime Joe Diamond fan, and her friends Bea Medwecky and Kathy Zych, also from the Chicago area.

"I was looking to see a mentalist years ago, found an ad on Facebook and saw him perform. We enjoyed it so much that ever since we've come to see him many times," Bell said.

Medwecky said she appreciates the humor and skill Diamond injects into each show.

"He's funny," she said.

"And even though we've seen a lot of his tricks over and over, it's always like 'How does he do that?' He's got great charisma and good audience engagement."

At the appointed hour, after ushering his guests from the cell block/bar area into the Sheriff's House space, Diamond wasted no time captivating the crowd.

"Welcome to The Secret Show," he said. "Want to know the first secret tonight? Within the next hour, at least one of you will believe you've seen a ghost."

After correctly naming secret crushes a few guests had written down, Diamond entertained his audience with the story of Franz Mesmer, a German physician born in 1734 whose theories about natural energy transference and animal magnetism birthed the term "mesmerize."

An hour later, with the show at a close, guests chatted among themselves about the surprises they had witnessed. The small bar on the premises reopened for a time, and Manicke once again offered her readings and spiritual coaching.

As he prepared to leave, Ron Orist of Crystal Lake said

he thoroughly enjoyed the evening. "It's always different," he said. "I've never been to a show I was ever disappointed in. He always inspires me with his enthusiasm and the way he brings you into the wonderful aspects of mindfulness."

Diamond is a veteran performer who has been featured on "Penn & Teller: Fool Us" on the CW. He said he is thrilled to perform again in his native McHenry County (the now-Wisconsin resident was born in Woodstock), and plans to schedule more Secret Shows in the Sheriff's House space. Up until April 2023, the self-described mentalist had for nearly a decade regularly performed sold-out, award-winning shows at a studio he leased in Crystal Lake.

In addition to The Secret Show, Diamond frequently hosts a Psychic Parlor at the Maxwell Mansion in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, on Friday evenings. He also is available for hire for corporate and private gatherings. To inquire, click on "Book Joe" at joediamondlive.com, where his Penn & Teller performance also can be viewed.



CYNTHIA WOLF PHOTO HI-LITER/MCN

Joe Diamond mesmerizes an attendee during his first Secret Show Jan. 18 at the Old Courthouse Center, Woodstock. Information on upcoming shows is available at joediamondlive.com.



CYNTHIA WOLF PHOTO HI-LITER/MCN

Madame Creatrix Lauren Manicke performs a reading with a guest after The Secret Show — a Joe Diamond Live performance — at the Old Courthouse Center, Woodstock.

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Woodstock Groundhog Days start Thursday

It's time for one of McHenry County's most unique events - Woodstock's annual celebration of the Harold Ramis cult classic film that made the city famous. And this year, an old friend and a new event will make this year's Woodstock Groundhog Days one to remember

Actor Stephen Tobolowsky, who played insurance salesman Ned Ryerson, will be in town Feb. 1 for a meet and greet at Read Between the Lynes to talk about the film and sign copies of his books.

Also new this year is the inaugural Groundhog Days 5K run for people who want to mix their love of visiting the movie sites with their love of running - a love of

freezing your tail feathers off is not required, but recommended.

The four-day celebration starts on Thursday, Jan. 30 and runs through Sunday, Feb. 2 when the official prognostication will start at 6:30 a.m. in the center of the town square.

There is something for everyone with children's story times, trivia, showings of the 'Groundhog Day' movie, a dinner dance, 5K, meet and greets, a pub crawl, walking tours of the filming sites and more.

You can find the list of events on the official Woodstock Groundhog Days website at woodstockgroundhog.org or call the Groundhog Days Hotline at 815-334-2620.

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LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Officer Michael Viramontes, left, and Sgt. Bradley Ehrhardt, right, with Director of Public Safety Ron Davis. The officers were recognized for locating a man missing overnight in the frigid temperatures.

Forest preserves officers honored for saving man in freezing cold

Two Lake County Forest Preserves police officers were honored on Jan. 15, for their extraordinary dedication in locating a missing man.

Sgt. Bradley Ehrhardt was presented with a Meritorious Service Award, while Officer Michael Viramontes received a Lifesaving Award. Both officers were recognized with proclamations for their heroic efforts in rescuing a man who had been lost in Wadsworth Savanna Forest Preserve for about 13 hours in frigid 12-degree temperatures.

On Nov. 29, a man was reported missing at 9 p.m. from his home in Wadsworth. His hoodie and gloves were found in an area of Wadsworth Savanna that is dense with brush and trees and has no developed trails. Drones and K-9 units were deployed. Officers from other agencies suspended the search after about six hours.

At sunrise the next morning, upon learning the man had not returned home, Sgt. Ehrhardt reactivated the search.

All available on-duty officers divided up and continued the effort on foot, combing through the heavily wooded area.

After about two hours of searching, Viramontes found the man at about 10 a.m. standing in a forested area near the train tracks at the southern end of the preserve. The man explained that he had started walking in the preserve as night fell but became lost and unable to find his way home.

"He had been wandering all night," said Cmdr. Scott Banaszynski. "Thankfully, he kept moving, which likely saved his life by helping him stay warmer than if he had stopped or fallen asleep in the freezing conditions."

Paramedics took the man to Condell Hospital where he was treated for frostbite and irregular heartbeat, likely caused by prolonged exposure to the cold. "We're incredibly grateful that he's safe and recovering well," Banaszynski said.

Lake County adopts election day vote center model for enhanced voter convenience

The Lake County Clerk's Office is proud to announce the transition to a vote center model for Election Day voting, offering increased accessibility, convenience, and efficiency for all voters in Lake County.

Under this model, starting with the February 25, 2025, Consolidated Primary Election cycle, Lake County voters will still be assigned a Preferred Election Day Voting Site, but are no longer restricted to voting at that location. Instead, they can cast their ballot at any of the fully equipped vote centers located throughout Lake County, regardless of their residential address. While February 25, 2025, Consolidated Primary Election only applies to voters in the cities of North Chicago and Waukegan, this vote center model will be implemented for all subsequent elections as well, including the April 1, 2025, Consolidated Election,

which applies to all voters in Lake County.

"Lake County is joining counties in Illinois and across the country that make elections as convenient and accessible as possible to our voters. With the implementation of our Tenex Touchpad pollbooks and on-demand printing capabilities in 2024, we are reaffirming our commitment to accessibility by giving Lake County voters increased opportunity to cast their ballots. Gone are the days of a voter showing up to the wrong polling location and having them be redirected or vote provisionally," said Lake County Clerk Anthony Vega.

The vote center model is designed to reduce common frustrations associated with traditional precinct-based voting. Under this system, Lake County voters will no longer face the inconvenience of being in the "wrong" voting site

within the county. All vote centers are fully equipped to serve any registered voter in Lake County, ensuring a seamless and efficient voting experience.

While this model applies to Election Day voting within Lake County, voters must ensure they visit a polling location in Lake County to cast their ballot. Voters attempting to vote outside of Lake County or non-Lake County voters attempting to vote here may still need to vote provisionally or could be redirected depending on the circumstances.

Vote centers are successfully used in many counties across the nation and have been shown to make voting more accessible and convenient while streamlining the election process. By maximizing resources, optimizing staffing, and equipping each vote center to handle any voter within the county.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Author James Ciccone is the keynote speaker at the 42nd annual Profiles in Excellence on February 2 at Greenbelt Cultural Center.

Profiles in Excellence event set for February 2

The 42nd annual Profiles in Excellence event takes place from 3-5 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 2, at Greenbelt Cultural Center, 1215 Green Bay Road in North Chicago. The theme this year is "Untold Stories: Celebrating Local African American History and Legacy."

Hosted by the Lake County Forest Preserves, the event commemorates Black History Month by recognizing nota-

ble African Americans in the area who will be remembered for their contributions to their community and society for years to come. The event is free and open to all ages.

This year's program will shine a light on untold stories of Lake County's first African American citizens, exploring the importance of tracing roots and preserving legacies.

"We will honor the resilience and contributions of

those who paved the way, reminding us that tracing our roots is essential to preserve the legacies that shape our shared history," said Angelo Kyle, event chair and Forest Preserves commissioner.

Author James Ciccone is the keynote speaker. He is the author of five books, including the award-winning novel titled *The Horse*.

Ciccone's latest book, *The Lake County Trilogy*, will be the focus of the upcoming Profiles event. The work delves into the life and legacy of Amos Bennett, the first African American settler in Warren Township, Lake County, while shedding light on the rich history of early Illinois. The author's ancestor was a descendent of Bennett.

Before transitioning to publishing and founding Wang & Jean Publishers in New York, Ciccone spent more than 20 years as a trial lawyer.

"The public is invited to join us for an engaging discussion with author James Ciccone, whose writing shines a light on the rich tapestry of history, bringing forgotten stories and pivotal moments to life," said Jessica Vealitzek, president of the Lake County Forest Preserves. "Through his powerful storytelling, he brings to life perspectives often overlooked, offering a fresh and thought-provoking lens."

See EXCELLENCE, Page 7

You ought to be in pictures!

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

▼ Community events, car washes, festivals, lemonade stands, school projects – people at work and at play.

We are interested!

▼ Show the community what your group has been doing!

▼ **NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!**

▼ Just shoot and e-mail!

▼ We need you to ID everyone in the photo *first* and *last* names required

▼ Tell us what's happening in the photo

▼ **Please do NOT crop your photos.**

▼ Tell us who took the photo and we will give them a photo credit

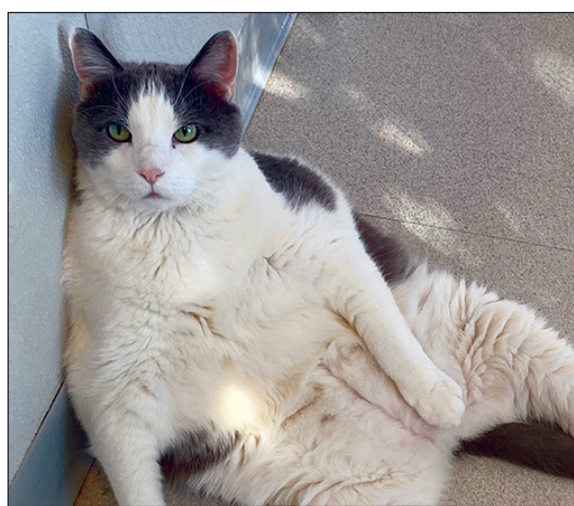
This is your chance to promote your organization or special event!

Remember to include the 5W's:
Who, what, where, when and why!

E-mail your photos at the highest possible resolution to: news@hi-liter.com
BY NOON ON FRIDAY

PHOTOS MAY ALSO APPEAR ON OUR WEB SITE.

southernlakesnewspapers.com



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Pet of the week

Caldwell, is about 12 years old, neutered, up-to-date on routine shots, tested negative for 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.

'In Search of Eagles' being held at four sites on Feb. 1

Celebrate the eagles of the Fox River Valley on Saturday, Feb. 1. Winter is a perfect time to see bald eagles in the wild as they congregate to feed near open waters along the Fox River and at open spots on lakes. An "In Search of Eagles" outdoor event will be held at four sites on Saturday morning.

In Search of Eagles will be held from 8 to 10 am in Illinois at the McHenry Dam, the Algonquin Dam and the Fox River Shores Forest Preserve in Carpentersville on the Fox River and in Wisconsin at the Williams Bay Boat Launch on Geneva Lake. Attendees are asked to dress for the weather and to bring their own binoculars if

they have a pair, but binoculars are not needed to enjoy seeing birds in the wild. Detailed maps to all four locations can be found at <https://hackmatacknwr.org/in-search-of-eagles-2025/>.

There will be scopes and binoculars available for use at each location, along with guided activities for children. Visit the

site closest to you or visit them all! This is a free all-ages event. Representatives from Friends of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge, Friends of Moraine Hills State Park, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Lakeland Audubon Society, McHenry County Conservation District and McHenry County Audubon will

help search for eagles and identify other birds using the river and the lake.

No registration is required. If you have any concerns on Saturday morning about the weather, please call the Friends of Hackmatack phone line at (262) 448-3558 where there will be a message regarding the status of the event.



New Years Sale Final Week! Hurry In! All Prices Reduced!

<p>250007A</p> <p>2016 KIA SOUL+</p> <p>\$5,990</p>	<p>P16557</p> <p>2004 CHEVY MONTE CARLO SS</p> <p>\$6,990</p>	<p>M250098A</p> <p>2017 CHEVY TRAX LT</p> <p>\$10,490</p>	<p>P16569</p> <p>2014 SUBARU LEGACY 2.5i SPORT</p> <p>\$10,790</p>	<p>P16544</p> <p>2021 NISSAN VERSA SV</p> <p>\$15,590</p>
<p>250051A</p> <p>2017 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 WORK TRUCK</p> <p>\$15,790</p>	<p>P16424</p> <p>2022 TOYOTA COROLLA LE</p> <p>\$16,990</p>	<p>P16588</p> <p>2021 BUICK ENCORE GX PREFERRED</p> <p>\$21,290</p>	<p>P16443A</p> <p>2020 HONDA ODYSSEY EX-L</p> <p>\$25,990</p>	<p>P16524</p> <p>2023 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER RS</p> <p>\$25,990</p>
<p>P16597</p> <p>2021 VW ATLAS SE</p> <p>\$27,990</p>	<p>240795A</p> <p>2020 CHEVY SUBURBAN PREMIER</p> <p>\$29,990</p>	<p>P16492A</p> <p>2022 RAM 1500 LARAMIE</p> <p>\$30,490</p>	<p>P16500</p> <p>2022 CHEVY BLAZER RS</p> <p>\$33,990</p>	<p>P16498</p> <p>2021 GMC SIERRA 1500 AT4</p> <p>\$35,990</p>
<p>P16372</p> <p>2024 DODGE DURANGO GT PLUS</p> <p>\$36,290</p>	<p>P16481</p> <p>2023 FORD F-150 XLT</p> <p>\$38,990</p>	<p>P16561</p> <p>2021 GMC SIERRA ELEVATION</p> <p>\$40,990</p>	<p>P16474</p> <p>2023 CHEVY TAHOE Z71</p> <p>\$59,990</p>	<p>P16587</p> <p>2023 GMC YUKON SLT</p> <p>\$64,990</p>

Patrick Lynch	Jim Olsson	Geoff Eckhardt	Nick Kramer	Jeff Mucks	Bob LaBadie	Isaac Thiel	Tyler Swanson	Graham Robson	Bob Christensen
Chris Kahlmorgan	Thomas Gier	Craig Roffers	Pete Manos	Donna Janz	Dan Dotzler	Evan Richter	Pedro Perez	Joe Zubarik	Alfredo Morales

*Prices do not include tax, title, license and service fee. Dealership is not responsible for printing errors. Please see dealership for details. Sale ends 2/4/2025.



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Burlington, WI
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Sales Hours: Mon-Th 8:30-7 Fri 8:30-6 Sat 8:30-4
LynchGMSuperStore.com



Court & crime news

Man gets 14 years for criminal sexual assault

On January 23, Zackery D. Olson, 35, of Crystal Lake, Illinois, was sentenced to 14 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for the charge of Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault relating to the sexual abuse of a 14-year-old female. Olson had been in a position of trust and authority over the victim during the course of the abuse. Olson entered a negotiated plea of guilty before the Honorable Judge Mark R. Gerhardt.



Zackery D. Olson

Truth-in-Sentencing will require that Olson serve a minimum of 85 percent of his sentence prior to being released from the custody of the Illinois Department of Corrections. Upon release, Olson will be subject to Mandatory Supervised Release for a period ranging from three years to life and will be required to register as a sex offender for the duration of his life.

McHenry County State's Attorney Randi Freese thanks the victim whose courage was paramount to seeing that justice was served in this case. The State's Attorney also commends the investigative efforts of the Crystal Lake Police Department, McHenry County Sheriff's Department and Child Advocacy Center of McHenry County. This case was successfully prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorney Ashley A. Romito.

Pacheco receives 12 year sentence for armed robbery

The McHenry County State's Attorney's Office announces that Rosendo Pacheco, 19, of Beloit, Wisconsin, was sentenced to twelve years in the Illinois Department of Corrections after entering a plea of guilty to a charge of Armed Robbery, a Class X felony. Pacheco was sentenced by the Honorable Judge Mark R. Gerhardt on January 17.



Rosendo Pacheco

On July 10, 2022, at approximately 1:30am, officers of the Woodstock Police Department responded to the Circle K on Eastwood Dr. in Woodstock after having received a 911 call reporting a robbery. The caller, an employee of the Circle K, reported that three men entered the store, robbing the store of both cash and merchandise. Investigations revealed that Pacheco, along with two other men, had committed this and multiple robberies of similar businesses in neighboring counties. All three suspects, including Pacheco, were eventually apprehended in West Allis, Wisconsin after being involved in a hit-and-run accident later the same morning.

McHenry County State's Attorney Randi Freese commends the investigative ef-

orts of the Woodstock Police Department, along with the collaborative efforts of Rockford Police and West Allis Police Departments in assisting with the identification and apprehension of Pacheco, respectively. This case was successfully prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorney Ashur Y. Youash.

Marks sentenced to 13 years for unlawful possession with intent to deliver and possession of child pornography

The McHenry County State's Attorney's Office announces that Christopher J. Marks, 31, of Prairie Grove, Illinois, was sentenced to a combined thirteen years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. The sentence was handed down on January 15, by the Honorable Judge Mark R. Gerhardt after Marks entered a negotiated plea of guilty to one count of Unlawful Possession with Intent to Deliver Cannabis, a Class X Felony, and one count of Possession of Child Pornography, a Class 2 Felony.



Christopher J. Marks

On November 30, 2021, based on tips received, officers of the McHenry County Sheriff's Narcotics Task Force executed a search warrant upon Mark's home in Wonder Lake. Marks was in an interior bedroom, where

he was subsequently taken into custody. Inside the home, Task Force officers located more than 5,000 grams of cannabis, cannabis plants, other illegal controlled substances, currency, multiple cellular phones, along with sales and distribution material. A search warrant obtained for Marks' electronic devices revealed he was in possession of multiple images of child pornography on hard drives and cell phones.

Marks was sentenced to ten years on the drug charge, followed by a term of three years for the child pornography charge, terms to be served consecutively. Upon release from the Department of Corrections, he will be placed on a mandatory supervised release term between three years to natural life. He must also register as a sex offender for the remainder of his natural life.

McHenry County State's Attorney Randi Freese commends the members of the McHenry County Sheriff's Narcotics Task Force on their diligent and effective investigative efforts in combatting illegal drug sales and distribution in our county. This case was successfully prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorney Fara Momen.

Man sentenced for unlawful possession with intent to deliver a controlled substance

The McHenry County State's Attorney's Office announces that Michael R. Mantor, 50, of Chicago, Illi-

nois, was sentenced to nine years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. The sentence was handed down on January 15, by the Honorable Judge Tiffany Davis after Mantor entered a negotiated plea of guilty to one count of Unlawful Possession with Intent to Deliver a Controlled Substance, a Class X Felony.



Michael R. Mantor

On January 24, 2024, based on tips received, officers of the McHenry County Sheriff's Narcotics Task Force along with members of the Lake County Special Investigations Unit, conducted a controlled purchase of cocaine from Mantor at a local hotel in Crystal Lake. Video surveillance showed Mantor engage in a drug sale of cocaine and methamphetamine to a confidential informant. Task Force officers' subsequent entry into the hotel room resulted in locating cocaine, cutting agents, scales, and other drug paraphernalia. Mantor was taken into custody without incident.

McHenry County State's Attorney Randi Freese commends the McHenry County Sheriff's Narcotics Task Force and Lake County Special Investigations Unit on their collaborative efforts in the investigation of this case. The Task Force is committed to combatting illegal drug distribution in our county. This case was successfully prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorney Shelby Page.

Juarez sentenced to eight years for unlawful possession with intent to deliver a controlled substance

The McHenry County State's Attorney's Office announces that Carlos M. Juarez, 27, of Woodstock, Illinois, was sentenced to eight years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. The sentence was handed down on January 14, by the Honorable Judge Tiffany Davis after Juarez entered a negotiated plea of guilty to one count of Unlawful Possession with Intent to Deliver a Controlled Substance, a Class X Felony.

On April 6, 2022, based

on tips received, officers of the McHenry County Sheriff's Narcotics Task Force executed a search warrant upon Juarez's apartment in Woodstock. Juarez was detained upon exiting the apartment. Inside the apartment, the Task Force recovered over 350 grams of cocaine, over 130 grams of cannabis, packaging materials, digital scales, currency, and weapons.



Carlos M. Juarez

McHenry County State's Attorney Randi Freese commends the members of McHenry County Sheriff's Narcotics Task Force on their diligent and effective investigative efforts in combatting drug distribution in our county. This case was successfully prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorney Matt Brodersen.

Two car fatal crash under investigation

A 61-year-old Spring Grove man was pronounced dead, and a 55-year-old Spring Grove woman and a 52-year-old man were injured following a two-vehicle crash in the 120 block of Main Street, in unincorporated Spring Grove.

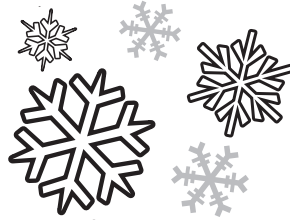
On Friday, January 24, at 6:44 p.m., members of the McHenry County Sheriff's Office, Fox Lake Police Department, Fox Lake Fire Protection District, and Spring Grove Fire Protection District responded to a crash involving two vehicles on Main Street, east of Vista Street.

Preliminary investigation indicates that a 2004 Volvo was traveling eastbound on Main Street and a 2013 Cadillac Escalade was traveling westbound on Main Street. For unknown reasons, the Volvo crossed into the westbound lane of travel as it was approaching a curve in the roadway. The front left of each vehicle struck in an offset, head-on crash. The Volvo came to rest on the south shoulder area of the roadway. The Cadillac came to rest in the north ditch area.

The driver of the Volvo was transported by ambulance to Northwestern Medicine McHenry Hospital and was later pronounced dead. The driver and passenger of the Cadillac were also transported by ambulance to Northwestern Medicine McHenry Hospital with non-life-threatening conditions.

The air bags deployed in each vehicle. The driver and passenger of the Cadillac were wearing seat belts. The driver of the Volvo was not belted.

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



Sheriff Idleburg partners with Illinois Sheriffs' Association to offer scholarship opportunity

The Illinois Sheriffs' Association (ISA) is pleased to announce the availability of over \$58,000 in college scholarships for the 2025-2026 academic year. These scholarships are dedicated to supporting students pursuing higher education at certified institutions of learning within the State of Illinois. Scholarships may be applied toward tuition, books, and fees only. Full-time enrollment at an Illinois-based college or university, including online programs, is required.

Scholarship Details for Lake County

Sheriff John D. Idleburg of Lake County will award one scholarship in the amount of \$500.

Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must be permanent residents of Illinois.
- Scholarships must be used at Illinois-based institutions of higher learning, including online learning programs.
- Students must be enrolled full-time during the 2025-2026 school year (excluding summer sessions).
- There are no restrictions based on race, age, creed, color, sex, or national origin.

Application Process

Applications are now available at the Lake County Sheriff's Office or online at: <https://www.ilsheriff.org/youth-2/>

To apply, students must:

1. Complete the scholarship application form.
2. Answer the required essay question.

3. Submit all required documentation.

Completed applications from Lake County residents must be submitted to the Lake County Sheriff's Office by March 14, 2025 (postmarked by this date or delivered by this date). Residents living outside of Lake County should submit their application to their local sheriff's office.

Additional Information

For more details, please contact:

- Your local sheriff's office
- The Illinois Sheriffs' Association
- Your high school advising center or college financial aid office

This scholarship program is an excellent opportunity to support Illinois students in their educational pursuits. Don't miss out on the chance to apply.

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Hi-LITER

We want your news!

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.

ITEMS MAY BE SENT TO **news@hi-liter.com**

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND A PHONE NUMBER SO WE CAN CONTACT YOU IF NEEDED.

342522

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.

Jan. 2
Julian A. Southard, 24, Antioch, was cited for unlawful restraint, domestic battery, interfering with the reporting of domestic violence and criminal damage to property;
Alfonso S. Camargo, 22, Waukegan, was cited for driving while license suspended, and improper transportation of cannabis;
Mcklevy K. Marquis, 26,

Waukegan, was cited for theft;

Jan. 3
Alexander B. Robertshaw, 28, Deer Park, was cited for a warrant arrest: violating an order of protection (Cook County);

Jan. 4
Kristine M. Cook, 33, Round Lake Beach, was cited for driving while license suspended and suspended registration;
Yana N. Smith, 32, Lindenhurst, was cited for DUI - alcohol;
Gary A. Erickson, 52,

McHenry, was cited for DUI - alcohol, and open transportation of alcohol;

Jan. 5
Caitlin M. Jones, 33, Schaumburg, was cited for driving while license suspended and suspended registration.

Jan. 6
Jeffrey D. Nixon, 49, Round Lake Heights, was cited for a warrant arrest: aggravated domestic battery, and aggravated fleeing to elude;
Oriel Valdez Marquez, 41, Louisville, KY, was cited for operating a commercial ve-

hicle without a commercial driver's license;
Norman R. Heydenburg, 60, Wheeling, was cited for a warrant arrest: criminal trespass to property;

Jan. 7
Kenneth S. Palmer, 47, Waukegan, was cited for a warrant arrest: DUI (McLean County);
Cesar D. Orozco, 34, Mundelein, was cited for a warrant arrest: resisting a peace officer;
Joseph M. Nemecek, 21, Hawthorn Woods, was cited for aggravated speeding (90 mph in 45 mph zone).

Spaghetti dinner fundraiser set for Feb. 19

The Richmond-Spring Grove Area Rotary will be holding their annual spaghetti dinner on Wednesday, Feb. 19 from 4:40-7:30 p.m. at Richardson Adventure Farm.
Dinner includes spaghetti, bread, salad, soft drinks, coffee and dessert for dine in guests. Tickets are \$15.00 and children 4 and under are free. There will also be a beer and wine cash bar available.
Drive-up orders include spaghetti, bread, salad and dessert. Tickets are \$15.00
Pre-ordering your tickets online by February 17 is recommended. More information and tickets can be found at www.richmondsspringgroverotary.com.
All proceeds will benefit the Richmond-Spring Grove Community Food Pantry.
Richardson Adventure Farm is located at 909 English Prairie Rd., Spring Grove.

Environmental/Natural Science scholarship applications being accepted

The Friends of Volo Bog and Friends are offering three \$2,000 scholarships for outstanding Illinois students pursuing an environmental or nature related career.

Entering College scholarship
To be eligible for the Entering College scholarship, the applicant must have a permanent Illinois residence and be attending or have graduated from a high school in Lake, McHenry, Cook, DuPage,

Will, Kendall or Kane County, have a GPA of 3.0 or higher, and plan to attend a college or university to pursue an environmental or nature-related career.

Continuing College scholarship
To be eligible for the Continuing College scholarship the applicant must be currently enrolled in a college or university pursuing an environmental or nature related degree. The applicant must

have a permanent Illinois residence in Lake, McHenry, Cook, DuPage, Will, Kendall or Kane County, and have a minimum GPA of 3.0 in their college studies.
Recipients are determined by a review committee of Friends of Volo Bog. The Friends of Volo Bog is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to promoting citizen awareness of the local natural heritage of Volo Bog State Natural Area, portions of which are dedicated to

state nature preserves, and to preserving the same through special events, educational and training programs, acquisitions of properties for such purposes and taking whatever steps deemed necessary to insure the continued care and preservation of Volo Bog State Natural Area as a natural site.
Applications are due by March 31. Winners are announced in May. Find an application with complete instructions at www.friendsofvolobog.org.

• Excellence (Continued from page 4)

Three community members will be honored during the event. They include:
• Sylvia England, founder of the African American Museum at England Manor in Waukegan.
• Tynisha Gardner, president and CEO of Affirm Christian Leadership Academy, an all-girls academy in Waukegan.
• Gregory Gordon, an associate professor of history at the College of Lake County. He specializes in African Amer-

ican history, with a focus on the experiences of African Americans in Illinois and Lake County.
Established in 1983, the annual Profiles in Excellence event honors the history and achievements of Lake County African Americans. The goal of the program is to further an appreciation of the heritage and accomplishments of the local community and help improve the quality of life for future generations.

HI-LITER Classifieds

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FOR SALE

Announcements

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DISCLAIMER NOTICE This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance.

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@spublishers.com.**

Notice

PROFESSIONAL WITH SUPPORT DOG looking to rent reasonably priced place with garage in Lake Geneva. Excellent credit and references. Call 262-215-0826.

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Continued growth within our group of weekly newspapers and shoppers has caused the need for an additional graphic designer at our Delavan, Wis. facility. This position includes ad design, including web ads, and page design of our weekly publications. Part or full-time position available. Proficiency in Adobe InDesign and Photoshop necessary; prior newspaper experience preferred but not required.

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This individual will be inputting information from a variety of sources into documents as well as performing other clerical functions in our Creative Department. The 25-30 hour/week flexible position is available now. The successful Data Entry Clerk applicant will possess the following:

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- Good communication skills

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Please send a resume, questions or to request an interview time to Heidi Schulz at:
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