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WAS \$60,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$52,248***



2022 LINCOLN CORSAIR RESERVE 4WD/AWD, heated seats & steering wheel, leather, remote start, NAV, moonroof, & more. #P3097
WAS \$37,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$33,995***



2023 FORD EXPLORER XLT 4WD/AWD, 202A pkg., leather, heated seats & steering wheel, rear view camera, remote start, & more. #P3110
WAS \$35,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$31,791***

CARS

- 2013 FORD FUSION SE** leather, heated seats, alloy wheels, Bluetooth. #44119A
WAS \$9,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$5,692***
- 2014 HONDA CIVIC LX** auto, air, power all, & more. #44523A
WAS \$13,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$10,995***
- 2017 LINCOLN MKZ HYBRID PREMIER** heated seats, rear view camera, remote start, Bluetooth, premium sound, Certified Pre-Owned. #44323B
WAS \$19,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$15,399***
- 2017 HONDA ACCORD EX-L** heated seats, rear view camera, Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, Certified Pre-Owned. #P3124A
WAS \$20,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$17,161***
- 2019 FORD MUSTANG BULLIT V8**, heated seats & steering wheel, rear view camera, NAV. #P5664
WAS \$48,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$43,995***

SUVS

- 2017 FORD EXPLORER XLT** 4WD/AWD, rear view camera, 3d row seat, Bluetooth. #45011A
WAS \$12,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$7,750***
- 2019 FORD ESCAPE SE** 4WD/AWD, heated seats, rear view camera, remote start, Apple CarPlay, Android Auto. #44481A
WAS \$13,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$8,895***
- 2021 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT** 4WD/AWD, heated seats, rear view camera, remote start, Bluetooth, Certified Pre-Owned. #P3146
WAS \$24,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$20,995***
- 2021 MAZDA CX-30** 4WD/AWD, heated seats, rear view camera, NAV, moonroof, Certified Pre-Owned. #P3139
WAS \$26,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$22,990***



2023 FORD EDGE SE 4WD/AWD, rear view camera, remote start, Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, only 6,600 miles. #P5659
WAS \$35,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$28,995***

2023 HYUNDAI SANTA FE SEL 4WD/AWD, heated seats, rear view camera, NAV, Bluetooth. #P3127
WAS \$28,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$23,729***

2023 NISSAN ROGUE PLATINUM 4WD/AWD, heated & cooled seats, heated steering wheel, NAV, rear view camera, remote start, & more. #P3109
WAS \$36,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$29,357***

2022 FORD EXPLORER XLT 4WD/AWD, heated seats & steering wheel, remote start, power tailgate, Apple CarPlay, Android Auto. #P3096
WAS \$35,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$30,339***

2023 NISSAN PATHFINDER SL 4WD/AWD, leather, heated seats & steering wheel, rear view camera, NAV, power tailgate, Bluetooth. #P3137
WAS \$39,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$34,950***

2023 INFINITI QX60 LUXE 4WD/AWD, heated & cooled seats, heated steering wheel, moonroof, rear view camera, NAV, & more. #P3143
WAS \$45,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$39,907***

2023 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE SUMMIT 4WD/AWD, heated & cooled seats, moonroof, rear view camera, remote start, & more. #P3123
WAS \$51,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$46,995***

2022 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN Z71 4WD/AWD, heated seats, rear view camera, NAV, remote start, power tailgate, Apple CarPlay, Android Auto. #P3114
WAS \$56,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$48,271***

TRUCKS

2015 RAM 1500 BIGHORN 4WD/AWD, heated seats & steering wheel, rear view camera, NAV, remote start. #35010A
WAS \$13,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$8,995***

2017 RAM 1500 SPORT 4WD/AWD, heated & cooled seats, heated steering wheel, rear view camera, NAV, remote start. #35037A
WAS \$23,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$19,865***

2016 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 LTZ 4WD/AWD, rear view camera, NAV, trailer tow/hitch pkg., Certified Pre-Owned. #44445A
WAS \$29,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$24,538***

2021 FORD F-150 XLT heated seats, remote start, rear view camera, tow hitch/tow pkg., Apple CarPlay, Android Auto. #44486A
WAS \$29,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$26,880***

2020 FORD F-150 XLT 4WD/AWD, heated seats, rear view camera, NAV, tow hitch/tow pkg. #P3149
WAS \$35,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$33,695***

2022 RAM 1500 BIGHORN/LONESTAR 4WD/AWD, heated seats & steering wheel, rear view camera, NAV, trailer hitch/tow pkg. #P3151
WAS \$39,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$35,492***

2021 FORD F-150 XLT 4WD/AWD, heated seats, remote start, 360° camera, Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, trailer hitch/tow pkg. #P3155
WAS \$40,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$36,592***

2022 FORD F-150 XLT 4WD/AWD, heated seats, remote start, NAV, rear view camera, tow hitch/tow pkg. #P3154
WAS \$45,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$39,900***

2025 RAM 1500 BIGHORN 4WD/AWD, heated seats & steering wheel, NAV, moonroof, remote start. #34022A
WAS \$55,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$49,550***

2022 FORD F-150 LIGHTNING 4WD/AWD, heated & cooled leather seats, rear view camera, moonroof, NAV, & more. #35022A
WAS \$60,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$49,995***

VANS

2014 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN AVP 6cyl., 3rd row seat, cruise control. #34254B
WAS \$11,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$7,850***

2013 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT 4WD/AWD, rear view camera, 3rd row seat, power tailgate. #34258B
WAS \$13,495.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$9,450***

2015 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT heated seats & steering wheel, remote start, rear view camera, Apple CarPlay, 3rd row seat. #35048A
WAS \$13,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$9,995***

2014 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT heated seats, 3rd row seat, remote start, power tailgate, tow hitch/tow pkg. #35039A
WAS \$14,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$12,995***

2022 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING I leather, heated seats & steering wheel, rear view camera, Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, Certified Pre-Owned. #P3172
WAS \$26,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$22,709***

2022 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TORUING I leather, heated seats & steering wheel, rear view camera, remote start, Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, Certified Pre-Owned. #P3171
WAS \$27,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$23,859***



2022 FORD BRONCO BIG BEND 4WD/AWD, heated seats, rear view camera, NAV, remote start, only 17,000 miles. #P3113
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State could adopt 'kin-first' approach to foster care

Measure passed Senate unanimously, awaits House action

By Amalia Huot-Marchand
and Medill Illinois News
Bureau

Illinois lawmakers could soon make it easier for children in foster care to live with their relatives or other people close to them.

Child welfare experts have long touted the benefits of foster children staying with kin. Advocates say those arrangements offer children more stability, decrease the trauma they experience, improve their mental health and reduce the number of times the child is moved from home to home.

But both state and federal law often made those placements impractical. To get paid to support the children, relatives had to follow the same stringent rules that apply to other foster parents. They go through a rigid home inspection with bedroom size requirements, as well as restrictions on the number of people and gender of individuals who can sleep in the same bedroom. Prospective parents also go through lengthy classroom training.

In 2023, though, the federal government decided to allow states to use separate standards for relatives of children in foster care than for other foster parents, in an effort to pair more children with relatives.

Now, Illinois lawmakers are moving forward with a plan to do just that, along with making other changes that will encourage the placement of children with relatives. The Illinois Senate unanimously approved the measure, known as the Kinship in Demand, or KIND Act, in the fall. But the House must sign off on the changes by the time it adjourns in early January, otherwise the bill must go through the entire legislative process again to reach the governor's

desk.

"I think it's really important that we reckon with how unjust our systems have been in foster care," said state Sen. Mike Simmons, D-Chicago, one of the bill's 15 co-sponsors in the upper chamber. "It's an excellent step forward in terms of respecting the integrity of the families these kids come from, that includes their immediate family but also their extended kin that love them."

Illinois' record

Close to 10,000 children—or more than half of the total number of kids in the care of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services—live with family members.

But more than 60 percent of those families are not eligible for monthly foster care payments, annual clothing vouchers, or foster care support groups according to the ACLU of Illinois.

"Support for kin, for relatives who have not received the same kind of support that foster parents do, for example—I'm talking about monetary support—I think is a very important component of dealing with the amount of time a child spends in the custody of DCFS. We want to make sure they get back to a home environment as fast as they can, and this is a way to encourage that," said Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker in a news conference on Dec. 11.

Casey Family Programs, the nation's largest foundation focused on foster care, states that prioritizing relative caregivers decreases sibling separation, reduces the risk of abuse and gives a higher chance of achieving permanency.

Placing foster children with relatives could also help Illinois do a better job in find-

ing permanent homes for children in its care. Illinois' foster care system ranked in the bottom third of states in 2019 for children placed in permanent homes, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Between 2017 and 2021, the number of children who were placed in a permanent home decreased by 7.8 percent, according to the 2021 Child Welfare Outcomes Report to Congress.

KIND Act's changes

The KIND Act would allow DCFS to pursue additional federal funding in order to apply a kin-first approach. DCFS would use the federal money to put more effort into finding families of foster children, notifying them and improving support services, as well as doing background and identity checks.

"By promoting kinship care and addressing systemic issues with a long length of time to permanency and insufficient support of foster care, the KIND Act aims to improve safety, stability and the well-being of children in DCFS care," state Sen. Mattie Hunter, D-Chicago, a primary sponsor of the bill, said during a November Senate Judiciary Committee hearing.

Payments for relatives particularly impact Black children, who are overrepresented in the foster care system.

In Illinois, as of October, more than 18,000 children were in the DCFS system; more than 8,000 of them were Black. In terms of proportional representation, Black children have a 250 percent higher chance of being placed in DCFS care, according to the School of Social Work at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

The poverty rate for Black Illinoisans is 27.7 percent compared to 8.5 percent for

white Illinoisans. Preventing these families from accessing government subsidies for foster care adds on additional hardships and repeats the cycle of poverty they face, according to the University of Alabama Institute for Human Rights.

"We know that the vast majority of kids who are coming in are overrepresented, and the KIND Act is removing financial barriers for relatives being able to care for kids," said Nora Collins-Mandeville, director of systems reform policy at the ACLU of Illinois, in an interview.

"Relatives who are coming forward have considerably less resources than a foster parent would. And so the fact that we're not even, in our current system, paying those relatives the same amount that we pay a stranger to care for a child, it's pretty frustrating," she said.

Under the KIND Act, there would also be a different criminal background criteria for relatives and foster parents. The federal government allows DCFS to waive "non-safety-related licensing" for relative caregivers on a case-by-case basis. Relatives would be subject to a personal analysis assessing their criminal record and its potential impact on the child. The bill would allow DCFS to consider, for example, the overrepresentation of minorities in the prison system, especially for minor drug felonies.

The foster care legislation would also require courts to oversee DCFS' implementation of the kin-first approach. Courts would have a larger role in family-finding efforts like monitoring whether DCFS complies with notifying relatives that a child has been removed from its parents' custody within 30 days. Plus, courts would be

able to expedite emergency placements of children with relatives who are waiting for a custody hearing.

Contentious history

The bill's sponsors called the measure historic because of the collaboration between DCFS and the ACLU, which have long fought each other over the state's care of foster children. In 1988, the ACLU sued DCFS in *B.H. v. Johnson*. Three years later, both parties entered a consent decree to reform DCFS to provide safer homes, reduce the caseload per employee, protect DCFS funding, allow more supervision and accountability, and improve caseworker training.

These efforts ran into severe obstacles through the years.

A two-year budget stalemate between Democrats in the General Assembly and Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner that ended in 2017 had a major impact on DCFS funding. It forced the agency to close many group homes throughout Illinois. This led to children under DCFS care being housed in places not designed to accommodate children in the long-term, including psychiatric hospitals, juvenile detention centers and shelters and even DCFS offices.

Since then, DCFS struggled to recover from the loss of funds in 2017 and hasn't implemented changes spelled out in the consent decree.

In light of those shortcomings, in 2018, the court appointed a special master to DCFS in order to ensure significant action was taken and to mitigate tensions between the ACLU and DCFS.

Pritzker, who defeated Rauner in the 2018 election, campaigned on the promise to reform the system. Since

2019, the DCFS budget nearly doubled from \$1.22 billion to \$2.03 billion, mostly to hire more staff and caseworkers. Despite these improvements, a Cook County judge continuously held DCFS director Marc Smith in contempt of court in 2022 for failing to find adequate placements for foster care children, some of whom were still residing in psychiatric hospitals. An appellate court later vacated the contempt citations, and Smith stepped down at the end of 2023. He was the 13th DCFS director in 10 years.

"For a good period of time, there wasn't stability in the agency's leadership at all. We had turnover every year. It wasn't up until the Pritzker administration that we had a director there for multiple years. And so that can be really challenging. You have different priorities for every leader who comes in," Collins-Mandeville said.

Despite the turnover at the top and the agency's ongoing court battles, DCFS reduced the number of youths in care from 50,000 in 1995 to 16,000 in 2023. The number, however, has risen in the past year to 18,000.

"Today marks a day that we had long hoped to see: the ACLU and DCFS are in alignment on a piece of landmark legislation that offers an essential opportunity to reform Illinois' foster care system," Collins-Mandeville said in her testimony to the Senate committee.

Amalia Huot-Marchand 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.

NICE system transforms management of shared digital evidence

The cloud-based NICE Justice solution digitally transforms how district attorneys and office staff receive, interact with, manage and share digital evidence. Freed from dealing with discs, drives, emails, and logging into multiple systems to manage and prepare evidence, attorneys and staff can focus on building and presenting compelling cases. NICE Jus-

tice also features built-in AI and automation capabilities for face detection, automated case building, video and audio transcription, optical character recognition (OCR), finding evidence connections and analytics.

Randi Freese, State's Attorney for McHenry County said, "Our goal is the ethical pursuit of justice. We have a duty to seek the truth

above all else, and that truth is often revealed through digital evidence. However, as our law enforcement partners adopt more digital systems, digital evidence is becoming increasingly difficult to collect, analyze, understand and share through conventional means. NICE Justice is going to help us find the truth in digital evidence faster and work more efficiently with our law enforcement partners as we pursue justice for victims."

Chris Wooten, Executive Vice President, NICE, said, "The pursuit of justice depends on the truth, and the truth relies on digital evidence. But the rapid growth of digital evidence has outpaced many criminal justice agencies' ability to manage and understand it. Attorneys

waste countless hours collecting it, uploading it, trying to make sense of it, and replicating it for discovery – time that could be better spent investigating and prosecuting cases. Our Evidencentral solutions, including NICE Justice, remove the manual work from managing digital evidence, so attorneys can focus on pursuing justice for victims."

The McHenry County State's Attorney's Office oversees approximately 3,000 criminal cases annually, working with the Illinois State Police and thirty six other law enforcement partners. Digital evidence, including video from CCTV, body worn cameras and in-car cameras, and data from phone dumps and social media posts, is playing a growing role in prosecu-

tions. Today, most of this evidence is received on discs and thumb drives.

Jorge Enciso, Legal Technology Division Supervisor, McHenry County State's Attorney's Office added, "The influx of digital evidence has been astronomical. But beyond the quantity, the size of the files is also challenging. It's not uncommon for a case to involve twenty video files, many with high-quality 4K resolution. These video files usually have to be transcoded and manually uploaded. NICE Justice will result in a major quality-of-life improvement for our attorneys and staff because it will automatically do the transcoding for us and eliminate the need to manually upload digital evidence."

Police department investigators will be able to use NICE Justice's secure portal to upload evidence to the cloud, where it will be automatically deposited into digital case folders and become immediately accessible to assigned attorneys.

"Our office especially appreciates the AI capabilities and investigative tools that are built into NICE Justice, such as the ability to index and transform PDF files into searchable documents, and evidence tagging, and transcription. Making these capabilities universally available to attorneys will deepen the quality of our investigations and prosecutions," added En-

ciso.

To learn more about NICE's digital transformation solutions for Public Safety and Justice:

- Visit the NICE website at nicepublicsafety.com/Justice
- Email: PSInfo@NICE.com for more information.

About the McHenry County State's Attorney's Office

Led by State's Attorney Randi Freese, the McHenry County State's Attorney's Office's primary function is to seek justice for victims of crime, while ensuring that criminal offenders are treated fairly. The Office includes several divisions and units: a Criminal Division which prosecutes traffic, misdemeanor, and felony crimes; a Special Prosecutions Unit tasked with prosecuting the most serious criminal cases; a Gang Prosecutions Unit whose mission is to stamp out gang-related crime; an Arson Unit consisting of prosecutors specially trained in arson-related investigations; a White Collar Crime Unit dedicated to prosecuting a full range of corruption and frauds; a Civil Division responsible for child support enforcement and other County legal matters; and an Investigation Unit which is the Office's investigatory arm. With approximately 310,000 residents, McHenry



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Pet of the week

Toby, a Bichon Frise mix, is about 9 years old, neutered, up-to-date on routine shots (incl. rabies), tested negative for heartworm and on preventative 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.

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Application period open for Senior Tax Deferral program

The application period to participate in the Senior Citizens Real Estate Tax Deferral Program opened Jan. 2, McHenry County Treasurer Donna Kurtz announced.

The program, which provides tax relief for qualified senior citizens by essentially providing a loan up to \$7,500 to pay a senior's property tax bill, is open to applications through March 1. Starting last year, the State of Illinois which grants the funds halved the interest rate from 6% to 3%.

"The Senior Citizens Real Estate Tax Deferral Program offers our seniors a cost-effective way to defer their property-tax bill if they need to, which frees up funds needed to pay for other pressing expenses," Kurtz said. "I encourage seniors to consider whether this program is right for them, and to watch for dates and times

of presentations my office will be hosting in the coming weeks to explain the program and help them make an informed decision."

To be eligible for this program, an applicant must be at least 65 years old by June 1, and have a total household income less than \$65,000. Other program requirements include:

- Living on the property or other qualifying property for the last two years,
- Having equity in the property,
- Having no unpaid property taxes or foreclosures, and
- Having fire and casualty insurance for the property.

Upon qualification, a lien for the deferred amount will be filed on the qualifying property. Deferred amounts are repaid upon the sale or transfer of the property, or within one year of the property owner's death.

Applications can be found at treasurer.mchenrycountyil.gov, and must be received by March 1; there will be no extensions. For questions, please visit the Treasurer's website or contact them at 815-334-4260 or treasurer@mchenrycountyil.gov.

In addition, Kurtz encourages seniors to make sure they are taking advantage of the multiple exemption options that are available to ease their property-tax burden. To learn more about these exemptions, contact the McHenry County Assessments Office at 815-334-4290 or email assessments@mchenrycountyil.gov.

Kurtz's office will soon be announcing the dates and locations of presentations to explain and promote the program, and answer questions regarding completing and submitting an application.

Bill aims to reduce state requirements for name changes

Sponsors cite safety concerns for victims of domestic abuse, transgender people

By Atmika Iyer and Medill Illinois News Bureau

Illinois lawmakers in early January could consider easing requirements for residents to change their names, a move proponents say will reduce risks for victims of domestic abuse, transgender residents and others.

The measure must clear the full Senate in the first week of January to reach Gov. JB Pritzker's desk, otherwise it must go through the entire legislative process again after a new General Assembly convenes Jan. 8.

The bill, House Bill 5164, would eliminate an existing requirement to publish name changes with a local newspaper. It would also reduce the state residency requirement of people wanting to change their name from six months to three months.

"There are residents in our state who do not feel safe when they are an adoptee; they're transgender; they're an immigrant; they're a survivor of domestic violence, survivor of sexual exploitation and human trafficking," Sen. Ram Villivalam, the bill's sponsor and a Chicago Democrat, said in an interview. "So they would like to change their name, and in doing so, we need to remove as many barriers as we can to ensure their health and safety."

The goal of the bill is to decrease threats to people who have endured domestic abuse, discrimination and other threats to their safety. Villivalam said 24 states have already eased this requirement. Planned Parenthood, Equality Illinois and Brave Space Alliance are pushing for the change.

But the Senate's top Republican, Sen. John Curran, R-Downers Grove, pushed back against the bill. He argued that impounding the records, meaning restricting access to them, should have a higher threshold.

Individuals are allowed to petition the court to impound records if they believe public disclosure would put them in harm's way. That process allows individuals to self-attest to hardships and says they may — but are not required to — submit documentation.

"Why make it permissive, rather than a requirement, to attach relevant documents to the petition," Curran said during a November committee meeting.

But Mike Ziri, the director of public policy at Equality Illinois, said impounded records don't disappear from court records and are not sealed, but rather are selectively available to the involved parties.

"So it's not a complete

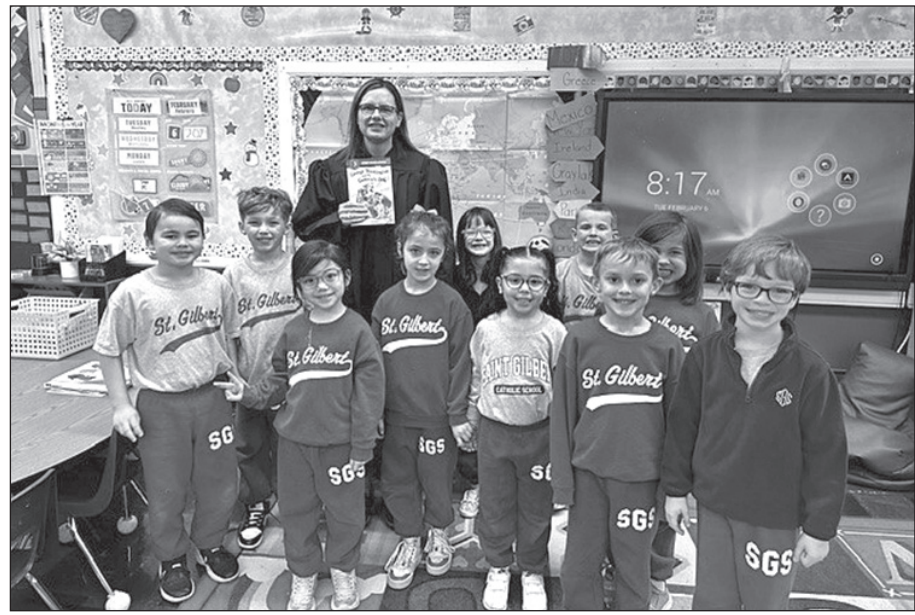
sealing. There will still be access to parties and by the clerk, as well," Ziri said. "In my experience, working with communities, folks who say they've experiencing hardship and heartache, they're not making that up, and they want protection for very good reasons."

The Republicans who hold a minority in the state senate questioned whether noncitizens with a criminal record could change their names to evade legal consequences as a result of the lowered requirements for a name change.

"Is this creating a loophole for people who are here, who are criminals and part of things involved in the trafficking, involved in all of these nefarious activities that we've been reading about?" Sen. Sue Rezin, R-Morris, said.

Ziri said that the self-attestation was for impounding the court records of name changes, not to get the name change itself. Illinois law states that people on the sex offender registry, arsonists and people on the murderer and violent offender against youth list are barred from seeking name changes. The exceptions are marriage, religious reasons, human trafficking or gender identity.

See **NAME CHANGE**, Page 7



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Lake County judges will be delivering a reading program to local classrooms as part of the Judicial Reading Project.

Lake County judges to visit local classrooms as part of the Judicial Reading Project

In conjunction with the February celebration of the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln, Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Judges will be among the many Illinois judges to deliver a program to grade school students based on the popular children's book by Martha Brenner, *Abraham Lincoln's Hat*.

Abraham Lincoln's Hat is an illustrated account of the adventures of our nation's 16th President, revealing the secrets he stored in his tall, black hat. The book portrays Lincoln as an absent-minded frontier lawyer who nudged his memory by sticking letters, court notes, contracts, and checkbooks inside his trademark top hat. There are other books that the Judges can read to a class as well.

A project of the Illinois Judges Association (IJA), the reading program is aimed at children in grades K-4 to encourage reading appreciation, value, and enjoyment. Judges dressed in their black robes will make classroom appearances, read the book, and discuss its intersection with history and the law. The book will be donated to the school library.

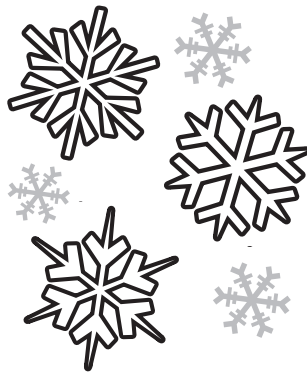
"Too many school children are not reading at grade level," said the Honorable Mary Schostok, a Justice of the Appellate Court, Second District, and former president of the Illinois Judges Association. "This reading deficiency affects student learning and contributes to the high school dropout rate. Our reading project is one small step, which we hope will inspire young students to appreciate the value of books as they learn a little about history and our system of justice directly from a sitting judge."

Email kvanwey2@lakecountyil.gov

you would like a Judge to come to your Lake County classroom to read one of a variety of books provided by the Illinois Judges Association and Illinois Judges Foundation to the students.

The project is the latest in a series of community programs undertaken by the Illinois Judges Association, including the IJA's Page It Forward reading and tutoring program. Other IJA programs are "Courtroom in the Classroom," a presentation that celebrates the U.S. Constitution; "7 Reasons to Leave the Party," covering the legal and personal consequences of drinking and driving, taking drugs, and engaging in other unhealthy behaviors; "Worries of the World Wide Web," a program created to address the increasing problem of cyberbullying, electronic harassment, and sexting/pornography and "Your Future, Your Choice," educate the students about the justice system, how a case goes through the system, what's the difference between the juvenile and the adult system and what are the crimes associated with the internet and social media. More information on these programs can be found on the IJA website at <https://ija.memberclicks.net/in-school-programs>.

The Illinois Judges Association is a membership organization of 1,250 active and retired judges whose purpose is to foster public confidence in the independence of the judiciary, provide services and education to its members, and information about court operations to the public. Funding for the books was made possible by a grant from the Illinois Judges Foundation.



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Live music of Irish Stew comes to Volo Bog for WinterFest Sunday

The musicians of Irish Stew have played together for many years. Formerly known as the Bridgeport Ramblers, Irish Stew is a leading traditional Irish music band known throughout Lake and McHenry Counties. With a repertoire ranging from traditional Irish reels, jigs and other Irish dance tunes to Irish and contemporary songs, Irish Stew offers music sure to make us move.

Among the many venues the band has played the main stages at Dirty Nellie's Pub

and Mickey Finn's Brewery on St. Patrick's Day, the McHenry Outdoor Theater, Trinity School of Irish Dance, Trinity School of Irish Dance Big Jig, O'Hare School of Irish Dance annual event, Fox Lake Friday Night Concerts, Kelsey Roadhouse, the Cottage, Rivalry Alehouse, Black Lung Brewery, Toadstool Pub, and O'Toole's. And now they can brag, Volo Bog!

WinterFest will be held on Sunday from 1-4 p.m., with 45 minute musical sets at 1, 2 & 3 p.m.

Much of the celebration

is inside and includes: live music, photo contest awards, children's crafts and cookies & cocoa for sale by the Friends of Volo Bog.

Outside activities will feature: extra Bog Tours, and if there is snow...a Snow Sculpting Contest, Snow shoeing & cross country skiing (BYO) on Tamarack View Trail.

The event is brought to you by the Friends of Volo Bog at Volo Bog State Natural Area, 28478 W. Brandenburg Road, Ingleside.

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The Frontline Care Center, a wellness location dedicated to Veterans, first responders and their families in Lake County, held a grand opening on December 9.

Frontline Care Center opens to support Veterans, first responders and their families

The Village of Round Lake is now home to Frontline Care Center, the first wellness location dedicated to Veterans, First Responders and their families in Lake County. This new community-based facility offers behavioral health services designed to support those who have served and sacrificed for our communities and country.

Frontline Care Center will provide screenings, crisis intervention, therapy, holistic wellness services and more. All services can be provided both in person and by telehealth.

On December 9, Nicasa Behavioral Health Services, the Lake County Board, Living Pono Counseling, the 100 Club of Illinois and the Veterans Assistance Commission of Lake County came together to mark the grand opening of the facility.

“Our communities have an obligation to care for our First Responders, military service members, Veterans and their families. We want to care for those that care for all of us,” said Bruce N. Johnson, CEO of Nicasa, a retired Marine Corps Veteran and retired Chief of Police. “We are grateful to the Lake County Board for their generous support, to our many partners and the selfless volunteers and donors who have worked to make this important project a reality.”

The Lake County Board allocated \$2.3 million of American Rescue Plan Act funds to Nicasa Behavioral Health Services to help renovate the existing building on Railroad Avenue in Round Lake.

“The Frontline Care Center will be life-changing to those that serve and protect us when they need it most,” said Sandy Hart, Lake County Board Chair. “We are proud to support our

incredible First Responders and the estimated 100,000 active, reserve and retired military service members and their families who live in Lake County.”

The Frontline Care Center will be a safe and confidential space where active-duty service members, reservists, Veterans, law enforcement, firefighters, paramedics, EMTs, telecommunicators and their families can seek services from providers and peers who have lived experience within these occupations.

“We have so many people to thank, from Bruce Johnson at Nicasa to Chief Greg Formica with the Greater Round Lake Fire Protection District, who helped bring this project to reality,” said John Wasik, Lake County Board Member for District 6. “I was honored to support this project. I personally knew a young public servant who took his life. It is my hope that this new service will help to save and improve the lives of our First Responders who serve and protect us 24/7 throughout Lake County.”

“It’s no secret suicide rates among Veterans and First Responders are climbing across America,” said Andrew Tangen, Superintendent of the Veterans Assistance Commission of Lake County. “Having a local walk-in center where our most vulnerable Veterans and First Responders can seek immediate treatment will be a game changer.”

“Our First Responders and Veterans face some of the most dangerous conditions, devoting their lives to serve and protect our communities. We want to ensure they can receive the care and support they deserve to help improve their quality of life,” said Esiah Campos, Lake County Board

Member for District 16.

Family members who are close to First Responders and Veterans are often the first to notice that they are facing a behavioral health challenge. They too experience barriers to accessing services due to stigma, burden, confidentiality, privacy, a lack of awareness and increased isolation. “My team and I are here to help them get the most out of their care to achieve their goals and overcome patterns that go unseen,” said Cindy McKnight, owner of Living Pono Counseling and Executive Director of the Frontline Care Center.

Among the partners that support the center is the 100 Club of Illinois. This organization proactively supports the behavioral health needs of First Responders and their families through a variety of resources and training.

“We look forward to continuing to serve our hero populations with our partners in Nicasa, Living Pono Counseling and the Veterans Assistance Commission of Lake County at the Frontline Care Center,” said Caitlyn Brennan, Chief Executive Officer of the 100 Club of Illinois.

If you or a loved one are a service member, Veteran or First Responder who would like to learn more about assistance, contact the Frontline Care Center at info@frontlinecarecenter.org or 847-201-7095.

Any resident, including First Responders, Veterans and their families facing a crisis can access the Lake County Health Department’s Crisis Care Program at <https://www.lakecountyil.gov/705/Crisis-Care-Program-CCP>. Crisis Counselors are available 24 hours a day at 847-377-8088, and walk-in services are also available.

LakeComm Board approves hiring of Executive Director

On Wednesday, Dec. 18, the Lake Consolidated Emergency Communications (LakeComm) Member Board of Directors appointed Jason E. Kern as the LakeComm Executive Director.

LakeComm, the new consolidated Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), is set to become fully operational in 2025. It will provide services to 30 agencies in Lake County. A PSAP is a 9-1-1 call center responsible for handling emergency calls for law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services.

Kern brings over 30 years of public service experience to the role, with a strong background in law enforcement, fire, EMS, emergency management, legislative work, project management, and, most notably, 9-1-1 public safety communications.

“On behalf of the LakeComm Member Board, I am very excited to welcome Jason as the founding Executive Director of LakeComm and as our first official employee,” said Kevin Timony, Chair of the LakeComm Member Board of Directors and Village Manager, Village of Vernon Hills. “I am confident that Jason’s many decades of experience in the public safety communications field will help LakeComm complete its transition to the new PSAP in 2025 and best position the agency for future success.”

Kern previously served as the longest-tenured Executive Director at Southeast Emergency Communications

(SEECOM) in Crystal Lake, a regional consolidated emergency communications center (ECC) supporting 12 agencies across over 100 square miles and 200,000 residents.

Since joining SEECOM in 2015, Kern and his team have achieved significant milestones, including three consecutive accreditations for their emergency medical dispatch program through the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch (IAED) and three certifications of their training program through the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO). Under his leadership, SEECOM fostered a culture of mentoring, training, and quality assurance, improving performance and preparing staff for leadership roles within the ECC and the industry.

“As a long-standing resident of Lake County and an industry professional, I’m excited to be a part of this project and to bring a decade’s worth of vision and collaboration over the finish line,” said Kern.

With Kern assuming his role on January 20, LakeComm will focus on launching consolidated operations at the new Regional Operations and Communications (ROC) Facility in 2025.

Learn more about LakeComm at lakecomm911.org.



Jason E. Kern

Summer manufacturing internship applications opening Feb. 1

Do you have a high school student interested in the trades? Applications will be opening in February for the summer 2025 Rotational Internship Program.

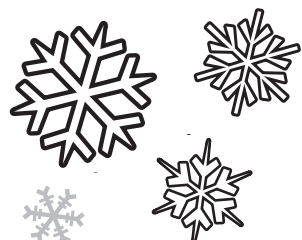
The 10-week paid internship program is open to all McHenry County high

school students, ages 16 to 18, who are interested in a career in manufacturing or engineering. Students will be paired with local manufacturers and be paid \$16 an hour while gaining invaluable work experience in an exciting and lucrative field. No previous work experience is necessary.

Now in its fourth year, the program has provided 281 opportunities for McHenry County high school students to gain valuable workplace skills at 33 area manufacturers. Some of them have since gotten full-time jobs and are pursuing manufacturing as a career.

A \$717,300 grant through Advance McHenry County helped launch the program, which is now funded through a workforce development grant from the Illinois Community College Board.

Visit <https://mfqpathways.com/summer-internships/> to learn more. Applications open on Feb. 1 and the deadline to submit is March 14.



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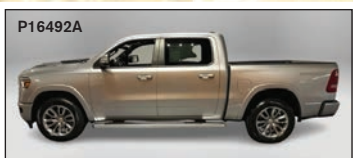
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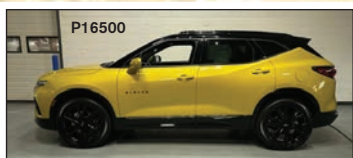
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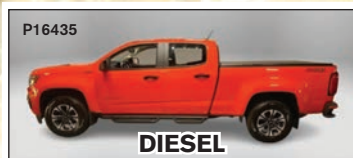
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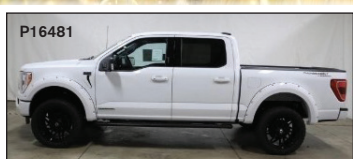
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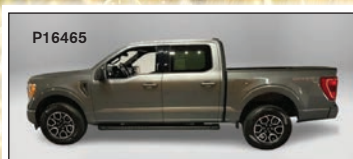
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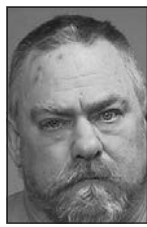
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Court & crime news

Ullrich pleads guilty to involuntary manslaughter for overdose death of his son

The McHenry County State's Attorney's Office announced that on January 3, Eric C. Ullrich, 52, of Richmond, will plead guilty to one count of Involuntary Manslaughter and one count of Communicating with a Witness before the Honorable Judge Justin Hansen. The sentencing hearing will be scheduled before the Honorable Judge Christopher Harmon.



Eric C. Ullrich

On January 3, 2024, the Richmond Fire Department responded to a call of an unresponsive minor, where emergency personnel attempted lifesaving efforts. The minor was later pronounced dead at Northwestern Hospital McHenry. A toxicology performed on the minor revealed his cause of death was the adverse effects of fentanyl and xylazine.

An investigation into the minor's death by the McHenry County Sheriff's Office revealed several full and used bags of narcotics containing heroin, fentanyl, and cocaine throughout the residence. Ullrich, the minor's father and primary legal and medical caretaker, was present in the home and aware of his son's overdose event. Ullrich consciously chose not to obtain or provide medical treatment for his child during the overdose event and did not call 911 until Ullrich woke up the next morning, over 10 hours later. During the investigation, Ullrich consistently provided false information to investigating officers surrounding the death of his son. Medical personnel subsequently opined that the minor would have survived if he had received medical attention

during the overdose event.

Involuntary Manslaughter is a Class 2 felony, for which Ullrich would face between three and fourteen years in the Illinois Department of Corrections if sentenced to prison. Communicating with a Witness is a Class 3 felony, that carries a term between two and five years if sentenced to prison. If sentenced to prison, Ullrich could face serving the terms consecutively.

Parents have not only a moral duty, but a legal duty to protect and care for their children. This senseless and tragic death of a 14-year-old was entirely preventable had medical treatment been sought for this child. The McHenry County State's Attorney's Office continues to remain committed to the prosecution of all those involved in drug-related deaths that occur in our communities, especially those involving the most vulnerable – our children.

This case was successfully prosecuted by McHenry County State's Attorney Randi Freese accompanied by Chief of Staff Ashley Romito and Special Prosecutor William Bruce. The State's Attorney's Office commends the diligent efforts of members of the McHenry County Sheriff's Office in their thorough investigation into this minor's death.

Man injured in single-vehicle crash

A 39-year-old Harvard man was injured following a single-vehicle crash in the 9500 block of US Route 14, in unincorporated Harvard.

On December 27 at 5:56 p.m., members of the McHenry County Sheriff's Office, Harvard Fire Department, McHenry County Conservation District Police, and MD 1 responded to a crash involving one vehicle which result-

ed in injuries to the driver.

Preliminary investigation indicates that the 2006 Chevrolet Silverado was traveling southbound on US Route 14. The Silverado exited the roadway to the west and appeared to overcorrect causing the unit to travel across the roadway and exit the roadway to the east. The Silverado continued to travel across a residential yard and came to rest on its side. The sole occupant of the Silverado was ejected from the unit.

The driver of the Silverado was transported by ambulance to Javon Bea Hospital – Riverside in Rockford in critical condition. There was no air bag deployment, and the driver was not wearing a seat belt.

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

Deputies identify, arrest woman who tried robbing gas station clerk

Lake County Sheriff's Deputies identified and arrested a woman who attempted to rob a gas station clerk on New Year's Day.

On January 1, 2025, at approximately 12:25 p.m., Lake County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a gas station in the 36800 block of North Route 83, unincorporated Lake Villa, for a report of an armed robbery.

Sheriff's deputies arrived and learned that a woman entered the gas station, implied that she had a firearm, and demanded cash from the clerk. The clerk refused the woman's demands and the woman then attempted to break into the cash register herself. After not having any success, she fled in a black SUV with out of state license plates.

Sheriff's deputies at the scene utilized Flock license

plate reader technology to determine the vehicle likely used in the armed robbery was a Ford Expedition. Sheriff's 911 Emergency Telecommunicators issued a countywide broadcast to other law enforcement with the information. Shortly after the broadcast, Gurnee Police Officers located the vehicle, after a Flock camera in the area hit on the offending vehicle's license plate.

Sheriff's deputies responded to the area of Grand Avenue and Hunt Club Road, where Gurnee Police Officers had the offending vehicle pulled over. The driver, Chritina A. Lintner, 40, of the 5500 block of Grand Avenue, Gurnee, was identified as being responsible for committing the attempt robbery. Sheriff's deputies arrested her and transported her to the Lake County Jail.

After reviewing the circumstances, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office approved the charge of Attempt Aggravated Robbery (class 2 felony) against Lintner. Lintner is due in First Appearance Court this morning, where the State's Attorney's Office intends to file a petition to detain Lintner while awaiting trial.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "Through diligent work and collaboration, our deputies tracked down and apprehended an offender who posed a threat to others. I'm proud of everyone involved—our telecommunicators who issued the alert, our deputies who investigated, and our law enforcement partners who helped locate this offender."



Chritina A. Lintner

Man dies in two-vehicle crash

A 49-year-old Wonder Lake man was pronounced dead, and a 65-year-old Naples Florida man was injured following a two-vehicle crash in the 7300 block of Barnard Mill Road in unincorporated Wonder Lake.

On December 27, at 12:35 p.m., members of the McHenry County Sheriff's Office, Wonder Lake Fire Department, Richmond Fire Protection, McHenry Fire Protection District and Wonder Lake Police Department responded to a crash involving two vehicles on Barnard Mill Road northwest of Summit Drive.

Preliminary investigation indicates that a 2022 Chevrolet Silverado High Country Pickup was traveling northwest on Barnard Mill Road. A 2008 Mazda 6 was traveling southeast on Barnard Mill Road. For unknown reasons the Mazda cross the centerline of the roadway and struck the Chevrolet in an offset head on crash in the northwest lane of travel. The Mazda exited the roadway to the south coming to rest in a wooded area. The Chevrolet remained in the roadway.

The driver of the Chevrolet was transported by ambulance to Northwestern Medicine McHenry Hospital and is listed in stable condition. The driver of the Mazda was pronounced dead at the scene. There was air bag deployment in each vehicle, and the drivers were wearing seat belts.

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.

Inmate death investigation

On December 31, at ap-

proximately 9:35 p.m., a Lake County Jail inmate was found unresponsive inside his jail cell.

The inmate, a 53-year-old man of Zion, was remanded to the Lake County Jail on December 30, for a drug-related charge. The man had a number of health-related issues and was assigned to be monitored in the '1 East' cellblock of the jail. The man was assigned a double-inmate cell; however, he did not have a cellmate.

At approximately 8:31 p.m., the inmate was alert when seen by the jail's medical care provider nurse, for prescription drug pass. Prescription drug pass is when inmates are provided with any prescribed medications by medical professionals. Following the prescription drug pass, correctional officer rounds were conducted at least every 30 minutes.

At approximately 9:34 p.m., during rounds, a correctional officer saw the inmate unresponsive in his cell. The correctional officer called a medical emergency on his portable radio, and medical staff responded to attempt life-saving efforts. Paramedics were also summoned to the scene. After a lengthy attempt to save the man's life, paramedics contacted the hospital, and a doctor pronounced the man deceased.

There did not appear to be any suspicious marks or injuries on the inmate's body, however, an autopsy will be conducted by the Lake County Coroner's Office. The inmate previously reported he had terminal underlying health conditions.

Per protocol, the Lake County Sheriff's Office requested the assistance of the Lake County Major Crime Task Force to conduct an independent investigation.

Two in custody following shooting, multiple police pursuits

Two males were apprehended after a police chase, following two women being shot in a drive by shooting in Beach Park.

On January 5, at approximately 2:00 a.m., Lake County Sheriff's Deputies responded to the area of Green Bay Road and Bonnie Brook Lane in Beach Park following a report of a vehicle crash and a shooting.

Upon arrival, deputies located a vehicle in a ditch with extensive damage. Two adult female passengers in the vehicle had sustained gunshot wounds—one was shot in the eye, and the other was shot in the leg. A responding deputy applied a tourniquet to the woman's leg, helping save her life. Both women were transported to area hospitals and are expected to survive.

A preliminary investigation revealed the victims had left a bar in North Chicago and were driving home on Green Bay Road when a grey Dodge pulled up alongside their vehicle. Occupants of the Dodge then opened fire on the victims' vehicle. Deputies later recovered several spent shell casings in the area.

Lake County Sheriff's 911 Telecommunicators issued a regional broadcast with information about the suspect

vehicle. Approximately 30 minutes later, a Waukegan Police Officer spotted a grey Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat matching the description of the suspect vehicle. When officers attempted to conduct a traffic stop on Sunset Avenue, the driver fled at a high rate of speed and evaded them.

At approximately 2:41 a.m., a Lake County Sheriff's Deputy located the suspect vehicle traveling southbound on Route 41 near Route 173. The deputy attempted to stop the vehicle, but the driver fled again at a high speed. The deputy pursued the vehicle, which made a U-turn at Stearns School Road and headed northbound on Route 41 at a high rate of speed. The suspect ultimately evaded the deputy due to excessive speeds.

Shortly afterward, another sheriff's deputy spotted the vehicle traveling eastbound on Route 173 and initiated a pursuit. However, the driver again evaded the deputy, utilizing the Dodge's high speed. A Zion Police Officer deployed a tire deflation device, successfully striking the vehicle as it continued eastbound on Route 173. Despite this, the driver temporarily maintained high speeds and again evaded officers before

crashing into a heavily wooded area near Route 173 and Joana Avenue in Zion.

Sheriff's deputies, Zion Police Officers, and Waukegan Police Officers quickly established a perimeter as the occupants fled from the Dodge. Police canines and drones were deployed to assist in the search. Sheriff's deputies and officers located and apprehended two males—one juvenile and one adult—in the area. A rifle and pistol were recovered from the Dodge, and an additional pistol was found in a backyard near where one of the offenders was captured.

It is believed the Dodge is stolen from Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, however, additional investigation into that aspect is ongoing.

Lake County Sheriff's Detectives are actively investigating the entire incident. The incident has not yet been presented to the state's attorney's office for potential criminal charges.

UPDATE: Charges Approved



Jonathan Garcia



SUBMITTED PHOTO HI-LITER/MCN

Shown are the weapons that were recovered during the investigation following the drive by shooting of two women on January 5.

After reviewing the initial facts and circumstances of the incident, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office approved the following charges:

- Jonathan Garcia, 18, of the 1300 block of Judge Pl, Waukegan: Two Counts of Aggravated Unlawful Possession of a Firearm (Class 4 Felonies) and Two Counts of Unlawful Possession of a Firearm (Class 4 Felonies).
- 16-year-old juvenile of Waukegan: Two Counts of

Aggravated Unlawful Possession of a Firearm (Class 4 Felonies) and Two Counts of Unlawful Possession of a Firearm (Class 4 Felonies)

Garcia was scheduled to appear in First Appearance Court Jan. 6. The Lake County State's Attorney's Office intended to file a petition to detain Garcia while awaiting trial.

The juvenile was transported to the Hulse Juvenile Detention Center and a hearing will take place to determine

if the juvenile will be held in secure detention.

Lake County Sheriff's Detectives are actively investigating the incident, reviewing all of the evidence obtained, while seeking additional evidence. Sheriff's detectives believe there was a third person, who was driving the Dodge, who avoided apprehension. Sheriff's detectives are working to verify that information, identify and apprehend that individual. Additional charges are possible.

• Name change (Continued from page 3)

He also said a name change still requires the signature of a judge, and the process can take months.

“Changing your name does not allow you to escape the criminal record. That was legislation that was passed two years ago,” Ziri said. “That’s on top of the other requirement state

police already have to check the criminal records with the name change granted months later.”

Villivalam said this bill takes Illinois “another step forward” in ensuring the health and safety of residents.

“Now, more than ever—given the rise in hate and discrimination across the

board—people you know feel targeted. So the legislative work that we can do to reassure them on their safety and health is part of our job,” Villivalam said in an interview. “As people continue to feel the hate, feel the discrimination, get targeted, we need to continue to take these steps to make sure they

feel healthy and safe.”

Atmika Iyer 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.

• NICE (Continued from page 2)

County is the sixth-most populous county in the state of Illinois. More info at: <https://www.mchenrycountyil.gov/departments/state-s-attorneys-office>.

NICE Public Safety & Justice

With over 3,000 customers and 30 years of experience, NICE helps all types of public safety and criminal justice agencies, from emergency communications and law enforcement to prosecutors and

courts, digitally transform how they manage digital evidence and data from beginning to end, to get to the truth faster. NICE’s Evidential platform features an ecosystem of integrated technologies that bring data together to give a single view of the truth, enabling public safety and justice agencies to do what they do better – whether it’s responding to incidents, investigating and building cases, or prosecuting crimes. With comprehensive digital

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Lake County Sheriff’s arrest bulletin

The Lake County Sheriff’s Dept. reported the following arrests in Lake County. Suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Dec. 2

Autustus G. McKinnie, 44, Racine, WI, was cited for a warrant arrest: retail theft;

Prince L. Pringle, 39, Waukegan, was cited for a warrant arrest: obstructing identification;

Emily Hagen, 23, Belvidere, was cited for DUI – alcohol, and leaving the scene of

an accident;

Dec. 3

Leroy R. Bracey, 39, Chicago, was cited for a warrant arrest: obstructing identification;

Taris M. Stokes, 59, Waukegan, was cited for a warrant arrest: criminal trespass to property;

Dec. 4

Kristine M. Neikirk, 53, Morris, was cited for a warrant obtained: identity theft, theft and forgery;

Dec. 5

Eduardo Talavera, 39, Lake in the Hills, was cited

for a warrant obtained: retail theft;

Gilberto Majarro-Garcia, 37, Lake Villa, was cited for a warrant obtained: burglary; Urbano Antunez, 30, Highwood, was cited for a warrant arrest: criminal damage to property;

Luis V. Sanchez, 59, North Chicago, was cited for a warrant arrest: aggravated battery;

Rikelmer J. Alarcon-Rueda, 19, North Chicago, was cited for no driver’s license;

Arturo Ibarra Garcia, 34, Beach Park, was cited for

disorderly conduct, misuse of 911;

Aphiwe S. Shabalala, 20, Round Lake Beach, was cited for driving while license suspended, and improper transportation fo cannabis;

Dec. 6

Jakira A. Burden, 23, Ingleside, was cited for a warrant obtained: assault, and disorderly conduct;

Fredericks K. Fitzgerald, 34, Houston, TX, was cited for battery.

Lake County jail passes inspection, audit

Sheriff John D. Idleburg is pleased to announce the Lake County Jail passed its most recent inspection and audit conducted by the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC). The detailed inspection of the Lake County Jail took place on September 17, 2024.

The IDOC inspection is conducted on an annual basis. During the inspection, IDOC auditors thoroughly inspect more than 330 different categories.

Several achievements were recognized over the past year and documented by the auditors:

- Lake County Jail is accredited by the American Correctional Association through 2026. This accreditation has been maintained since 2000.
- 100% compliance for on-time visual security checks.
- On-site physical therapy was established in 2024, eliminating the need to transport detainees out of the facility and reducing costs.
- Social and educational services are provided at the jail by religious leaders and organizations to motivate and assist detainees while incarcerated and to assist detainees with reentry into society upon release.
- Lake County Jail offers GED courses, workforce development, the Bridges Program (offered by College of Lake County), substance abuse support (offered by Nicasa), and other services to help detainees become productive upon reentry.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, “The dedicated men and women of our correctional staff work tirelessly to ensure our jail is safe, secure, and rehabilitative. We are proud to once again meet IDOC’s rigorous standards. Our team’s commitment to providing necessary resources and maintaining a professional environment highlights our responsibility to the community and those in our custody.”

In just the first six months of this year, the jail received over 2,700 new inmates and had an average daily population of 515 inmates. Correctional officers have successfully conducted over 6,200 inmate transports to court hearings and other court-ordered trips. The jail has served over 205,000 meals to inmates by then also.

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Burial Needs

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

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