

HI-LITER

~ including McHenry County News

FEB. 12-18, 2025 VOLUME 13 • NUMBER 41

DISPLAY ADS | CLASSIFIEDS | DELIVERY: (815) 877-4044

Email: news@hi-liter.com • Published By Southern Lakes Newspapers & Rock Valley Publishing

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

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Volo Bog State Natural Area announces annual nature photo contest winners

The winners of Volo Bog State Natural Area's 38th Annual Nature Photo Contest were announced between music sets at the site's Annual WinterFest on January 12.

The annual competition and show is presented each year by Volo Bog State Natural Area with support from the Friends of Volo Bog.

An amazing 120 entries, submitted by 17 photographers were entered in ten categories. Visitors to the State Natural Area from October 19 - January 10 were asked to vote for their favorite in each category, and for their favorite overall. First, second and third place ribbons are awarded to the top vote recipients in each category. Two Best-of-Show plaques are awarded - a Peoples' Choice and a Judges' Award.

All the winning photos can be viewed in the Volo Bog visitor center through Saturday, March 1, as well as on the friends of Volo Bog Facebook page, and on the Friends website at www.FriendsofVoloBog.org as well.

The winners in each category are as follows.

Best of Show Winners

Best of Show People's Choice - Michael Schmitt, Grayslake, for "Lake Superior Sunrise".

Best of Show Judges' Award - Carl Stineman, Vernon Hills, for "Turk's Cap Lily".

Color Plant

1st - Sari Nienaber of Kalamazoo, Michigan for "Mushrooms Capture the Sky"

2nd - Anthony Roma of Gurnee for "Rain on the Pad"

3rd - Carl Stineman of Vernon Hills for "Turk's Cap Lily"

Beyond the Midwest, Animals

1st - Kim Compton of Holiday Hills, for "Mother & Child"

2nd - Carl Stineman of Vernon Hills for "Mother and Calf Spouting"

3rd - Anthony Roma of Gurnee for "Red Cracker"

Black & White Plant/Landscape

1st - Michael Schmitt of Grayslake for "Lake Superior Shoreline"

2nd - Tami Bevis of Round Lake for "Your Roots are Showing"

3rd - Narayani Hiffman of Woodstock for "Misty Morning"

Nature's Web in Action (Web of Life)

1st - Michael Schmitt of Grayslake for "A Sandhill, a Red-wing & a Bumblebee Meet for Lunch"

2nd - Michael Schmitt of Grayslake for "Osprey Cat Catch"

3rd - Carl Stineman of Vernon Hills for "Mid-Air Refueling"

Color Landscape

1st - Michael Schmitt of Grayslake for "Lake Superior Sunrise"

2nd - Paul McFadden of Crystal Lake for "Sunset String in Pearls"

3rd - Michael Schmitt of Grayslake for "Grand Marais Sunset"

Color Birds

1st - Ken Olsen of Palatine for "Humdinger"



Michael Schmitt, Grayslake

Lake Superior Sunrise

SUBMITTED PHOTOS Hi-Liter/MCN

Best-of-Show People's Choice went to Michael Schmitt, Grayslake for "Lake Superior Sunrise." Award winning photos can be viewed until March 1 at the Volo Bog visitor center.

2nd - Michael Schmitt of Grayslake for "Snowy Owl"

3rd - Carl Stineman of Vernon Hills for "Red-headed Woodpecker"

2nd - Michael Schmitt of Grayslake for "Red Fox"

3rd - Stacey Greenhill of Wheeling for "Unhappy Model"

3rd - Stacey Greenhill of Wheeling for "Babies on Board"

1st - Michael Schmitt of Grayslake for "Determined Snowy Owl"

2nd - Stacey Greenhill of Wheeling for "Common Green Darner"

Color Invertebrate

1st - Michael Schmitt of Grayslake for "Halloween Pennant Dragonfly"

2nd - Carl Stineman of Vernon Hills for "Common Green Darner"

Color Vertebrate OTB (Other Than Birds)

1st - Michael Schmitt of Grayslake for "No Place Like Home"

See CONTEST WINNERS, Page 4



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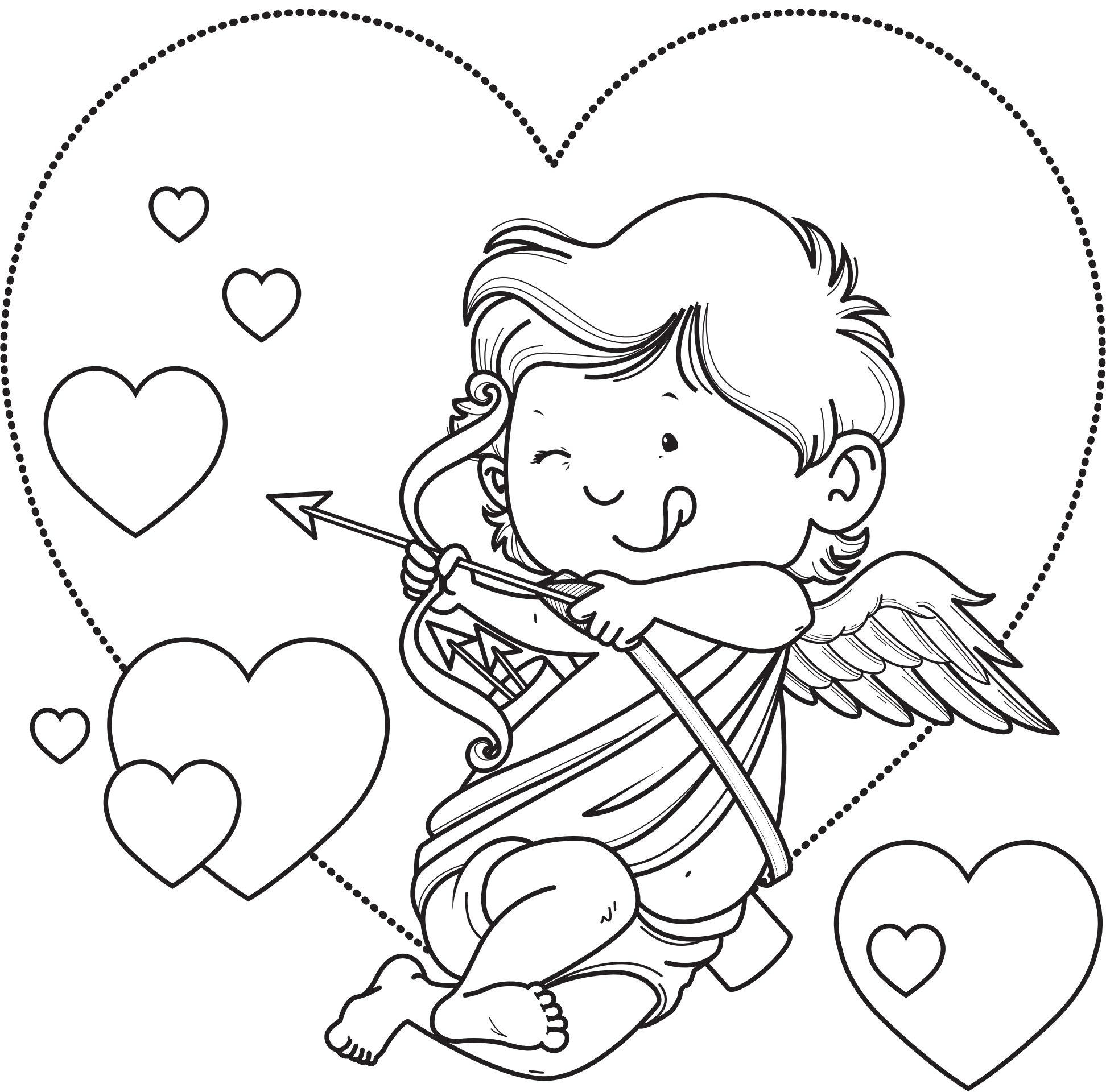
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What to know about avian flu in wild birds, poultry, and pets in Illinois

By Emily Steele
MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGER, ILLINOIS EXTENSION

The nationwide spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza, HPAI, also known as avian or bird flu has many in Illinois concerned about livestock, pets, wildlife food safety, and public health.

HPAI is an extremely contagious and frequently deadly respiratory disease for domestic birds; it can kill entire flocks in a matter of days. One strain, H5N1, has spread from wild birds to commercial and backyard poultry flocks as well as mammals, including dairy cattle and pets, raising concerns about how the virus might be mutating.

University of Illinois scientists, experts, and Extension specialists weigh in on avian flu's impact and provide safety recommendations to help prevent further spread.

Bird flu safety precautions

- When outdoors: Do not handle sick or dead wildlife. Report five or more sick or dead wild birds in an area to an Illinois Department of Natural Resources District Wildlife Biologist or USDA Wildlife Services at 1-866-487-3297.

- Farm workers: Apply biosecurity measures to protect flocks and wear personal protective equipment. The Illinois Department of Public Health has specific guidelines for H5N1. Report suspected infections to the Illinois Department of Agriculture at 217-782-4944.

- Pet owners: Monitor pets and keep them on a leash when outside. Do not let them come into contact with dead wildlife. Avoid raw pet food products.

- Waterfowl hunters: Cook game meat to an internal temperature of 165 degrees. Find more information on hunters and bird flu.

- Questions? Connect with your local University of Illinois Extension office for more guidance.

Has avian flu been found in Illinois?

A northern Illinois farm lost 3,000 chickens to what is suspected to be avian flu, according to a Jan. 22 news report. Commercial poultry in Indiana and Missouri have tested positive in the past 30 days, according to USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. No cases have been reported in dairy cattle.

Bird flu was detected in a wild goose in Tazewell County on Jan. 16, and in a captive hawk in DuPage County on Dec. 27, according to USDA APHIS. Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo reported a flamingo and seal both died from HPAI in early January.

How does bird flu infect so many species?

Dr. James Lowe, professor of veterinary clinical medicine,

studies viral transmission in farm animals. He said scientists theorize the virus has transferred from birds to mammals from exposure to bird feces. The impact of the virus also varies by species. "The virus interacts with specific sialic acid receptors on the surface of cells, and those receptors may be more prevalent in different parts of the body in different groups of animals," said Dr. Lowe in an interview with the U of I News Bureau. In some carnivorous mammals, the virus affects the brain and causes neurological problems. In humans, the virus affects the lungs.

Joy O'Keefe, associate professor and Extension wildlife specialist in the department of natural resources and environmental sciences, said stressors such as habitat loss create more of a risk of disease spillover and could place humans in closer contact with wild animals. "Healthy wildlife populations are less likely to succumb to pathogens and become sick, so they are less likely to transmit those pathogens to humans," O'Keefe said.

What is the risk for people? Should I change what I eat?

The CDC is currently advising that HPAI is a low risk for public health. The spread of avian flu from animals to humans is rare but not impossible. Since 2024, 67 cases of HPAI and one fatality have been reported in humans in the U.S. Many are farm workers who contracted it from infected dairy cattle or poultry. Infections have not spread from human to human. The H5N1 virus can present as mild respiratory problems, pink eye, gastrointestinal problems, or no symptoms at all in healthy people, according to Dr. Lowe. Those who are more vulnerable can have severe respiratory distress.

Cooking meat and pasteurizing milk kills viruses, but the risk remains for raw products. "I would say the risk to humans is incredibly small, at this time, from the dairy products that we've consumed from stores," said Professor of Animal Sciences Jim Drackley in an interview. "I would always recommend that people don't consume raw milk, in which case the virus could still be there."

How could this impact the poultry and dairy industry in Illinois?

About 4,500 commercial farms in Illinois raise 9 million poultry annually, according to 2022 USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service data. Most of these, about 7.2 million, are egg-laying hens, while another 290,000 chickens and 986,000 turkeys are for meat production. Any flocks that become infected with HPAI would likely need to be culled to prevent further spread. Bird flu is potentially a large economic risk for farmers.

Illinois has more than 600 dairy farms with 73,000 cows or calves, according to USDA NASS estimates. Since the outbreak began, 943 dairy herds across 16 states have been affected, according to the CDC. Dr. Lowe said the virus appears to be self-limiting in cows; they may be infected, but the virus is undetectable or causes only mild disease.

Are there concerns about pets getting bird flu?

Cats, dogs, and other pets can contract HPAI from eating infected wild birds or eating raw meat or unpasteurized milk products from infected poultry or cows, according to Stephany Lewis, a professor of zoological medicine. Some raw pet food products have been linked to fatal HPAI infections in cats.

Do not feed pets raw meat or poultry and unpasteurized milk. When outdoors, leash and monitor pets to keep them away from wildlife and poultry. There is an extremely low risk of infected cats and dogs transmitting bird flu to humans, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association.

How can those with domestic poultry protect birds?

There is no treatment for HPAI in poultry and those with chickens, ducks, and other domestic poultry should take steps to protect their flocks. The virus is transmitted when one bird ingests fecal matter from an infected bird. It can also be transmitted through contami-

nated equipment and clothing. Follow biosecurity measures such as keeping birds in a covered enclosure to prevent contact with wild birds. Store food and water away from wildlife and rodents. Change clothing, wash hands before and after working with poultry, and limit visitors. More information about biosecurity measures is available from APHIS at www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/defend-the-flock.

What are the symptoms of bird flu in poultry? What if I suspect an

infection?

Infected birds may have low energy or appetite, reduced or altered egg production, nasal discharge, coughing, sneezing, diarrhea, or sudden death with no prior signs. Report suspected HPAI infections to your veterinarian and the IDOA at 217-782-4944 or USDA APHIS Veterinary Services at 1-866-536-7593.

How does bird flu affect wildlife?

Bird flu is not common in wild birds, but it is more likely to be found where there are large concentrations of birds,

said O'Keefe. It mostly affects wild aquatic birds such as ducks and geese, but also gulls, crows, and raptors. Songbirds are not as likely to be affected. There are also cases of foxes, bobcats, skunks, and other carnivores contracting bird flu.

"While avian influenza is unlikely to appear in wild bird populations in backyards, it is always a good idea to regularly clean feeders to prevent the spread of other pathogens, like salmonella," O'Keefe said. As a precaution, anyone with free-roaming poultry should

See AVIAN FLU, Page 7

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CLASSIFIED ADS... (815) 877-4044
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— PUBLISHED WEEKLY —

General Manager.....David Habrat
Advertising Director...Vicki Vanderwerff
Distribution Director.....Lindy Sweet
Editor.....Heidi Schulz news@hi-liter.com
Advertising.....Becky Loizzo
Becky@SouthernLakesNews.com

DEADLINES:
News.....Friday noon
Display Advertising....Friday 3 p.m.
Legal Notices.....Friday 4:30 p.m.
Classifieds.....Monday 10 a.m.

Published by Southern Lakes Newspapers & Rock Valley Publishing

Dunn Museum to premier special exhibition

For generations, the clothes we wear and the fabrics we sew have told much about who we are, our relationships and communities. A new special exhibition at the Dunn Museum in Libertyville brings that story to life, going back to the 1830s.

“Threads of Time: Quilts and Textiles” exhibit opens Friday, February 14 and runs through May 4. The Lake County Forest Preserves operates the nationally accredited museum.

“Step into this exhibit and explore how quilts, clothing and sewing artifacts from the museum’s collection car-

ry stories in their stitches,” said Director of Education Alyssa Firkus. “A cherished quilt that’s traveled through four generations and a winter wedding gown once worn by a Yugoslavian-American bride are just two highlights.”

Every piece in the exhibition tells a Lake County story. Visitors will see quilts, tablecloths, sewing machines, thimbles, a braided rug, a quilt squares sun bonnet, an apron worn by a factory worker, banners, a Girl Scout uniform and a display of county fair ribbons.

Special exhibitions at the

Dunn Museum are sometimes traveling exhibits presented by national touring companies. Other times, they are inspired by objects in the museum’s collection and the result of skill, expertise and hard work of the Dunn Museum staff, which is the case with Threads of Time: Quilts and Textiles. “Staff-curated exhibitions like this one allow us to really delve into what makes Lake County and its residents so special,” Firkus said.

The Dunn Museum has a large collection of artifacts and archival materials that represent many diverse aspects of Lake County’s history. However, only a small percentage of the collection can be on display at one time. “When museum staff members curate an exhibition, it enables us to show more of the collection and connect visitors to our shared history,” Firkus added.

“I’m proud of our dedicated museum staff for bringing this exhibition to life,” said Jessica Vealitzek, president of the Lake County Forest Preserves. “I can’t wait to walk through Threads of Time and see all the stories stitched into Lake County’s history.”



LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES PHOTOS Hi-Liter/MCN

Log cabin quilts will be part of the upcoming special exhibition at the Dunn Museum in Libertyville. Threads of Time: Quilts and Textiles special exhibit opens Friday, February 14 and runs through May 4.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Hi-Liter/MCN

Best of Show Judges’ Award was awarded to Carl Stineman of Vernon Hills for “Turk’s Cap Lily” at the annual photo contest at Volo Bog State Natural Area.

Contest winners

(Continued from front page)

- 2nd - Sue Bitler of Richmond for “A Little Help, Please”
- 3rd - Paul McFadden of Crystal Lake for “Bunny in Clover”

The Friends of Volo Bog is a Not-for-Profit 501(c)(3) membership organization. Visit www.FriendsofVoloBog.org.

Volo Bog State Natural Area is an Illinois Department of Natural Resources site located at 28478 W. Brandenburg Road, Ingleside, IL 60041. For further information on the contest and other programs, contact Site Naturalist Stacy Iwanicki at 815-344-1294 or dnr.volobog@illinois.gov or visit <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/Parks/park.volobog.html>.

Beyond the Midwest Plants/Landscapes

- 1st - Stacey Greenhill of Wheeling for “Spooky Botswanan Sky”
- 2nd - Narayani Hiffman of Woodstock for “Luray Cavern”
- 3rd - Lianne Tebussek of Round Lake for “Giants Inside”

McHenry County government launches new online permitting portal

McHenry County’s Planning & Development Department has launched its first-ever application portal for building, zoning, and stormwater permits and payments.

The new permitting portal, located on the county’s website, makes it so residents and businesses may apply for their permits from the comfort and convenience of their home or workplace both during and outside of the county’s normal business

hours. Applicants may also pay for their permits through the portal by credit card or debit card.

“When people come to our office for permits, they are coming to us with their dreams—dreams they have saved for years to achieve,” said Director of Planning & Development Adam Wallen. “We don’t want to charge them any more than we have to—especially since now we can review their draw-

ings electronically without a printing fee.”

Before implementing the permitting portal, architectural drawings would often have to be professionally printed or printed by the Planning & Development Department for an additional fee. Online permitting eliminates the need for printed drawings saving taxpayer dollars. The Planning & Development Department collected over \$30,000 in printing fees for architec-

tural drawings in 2024 alone.

Applicants without computers or internet access may also take advantage of the online permitting savings and benefits by using one of the two new permitting kiosks located in the Planning & Development Department lobby.

To visit the new permitting portal and learn more, visit www.mchenrycountyil.gov/departments/planning-development.

Briefs

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.richmondspringgroverotary.com.

Richardson Adventure Farm is located at 909 English

Prairie Rd., Spring Grove.

Volo Bog art show and silent auction open through March 2

The Winter Art at Volo Bog State Natural Area is up until March 2.

There are 92 pieces of art by 29 different artists that can be viewed Wednesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bidding will close

on March 2 at 2 p.m. and the artists’ reception will also take place on March 2 from 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Volo Bog State Natural Area is located at 28478 W. Brandenburg Road, Ingleside. For more information visit FriendsofVoloBog.org.

Treasurer offers property tax workshops to help taxpayers save money

McHenry County Treasurer Donna Kurtz is holding county-wide workshops to share valuable information with taxpayers about the tools and processes for reducing their property tax burden, making tax payments more conveniently, and protecting their property deeds.

The remaining Property Tax Workshops will take place at the following locations and dates:

- McHenry Senior Services, 1519 N. Richmond Road, Johnsburg – 11 to 12 p.m., Friday, Feb. 14
- Crystal Lake Public Library, 126 W. Paddock St. – 2 to 3 p.m., Monday, Feb. 17
- Marengo-Union Library, 19714 E. Grant Hwy. – 2 to 3 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 19
- Crystal Lake Public Library, 126 Paddock St. – 7 to 8 p.m., Monday, March 3

For more information about property taxes and upcoming programming through the Treasurer’s Office, call the office at 815-334-4260.

You ought to be in pictures!

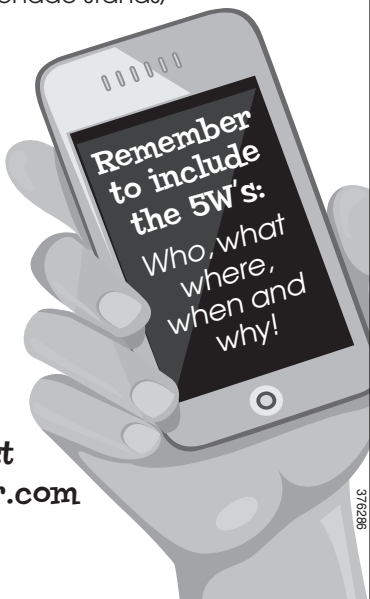
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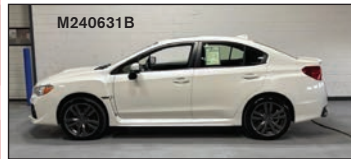
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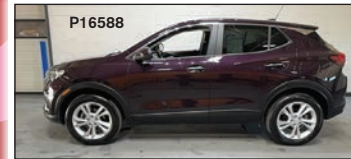
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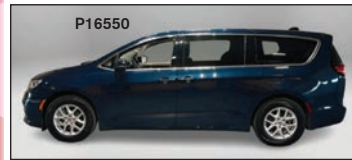
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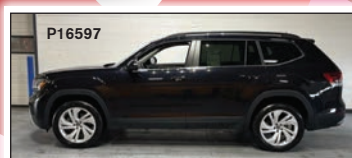
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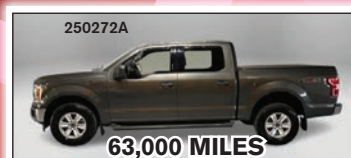
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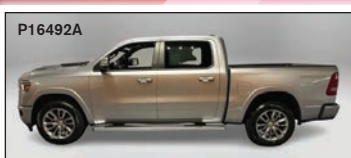
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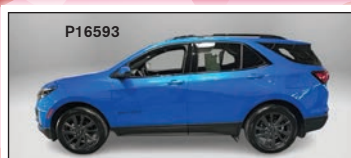
250272A
63,000 MILES
2019 FORD F-150 XLT
\$28,990



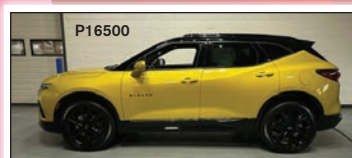
240795A
2020 CHEVY SUBURBAN PREMIER
\$28,990



P16492A
2022 RAM 1500 LARAMIE
\$29,490



P16593
2024 CHEVY EQUINOX RS
\$30,290



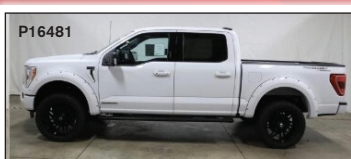
P16500
2022 CHEVY BLAZER RS
\$33,490



P16372
2024 DODGE DURANGO GT PLUS
\$34,990



P16498
2021 GMC SIERRA 1500 AT4
\$35,490



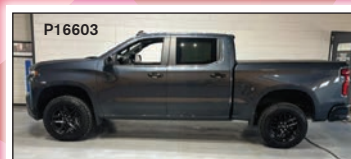
P16481
2023 FORD F-150 XLT
\$37,990



P16445
2019 CHEVY SILVERADO TRAILBOSS LT
\$39,490



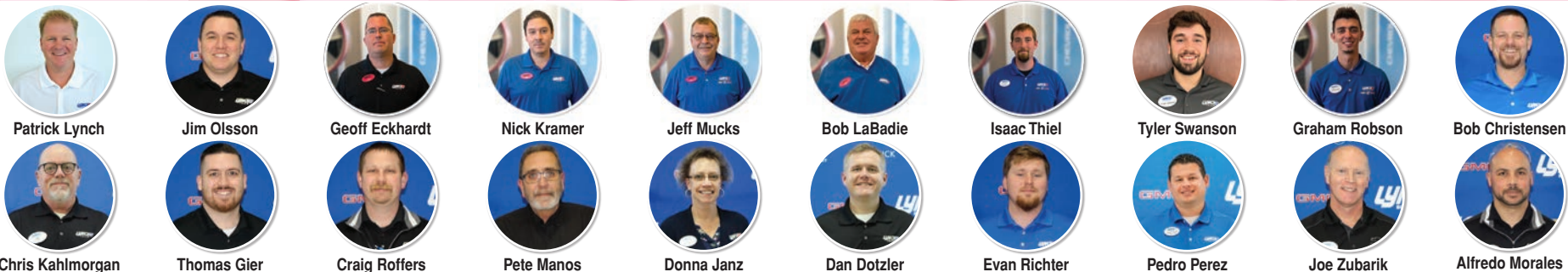
P16561
2021 GMC SIERRA ELEVATION
\$39,490



P16603
2021 CHEVY SILVERADO LT TRAILBOSS
\$42,990



P16474
2023 CHEVY TAHOE Z71
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Court & crime news

School paraprofessional charged after discovery of inappropriate relationship

Lake County Sheriff's Detectives arrested a paraprofessional for having an inappropriate relationship with a student.



Sandra J. Pardo

On February 3, the Lake County Sheriff's Office was notified that a boy, under the age of 16, was driving himself in a car on a public roadway. A voice was heard from the passenger area in the video that someone recognized as a paraprofessional at Cyd Lash Academy, Sandra J. Pardo, 38, of the 100 block of Glen Street, Grayslake.

Sheriff's deputies responded and learned that Pardo was indeed spending time with the boy after school hours. Sheriff's detectives began an investigation and learned Pardo was not only spending time with boy, but having an inappropriate relationship with the boy.

Sheriff's detectives determined Pardo gave the boy a massage and kissed him during a time they were together last week. Sheriff's detectives also learned Pardo kissed the boy in the school last month.

Pardo was arrested by sheriff's detectives February 5.

Sheriff's detectives reviewed the preliminary facts with the Lake County State's Attorney's Office who approved the following charges: Two counts of aggravated battery (kissing), Aggravated battery (back massage), Solicitation to meet a child, and Child endangerment (allowing an unpermitted child to operate a vehicle).

The investigation remains ongoing. Additional charges are possible.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "Children have the absolute right to be safe in the school environment and outside of school. The behavior of this paraprofessional is unconscionable and despicable. There is no doubt this behavior is condemned by the thousands of hard-working teachers and school staff from across the county. Our staff will continue our zero-tolerance policy for adults who victimize our most vulnerable."

Pardo was due to appear in First Appearance Court February 6. The Lake County State's Attorney's Office intends to file a petition to detain Pardo in custody while awaiting trial.

Man injured in single vehicle crash

A 32-year-old Rockford man was injured following a single vehicle crash in the 18900 block of Illinois Route 176, in unincorporated Marengo on Saturday.

On Saturday January 25, at 7:23 a.m., members of the McHenry County Sheriff's Office, Marengo Fire and Rescue Districts and Union Fire Protection District responded to a one vehicle crash on Illinois Route 176 west of Millstream Road.

Preliminary investigation indicates that a 2019 Ford Mustang was traveling westbound on Illinois Route 176 when it entered the eastbound lane of travel and exited the roadway to the south, striking several trees.

The driver of the Mustang was transported by ambulance to Javon Bea Hospital-Riverside in Rockford. He is listed in critical condition.

The air bags deployed in the Mustang and the driver was seat belted at the time of the crash. Alcohol is not believed to be a factor in the crash.

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

Mercer sentenced to 20 years for home invasion, burglary

On January 30, James D. Mercer, 19, from Rockford was sentenced to 20 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for the charge of Home Invasion. He was also sentenced to 4 years IDOC for Residential Burglary in a separate crime. Both matters began as thefts from vehicles. Olson entered a negotiated guilty plea before the Honorable Judge Mark R. Gerhardt.

The defendant had committed a series of car burglaries in Woodstock in January of 2023. On January 21, 2023, in two separate cases, he broke into residential garages to steal valuables from

inside the vehicles. In one case, a homeowner interrupted the burglary. Mercer fired multiple shots as he fled to a waiting car. Mercer was ultimately identified through a forensic investigation that linked him to the stolen proceeds and placed him as traveling to and from Rockford to the crime scenes. Mercer also gave a video confession to McHenry County Sheriff's detectives. Additionally, Mercer provided detectives with a handwritten apology letter to the victim.

The State's Attorney commends the collaborative investigative efforts of the McHenry County Sheriff's Department, Rockford Police Department, and Woodstock Police Department. This case was successfully prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorney Ashley A. Romito.

Canine Danno bites man who kicked him, helps apprehend man

A Lake County Sheriff's Canine was uninjured after being kicked in the head during an arrest that occurred yesterday.

On January 29, at approximately 3:30 p.m., Lake County Sheriff's Deputies responded to the 38800 block of North Gilbert Avenue in Beach Park for a report of a man attempting to break into a victim's garage. While responding, a second caller called 911, reporting that she was being followed by a man matching the same description. The caller informed Lake County Sheriff's Telecommunicators that the man insinuated he had a gun. Sheriff's Telecommunicators were able to relay the information and help guide deputies to the man's location.

Sheriff's deputies arrived quickly and located the man, identified as Jose I. Pineda-Carillo, 34, of the 1000 block of 8th Street, Waukegan. Deputies attempted to speak with Pineda-Carillo, but he was uncooperative and belligerent. Despite deputies' efforts to de-escalate the situation, Pineda-Carillo continued acting aggressively. Sheriff's Canine Danno arrived to assist.

Price sentenced to 14 years for multiple offenses

The McHenry County State's Attorney's Office announces that Kenneth Price, 32, of McHenry, was sentenced to fourteen years in the Illinois Department of Corrections by the Honorable Judge Mark Gerhardt on January 30, 2025. Price was found guilty of Armed Habitual Criminal, Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Deliver,

Unlawful Possession of Cannabis with Intent to Deliver, Possession of Ammunition by a Felon and Endangering the Health or Life of a Child on December 5, 2024, at the conclusion of a bench trial. Under truth in sentencing, Price will serve 85% of his fourteen-year sentence on the charge of Armed Habitual Criminal.

On December 12, 2023, members of the McHenry County Sheriff's Narcotics Task Force initiated an investigation into illicit drug sales in unincorporated McHenry. They obtained a search warrant for a home and executed it that same day. Evidence at trial proved that Price possessed a firearm, despite having two prior convictions for selling illegal drugs. Additionally, the evidence showed that Price possessed cocaine and cannabis with the intent to deliver. Evidence also established that contraband was present in the home where minor children resided.

Detective Nicholas Clesceri, of the McHenry County Sheriff's Narcotics Task Force, testified at Price's sentencing hearing about his extensive history of illicit drug sales in McHenry County. State's Attorney Randi Freese commends Detective Clesceri and the entire Task Force for their dedication to protecting the citizens of McHenry County.

This case was successfully prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorneys Stephan Gregorowicz and Brian Miller of the McHenry County State's Attorney's Office.

bound on Chapel Hill Rd driving his motorcycle. Foulk struck the victim from behind at the intersection, causing the victim to be thrown from the motorcycle into the front of Foulk's vehicle. Medical personnel were unable to save Kenneth Jackson's life. He died as a result of the serious injuries he sustained from the crash.

The investigation by the McHenry County Sheriff's Office and the McHenry Police Department revealed that Foulk was speeding at the time of impact. Foulk's BAC was determined to be .159 three hours after the crash.

The McHenry County State's Attorney's Office recognizes that those that drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs continue to destroy the lives of so many families in our community. This senseless and tragic death was entirely preventable. The McHenry County State's Attorney's Office continues to remain committed to the prosecution of all those that drive under the influence and seek justice for the victims and their families.

McHenry County State's Attorney Randi Freese recognizes the diligent efforts of members of the McHenry County Sheriff's Office and McHenry Police Department in their thorough investigation. This case was successfully prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorney Special Prosecutor William Bruce.

Sheriff's detectives investigating weekend homicide

Lake County Sheriff's Deputies are investigating a homicide that occurred in Beach Park.

On February 9, at approximately 12:10 p.m., Lake County Sheriff's Deputies responded to 39300 block of Melbourne Court in Beach Park, for a report of shots fired. A 911 caller reported they heard several shots and saw two African American men, aged 20-25, running from the scene.

Sheriff's deputies arrived and located several spent shell casings on the roadway, along with shattered glass from a car. A short time later, sheriff's deputies learned a vehicle was driven to Vista East Medical Center in Waukegan, and a gunshot victim was dropped off from the vehicle.

The gunshot victim, a 24-year-old Waukegan man, was pronounced deceased shortly after arriving.

Sheriff's detectives are actively investigating. Anyone with information is encouraged to call the Lake County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division at 847-377-4000.

Sheriff's detectives are actively investigating. Anyone with information is encouraged to call the Lake County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division at 847-377-4000.



James D. Mercer



Jose I. Pineda-Carillo



Kenneth Price



Steven Foulk

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Illinois Sheriffs' Association offering scholarships

The Illinois Sheriffs' Association announces that it will be awarding over \$58,000 in college scholarships throughout the State of Illinois to students wishing to pursue higher education during the 2025-2026 academic year. The scholarships are to be applied to tuition, books, and fees only. The student must be enrolled full-time at a certified institution of higher learning within the State of Illinois, full-time. Online learning at an Illinois-based school is also acceptable. McHenry County Sheriff Robb Tadelman will be awarding one scholarship in the amount of \$500.

There will be no restriction on any applicant by reason of race, age, creed, color, sex or national origin. The only limitations are as follows:

- Applicants must be permanent Illinois residents
- Scholarships must be utilized at institutions of higher learning within the State of Illinois, including those offering online learning
- Students must be enrolled as a full-time student during the 2025-2026 school year (excluding summer session).

Applications are now available at your local Sheriff's office or on

the ISA Website www.ilsheriff.org/youth-2/. Students must complete the application, answer the essay question, and return all documentation McHenry County Sheriff's Office in their permanent county of residence by March 14, 2025 (must be postmarked by this date). A directory of Sheriff's Offices is available on the ISA website at www.ilsheriff.org/sheriffs-directory/. For more information, please contact your local Sheriff's Office, Illinois Sheriffs' Association, high school advising center, or college financial aid office.

• Avian flu (Continued from page 3)

keep flocks separated from areas with wild bird feeders.

es: extension.illinois.edu

What if I find dead or dying birds?

Avoid handling dead or dying wild or domestic birds, and do not send birds to veterinarians or wildlife rehabilitators. Report five or more sick or dead wild birds to a local IDNR District Wildlife Biologist or USDA Wildlife Services at 1-866-487-3297.

Need to remove a dead bird? It is unlikely handling dead birds would lead to an infection, but it is best to follow these guidelines from the Illinois Department of Public Health. Wear gloves, safety goggles, and a mask. Avoid touching the face and wash your hands thoroughly afterward.

Find more information

- Illinois Department of Public Health, H5N1 Avian Influenza: dph.illinois.gov
- Illinois Department of Agriculture, HPAI: agr.illinois.gov
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, H5 Bird Flu: Current Situation: www.cdc.gov
- University of Illinois Extension, local Extension office: extension.illinois.edu

About Illinois Extension

University of Illinois Extension develops educational programs, extends knowledge, and builds partnerships to support people, communities, and their environments as part of the state's land-grant institution. Extension serves as the leading public outreach effort for University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences in all 102 Illinois counties through a network of 27 multi-county units and over 700 staff statewide. Extension's mission is responsive to eight strategic priorities – community, economy, environment, food and agriculture, health, partnerships, technology and discovery, and workforce excellence – that are served through six program areas – 4-H youth development, agriculture and agribusiness, community and economic development, family and consumer science, integrated health disparities, and natural resources, environment, and energy. Learn more at extension.illinois.edu.

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. 10
Sammy W. Gravarski, III, 30, Bristol, WI, was cited for DUI – alcohol and no insurance;

Jan. 11
Isaiah L. White, 42, Waukegan, was cited for ag-

gravated DUI, aggravated driving while license revoked; Yashaua Gonzalez, 29, Chicago, was cited for DUI – alcohol;

Jan. 12
Michael Markus, 37, Lake Villa, was cited for obstructing a peace officer; Juroncis N. Thompson, 48, Zion, was cited for DUI – alcohol;

Elizabeth M. Tiskevich, 34, Lake Villa, was cited for unlawful possession of cocaine

and a warrant arrest: forgery.

Jan. 13
Allen V. Jefferson, 24, North Chicago, was cited for escape;

Mia Isabel Dela Riva, 24, Prospect Heights, was cited for DUI – alcohol, and improper transportation of cannabis;

Stephanie C. Billon, 51, Woodstock, was cited for no driver's license;

Sheri M. Slough, 38, Mt. Prospect, was cited for a warrant arrest: unlawful posses-

sion of a controlled substance;

Jan. 14
Brandon M. Tiedel, 43, Lake Villa, was cited for unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, improper transportation of cannabis and no insurance;

Vincent M. Carter, 31, Lake Villa, was cited for unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia;

Samantha R. Pressnell, 31, Lake Villa, was cited for unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.

HI-LITER Classifieds

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Automobiles

1977 OLDSMOBILE CUTLASS BROUGHAM Mint condition. \$7,000, OBO. Call 262-379-4161.

1999 BUICK CENTURY A/C, AM/FM CD, 165,000 K, looks & runs good. Asking \$1,550 OBO 815-347-0496.

2001 FORD MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE Blk on Brn, 90K miles, new tires, new brakes, mechanically sound throughout, minor scratches on body, leather seats, V-6 engine, premium sound system and ice-cold A/C and hot heat. \$6000. call 262-496-5739.

2004 MONTE CARLO Mint condition. Mechanically sound. \$6,000. OBO Call 262-379-4161.

2005 CHRYSLER LIMITED Mechanically sound with documents. No rust. 141,000 miles, \$6,000. Call 262-379-4161.

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Auctions

PUBLIC SALE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES- Wisco Automotive will be holding a public auction on 2/15/25 at 12:00 at 496 S. Pine St. Burlington. WI. 2003 Honda Civic - 1HGES1653L038268.

STORAGE UNIT CONTENTS to be sold in one separate lot. All contents of Unit 131, 164 & 468 rented by Dorene Hardy. Auction will be completed on BID13.com, February 28, 2025 at 6:00 pm. Hwy 43 Self Storage, 801 E. Centralia St., Elkhorn, WI 53121.

Special Events

59th ANNUAL GREATER MILWAUKEE INDOOR WINTER Automotive and Vintage Bicycle Swap Meet. Car and bicycle parts, all makes, collectibles, car related items. Sunday February 23, 2025. 7:30 AM - 1:00 PM. \$10 General admission. Heated Indoor Event. Free Parking, food available. Event held at Washington County Fairgrounds 3000 Cty Hwy PV West Bend, WI 53095. Hosted by WI. Chapter Model A Ford Club of America. WWW.wichaptermafca.com

FOR SALE

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Burial Needs

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

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