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Illinois schools turn to retirees, substitutes, outsourcing, state grants to combat prolonged teacher shortage

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

From hiring retired educators to adjusting class offerings, Illinois schools are relying on a variety of short-term, innovative measures to cope with a prolonged and critical state-wide teacher shortage.

The most recent survey of education leaders from the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools, or IARSS, shows overall shortage percentages similar to pre-pandemic levels, yet school districts are still struggling to ease less-than-optimal student-teacher ratios.

“For our school districts throughout the state, (the teacher shortage) is not universally created everywhere. It looks different in every place, but I think everybody believes—or at least feels like—it’s a challenge,” said Gary Tipsord, IARSS Executive Director. “So let’s accept that as a reality, and then that will allow us to best solve this sustainably.”

This is the eighth year the IARSS has partnered with Goshen Consulting to produce the report.

Of more than 750 schools surveyed this year, 87 percent said they have a “minor, serious or very serious (shortage) problem.” The report also found that 91 percent of schools said they struggle to hire substitute teachers, while 65 percent said more than half of teacher candidates don’t have the proper credentials for the teaching positions they’re applying to.

“I think the biggest impact that (the shortage) has is on teacher morale. If there aren’t enough people to do all of the jobs, then those of us who are committed and dedicated to what we do automatically do more,” said Gretchen Weiss, a special education teacher at Macomb Middle School in West Central Illinois.

Illinois had roughly 140,000 teachers for the 2023-2024 school year, according to a report by the Illinois State Board of Education. This number has grown every year since the implementation of Evidence-Based Funding, or EBF, in 2018. The student-teacher ratio was 17:1 in 2024 at both

the elementary and high school levels, a steady decrease from roughly 19:1 in 2016.

The IARSS 2024-25 teacher shortage survey found that while alternative teaching methods helped districts see an increase in the number of educators, the shortage persists due to a lack of new teachers entering the profession.

School leaders surveyed said a limited applicant pool, compensation issues and “poor working conditions” are among the main causes of the shortage, though Tipsord said the term “working conditions” is broad and its meaning can vary from one respondent to another.

“When people talk about working conditions ... that potentially means something different to every teacher or every district or every building,” Tipsord said. “I don’t know that we’re in a good space to truly understand that yet, and I think that’s the place where we need to continue to dig.”

Pandemic

In 2020, Illinois schools, like others across the country, were hit with temporary school closures due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Rachael Mahmood, a teacher at Georgetown Elementary School in Aurora and the 2024 Illinois Teacher of the Year, noted that students and teachers alike struggled with the effects of an upsurge in online learning.

“I missed my students being in the classroom, and I missed all the community of a classroom, so I was ready to return,” Mahmood said.

In the 2020-2021 academic year, administrators saw a spike in unfilled positions or low-quality hires. Budget and health concerns due to the pandemic in school districts caused a decrease in the number of educators working in K-12 schools. Though the shortage seemed to improve the following year, it has proved to be a continuing issue with shortages rising between 2022-2024.

Because of the pandemic, school districts in the state are working to return shortage rates back to pre-pandemic levels. In

2018, 85 percent of education leaders reported “a major or a minor issue” in filling teaching positions. This number grew by 3 percent in 2019.

To help relieve issues caused by the pandemic, schools across the country received an infusion of federal money called Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds.

Illinois saw this money distributed in three rounds over the last five years through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act; the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act; and the American Rescue Plan (ARP ESSER). About \$7.7 million of the \$8 million funds were spent, with final ESSER dollars being allocated to schools in September of this school year.

“I think what is going to be very interesting is after this year, all those ESSER dollars will have expired unless they get an extension through March of 2026,” said Tipsord. “But as those have expired, what’s the landscape? And will data next year—raw data next year—look worse?”

Alternative measures

About 3,864 positions are left unfilled this school year at a vacancy rate of 2.8 percent, a decrease from 4,096 positions last year, or 3 percent.

For the 2024-2025 school year, Illinois schools filled 6,117 teaching positions with innovative alternative measures like using retired teachers, going virtual, modifying class offerings and utilizing third-party vendors to find educators. Many of those positions were in areas such as bilingual or special education, early childhood and elementary education.

At Macomb Middle School, these measures include having two Leading, Educating and Partnering in Schools, or LEAP, advocates and a “paperwork day” for special education teachers.

LEAP advocates are the school’s support staff who help with school attendance, academics and student well-being, according to the Macomb

Regional Office of Education’s website. A paperwork day is when teachers take time off from school to complete an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) outlining the special education students’ academic goals and deficits for the school year.

Weiss said in addition to teaching, she also writes IEPs for 14 of her students.

“The district hires a sub for me, and I find a quiet workspace in the building, and I can work on paperwork,” Weiss said. “That speaks to my district’s commitment to work-life balance... That’s something that my district does very well in terms of taking care to make sure that teachers have the support they need.”

This year, school districts hired about 1,440 substitute teachers, including some retired teachers. To accommodate those retirees, many downstate school districts increased the number of days retired educators can work as substitutes without affecting their retirement benefits. Of the schools surveyed, 86 percent said this measure helped with the shortage.

“We do have one retiree that’s helping us with a math vacancy right now,” said Travis. “She just retired, and she signed up right away to be a substitute. We reached out to her, and she said, ‘Absolutely,’ because she’s familiar with the curriculum and the students.”

Policy recommendations

Increasing state funding for K-12 schools, investing in teacher and school leadership and helping support staff become educators are some of the recommendations school leaders mentioned in the survey as possible ways to ease the shortage crisis.

Fifty-nine percent of school leaders said EBF money allowed districts to add additional staff, while others said the teacher vacancy grants and career and technical education pathway grants can also help ease the crisis.

EBF is a school funding formula lawmakers adopted in

See **SHORTAGE**, Page 4

Major financial crimes investigation in Lake County leads to multiple arrests

The Winthrop Harbor Police Department (WHPD), in collaboration with the Lake County State’s Attorney’s Office (LCSAO), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and multiple law enforcement agencies, has conducted an extensive financial crimes investigation resulting in multiple arrests and dozens of charges.

In February 2024, WHPD began an investigation and alerted the LCSAO Financial Crimes and Public Integrity Division, after village officials reported unauthorized transactions involving the Village of Winthrop Harbor’s bank account. The fraudulent transactions, spanning from October 2022 to October 2023, totaled approximately \$700,000. The bank’s fraud department was able to recover and return a significant amount of these funds to the village.

With the assistance of Lake County Criminal Intelligence Analyst and financial analysts from Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), detectives were able to track transactions, find wire transfers, identify bank accounts linked to the fraudulent activities, and identify multiple suspects who resided in Las Vegas, NV and Memphis, TN.

After reviewing the facts of the case, charges were approved by the LCSAO. Nationwide extradition warrants were issued for the following suspects on the following charges:

- Phillip Sanders**
 - One count of Theft (Class X Felony)
 - One count Continuing Financial Crimes Enterprise (Class 1 Felony)
 - One count Misappropriation of Financial Institution Property (Class 1 Felony)
 - One count Money Laundering (Class 1 Felony)
 - One count Structuring a Transaction (Class 2 Felony)
 - One count Computer Fraud (Class 3 Felony)

- Vanessa Yarbrough**
 - One count of Theft (Class X Felony)
 - One count Continuing Financial Crimes Enterprise (Class 1 Felony)
 - One count Misappropriation of Financial Institution Property (Class 1 Felony)
 - One count Money Laundering (Class 1 Felony)
 - One count Structuring a Transaction (Class 2 Felony)

- Patrick Dickens**
 - One count of Theft (Class X Felony)
 - One count Continuing Financial Crimes Enterprise (Class 1 Felony)
 - One count Misappropriation of Financial Institution Property (Class 1 Felony)
 - One count Money Laundering (Class 1 Felony)
 - One count Computer Fraud (Class 3 Felony)
- On February 27, 2025, WHPD detectives and Memphis Police executed search warrants at multiple addresses in Memphis and Jackson, TN, resulting in the arrests of Phillip Sanders and Vanessa Yarbrough and the seizure of evidence. Patrick Dickens was arrested in Nashville, TN, that same day.

Additional charges are pending against other suspects as the investigation continues.

Lake County State’s Attorney Eric Rinehart said, “The Winthrop Harbor Police Department conducted a top-notch investigation and worked with our office so that we can hold these offenders accountable in an Illinois courtroom. Our new Financial Crimes and Public Integrity Division and our law enforcement partners are dedicated to making sure that we protect Lake County residents and taxpayers from such calculated and damaging crimes. But we must continue to invest in our safety infrastructure, and I want to thank the Lake County Board for funding this Unit in 2023.”

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Partisan politics infiltrating non-partisan local Illinois elections

By Ben Szalinski and Bridgette Fox
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

It's been just four months since the last election concluded, but another election is on the horizon in Illinois: the April 1 elections for school boards and municipal offices.

Though municipal and school board races in Illinois are nonpartisan, voters may see many of the same political themes that were hallmarks of races during the 2024 presidential election cycle. The Democratic Party of Illinois is applying many of the same tactics it uses in partisan elections to this year's local races.

"We as the Democratic Party of Illinois should be defending Democratic values in every single election in nonpartisan and partisan elections alike, because all of these local offices have jurisdiction over super critical controls and we think our party has the best platform for governance," Democratic Party of Illinois Executive Director Ben Hardin said.

The 2025 local elections are the second time that Illinois Democrats are getting involved in nonpartisan races. After recruiting more than 1,000 prospective candidates last year, the state party is supporting 270 candidates for a variety of local offices in all areas of the state.

The party trained the candidates and attached them to "coaches" experienced in running Democratic campaigns. Candidates will also be supported by a six-figure advertising campaign by DPI in the coming weeks.

"I think our voters welcome the information," Hardin said. "They want to know, and they need to know, who the aligned candidates are."

It's also part of the party's strategy to be more active year-round. "This is how the party operates now," Hardin said. "We are not going back to closing up shop after an even-year midterm or presidential election, lying dormant for 18 months and then coming alive again for the next even-year general election."

Hardin acknowledged there could be some voter fatigue after November's presidential election, but he stressed that's why the party

wants to make Democratic voters aware an election is approaching.

"These local offices, if we allow them to be uncontested, especially with the Trump administration in office, you know with our lack of control of the wheels of power in D.C., we could allow our state to start slipping to the right at the local level," Hardin said.

For example, DPI is getting involved in the mayoral race in Aurora, Illinois' second-largest city, where incumbent Mayor Richard Irvin and Aurora Ald. John Laesch face off. The election is the first since Irvin's unsuccessful campaign for governor as a Republican in 2022. Hardin said that's made Irvin an easy target for a partisan campaign.

"We're treating Aurora like the rest of our program across the state," Hardin said. "In Aurora, you've got an executive of the city who is a Republican."

As a candidate for governor, Irvin faced numerous questions about his Republican credentials. He often avoided answering any questions about President Donald Trump or his position on abortion as he faced accusations from opponents that he wasn't conservative enough. Irvin later co-hosted a Black Republicans event at the Republican National Convention last year.

DPI is running a direct mail program this month targeting Irvin. It also plans to reach Democratic voters in Aurora through other mail and digital outreach advertising to let voters know which candidates in the city the party supports.

Irvin's campaign did not respond to a request for comment.

Illinois State Board of Elections records show DPI also used its resources to support Peoria Mayor Rita Ali and Calumet City Mayor Thaddeus Jones, who is also a Democratic state representative, during primary elections in February.

A full accounting of the party's spending on municipal elections won't be available until mid-April when reports are due to the state election authority.

Conservative influence
Jim Rule, chairman of the Tazewell County Republican Central Committee, said

his group doesn't normally get involved in "consolidated-type elections" like the Morton School Board, which has five candidates running for election—but this year is different.

Four of those candidates are affiliated with Republican groups despite school board elections being non-partisan.

In Illinois, political parties and individuals can still support and endorse any candidates they wish.

Rule said his committee vetted and backs the four Republican-aligned candidates.

"It's important to get the right people in office," Rule said. "Look, we've all heard the phrase 'all good government starts locally,' and this is a classic example of that. School boards are so, so vitally critical to have the right people on them for our kids."

The four GOP candidates are backed by the Citizens for Morton Schools political action committee, which did not reply to a request for comment.

Rep. Bill Hauter, R-Morton, is also involved in the race. He has donated \$1,000 to the group as of March 5, according to the State Board of Elections, while his campaign has provided \$2,000 worth of consulting.

"I am supportive of four great candidates for Morton School Board in my hometown," Hauter said in a statement. "They are great candidates who each have their own unique qualifications that can help Morton students, parents, teachers and taxpayers. This will be a statement election for our community."

Rule said one of the main goals of Tazewell Republicans this election cycle is defeating Dr. Ashley Fischer, a pediatrician running for the Morton School Board whom Hauter called "too radical for the people and schools of Morton."

Fischer said she's an anti-bullying advocate, which includes respecting all aspects of students' identities like race, gender and sexuality.

"We want to send a message, not only to the residents of Morton, but to the community around us," Rule said. "That this is something that—this woke agenda—is something that we need to rid ourselves of, and it has

no place in the school system, especially with young kids."

Fischer said Republicans are trying to scare voters.

"They're basically stoking hot button topics to get a fear response out of parents, to try to get them to vote against me out of fear," Fischer said. "I have never once brought up any policy to do with transgender children, except that I think no child should

be bullied in the school, regardless of their race, orientation, medical conditions, anything. They are in that group. I don't think any child should be bullied. That is my stance."

Fischer also criticized Republicans for their online rhetoric, which she said promotes hate.

Fischer's advocacy has also been scrutinized by Moms for Liberty, a right-

wing group that advocates for conservative curricula in schools, such as by opposing LGBTQ lessons.

Virg Cihla, chair of the Tazewell County chapter of Moms for Liberty, said his group does not endorse any candidates.

The Illinois Republican Party did not reply to request for comment about their involvement in any April 1 elections.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Chief Ron Davis gives Sgt. James Harrison a life-saving award for his bravery and clear thinking in a crisis.

Sergeant honored for life-saving action

The Lake County Forest Preserves Ranger Police presented Sgt. James Harrison with an honorable mention award recently for his exceptional bravery and quick thinking.

While on routine patrol on Feb. 12, Harrison encountered a serious traffic accident. A vehicle was on fire and the driver, injured and trapped, needed immediate help. Sgt. Harrison and Officer Brittany Fears from the Round Lake Park Police Department quickly sprang into action.

The officers used the fire extinguishers in their cars to put out the fire that was under the vehicle's hood. The victim had a compound fracture and was unable to move on her own, said Lt. Shane Page with Round Lake Fire Department. "According to witnesses, the fire was

spreading fast and was sizeable.

"I feel that the actions of these officers saved the life of our patient and allowed us to extricate her in the proper manner for her injuries as opposed to an emergency due to fire. I have no doubt their actions saved our patient a lot of pain and further serious injuries," Page said.

The patient was transported to the hospital for further treatment.

"Sgt. Harrison's decisive action saved a life. His bravery and clear thinking in a crisis set a strong example for our department and our community," said Police Chief Ron Davis of Lake County Forest Preserves. "This shows the impact we have on the public and displays the strong relationships we have with residents and other local public safety departments."

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.

Feb. 2
Jacqueline Reyes, 31, Zion, was cited for aggravated speeding (80 mph in 45 mph zone);
Azhlit Castro-Gomez, 21, Round Lake Beach, was cited with driving while license revoked, suspended registration and no insurance;

Marcellus R. Clark, 28, Antioch, was cited for false report to public safety agency;

Richard Kellogg, 30, Zion, was cited for aggravated battery to nurse;
Richard J. Halloran, 32, Deer Park, was cited for a warrant obtained: possession

of child pornography;
Navaeh M. Devost, 20, North Chicago, was cited for aggravated battery to a correctional officer;
Domitila Ruiz-Serrano, 45, **See ARRESTS, Page 7**

of child pornography;
Navaeh M. Devost, 20, North Chicago, was cited for aggravated battery to a correctional officer;
Domitila Ruiz-Serrano, 45, **See ARRESTS, Page 7**

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Copper & Cask Bourbon\$49.99	WE HONOR ALL VALID LAKE COUNTY LIQUOR ADS Sale Dates: 3/19 - 3/25/2025	24 - 12 OZ. CANS MIAMI SPRITZ COCKTAILS \$6.99 (\$1.75 PER 6 PACK) Cash & Carry Coupon Expires 3/25/25 (No debit or credit cards)
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Jeppson 8yr Bourbon\$64.99		
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Starlight Rye Apricot Brandy Finish\$79.99		
NULU Bourbon Toasted Barrel\$89.99		
Smokewagon Bourbon\$94.99		

11:00 am-7:00 pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
9:00 am-9:00 pm Thursday, Friday, Saturday
9:00 am-5:00 pm Sunday

Knob manufacturer marks 90 years in business

Rogan Corp.'s long history includes military, aerospace, music industry contracts

Cynthia Wolf
CONTRIBUTOR

Before Lutefish engineers could launch a revolutionary new streaming device that would enable musicians to collaborate online in real time — with minimal to no sound lag — their fledgling company faced a dilemma.

Attempts to make their own all-important control knobs were failing, said Patrick Finn, business manager for Lutefish, an offshoot of Minnesota-based Wenger Corp.

“We wanted a knob that was both functional and aesthetically pleasing,” he said. “We were struggling with the size to get the plastic knob to fit properly over the potentiometer to be snug enough that it wouldn’t fall off but not so snug that we’d damage the product trying to get it off.”

Enter Rogan Corp., a Northbrook-based manufacturer of knobs, handles and clamping levers now celebrating its 90th year in business.

“I had come across Rogan Corp. at the National Association of Music Merchants’ annual conference in 2023,” Finn said. “We were in the middle of testing our knobs, and I said ‘Well, we just really need to work with them.’”

Rogan Corp.’s expertise in custom molding put the Lutefish project back on track, he added.

“I think what we really got from Rogan was the experience to not have to figure out the right tolerance,” he said. “They have an inner spring that creates tension and provides the perfect fit every time. It enabled us to move the project along more quickly.”

Such narratives are music to Ed Rogan II’s ears. Now semi-retired, Rogan, who is in his early 80s, still maintains the title of owner and president. He is the son of Edward Rogan Sr., who filed his first-ever Rogan Brothers tax form in late March of 1934, having incorporated a business with his younger brothers, Jim and Nicholas. Initially, the trio’s product was calligraphy: diplomas for schools and universities; baptism, confirmation and wedding certificates for the Archdiocese; and other jobs for the City of Chicago.

The brothers had immigrated to Chicago from Canada in the late 1920s, securing a small apartment on South Michigan Avenue just before the Great Depression. They had no car, and found their customers along the street car lines that existed at the time, Ed Rogan II said.

The brothers later got into hot stamping, and found themselves in high demand during World War II, when the U.S. Navy hired them to hot stamp degree marks onto gunship aiming devices.

After the war, the company, which had grown from three owners to 24 total employees, went back down in size to the original three, Rogan said.

It was time to reinvent themselves again, something the brothers would do multiple times throughout the decades.

“That’s when they bought some molding machines,” Rogan said. “They had been marking molded plastics, and they noticed that all of the molders drove the newest cars.”

The brothers then worked with big Chicago manufactur-

ers like Amphenol and Sunbeam. They garnered another military contract to custom mold a fighter jet pilot’s handle. They also began molding heat-resistant stove and other appliance knobs. In the late 1960s, Jim Rogan gambled on getting away from just black-and-white knobs to products with a bit more pizzazz, said his nephew, who took over the business in 1985.

“We were the first company to come up with aluminum-skirted knobs,” Rogan said. “But the only appliance company wanting them was Dow Corning. Then, JFK said ‘We’re going to be the first to go to the moon.’ And the instrumentation industry took to our knobs. They loved the aluminum skirts.”

The resulting influx of revenue allowed Rogan Corp. to invest in injection molding machines vs. the much more time-consuming tech of compression molding.

Flash forward to today, and Rogan Corp. employs 12 men and 15 women at its 42,000-square-foot facility at 3455 Woodhead Drive, Northbrook, its sixth location since the founding brothers’ humble start in their small Chicago apartment.

Currently, the company primarily manufactures and markets what Rogan calls “sexy wingnuts,” along with adjustable handles, levers and knobs for industries including medical, furniture and fixture makers, power equipment and tools, kitchen and cooking, marine, aerospace, lawn and garden, lab equipment, toys and leisure, automotive, dental and consumer electronics. They’ve also got-



ROGAN CORP. PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Rogan Corp. employees gathered for a marketing shot in 2023, including (front row, from left) Chrys Funteas, Nora Paz, Yadira Iriarte, Lorena Suastequi, Lily Osorio, Janina Labno, Erin Kalios and (second row, from left) Jane Kubicki, Kim Zimmers, Pedro Valencia, Lupe Garcia, Rosalia Alva, Diane Sass, Cecilio Sosa as well as (third row, from left) Alex Konan, Marion Day, Luis Leon, Chris Silovich, Chris Murphey, Joe Schullo and Dave Ziegenhorn.

ten back into more challenging, custom molding jobs — such as the one recently completed for Lutefish.

“They built a custom injection molding tool specific to our design — two of them actually, one for the larger knob and one for the smaller,” said Lutefish’s Finn. “From the outside, they made it look exactly how we wanted it to look, and from the inside, they made it do exactly what we needed it to do.”

“They were really helpful in ensuring that our product was going to function,” he added. “It’s clear that their 90 years of experience helped our project to launch successfully.”

For more information about Rogan Corp., visit rogancorp.com.



ROGAN CORP. PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Secondary operator lead Lupe Garcia examines a couple of Rogan Corp.’s stock knobs, used on IV poles in the medical industry, as her co-worker Yadira Iriarte works in the background.



ROGAN CORP. PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Rogan Corp. press operator Cecilio Sosa inserts metal handles into a mold in preparation for overmolding with a soft grip.

• Shortage (Continued from page 2)

2017 that seeks to reduce funding gaps in the state by sending more resources to the most underfunded districts. CTE programs prepare students for high-skill, in-demand occupations like engineering or culinary arts.

In his February State of the State address, Gov. JB Pritzker reiterated Illinois’ ongoing support for K-12 education funding, including a \$350 million increase in EBF and a \$1.3 million increase in CTE programs. This brings the total EBF funds to \$8.9 billion since the program was enacted in 2017. Pritzker also proposed contin-

ued funding of \$45 million for the Teacher Vacancy Grant Pilot Program.

“We are recipients of the teacher vacancy program. I should say that has helped us retain teachers because we were able to offer some signing bonuses for hard-to-fill positions,” said LaTesh Travis, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources at Berkeley School District 87.

Launched in the 2023-2024 academic year, the teacher vacancy grant allowed districts to fill educator positions and offer money for education training. For the Berkeley School Dis-

trict, Travis says they were able to offer signing bonuses for math, special education and bilingual teachers.

Though the state has pledged its support for education funding over the past couple of years, some say there is still room for improvement.

Aside from funding, the report proposed more support for shortage research—to better understand what is working to ease shortages—and the implementation of Illinois Vision 2030, a five-year policy framework for state legislators and education officials to better support K-12 public education.

One of the framework’s focuses is on attracting and retaining high-quality educators through marketing campaigns, strengthening educator pathway programs and improving educators’ experience. Vision 2030 also advocates for grow-your-own programs that encourage local high school students to consider careers in education.

Mahmood said one other way to keep teachers in the workforce is through leadership, though balancing a professional’s “natural desire” to be promoted and their sense of duty can be challenging.

“Every teacher is a leader—they lead classrooms, they’re in charge of little people and they’re making all these decisions as a leader. But are we treating them as leaders?” Mahmood said. “Teaching is the only job where going up means going out of the classroom, and we need great teachers to choose to stay in the classroom.”



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Pet of the week

Gilligan, a Shepherd/Belgian Malinois mix, is about 6 months 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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- ▼ Tell us what’s happening in the photo
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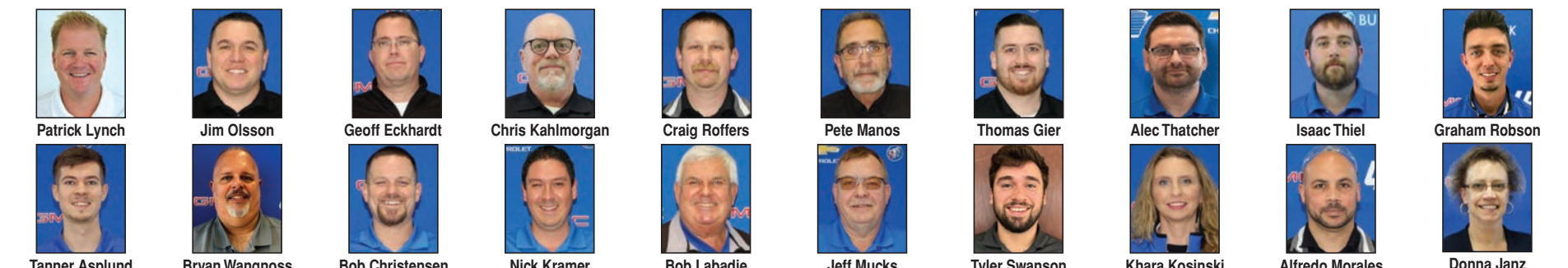
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Who, what, where, when and why!

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LynchGMSuperStore.com



MISSING



Megan Bos

PLEASE HELP US FIND HER

AGE: 37 HAIR: Dark Brown
 HEIGHT: 5'6" EYES: Dark Brown
 WEIGHT: 160 BIRTHMARK: below left eye
 Missing since 02-19-2025 Waukegan, IL

You can call anonymously with any information
 (847) 270-9111 case# 25-3222
 call or text
 FAMILY - (847) 323-8857

SUBMITTED IMAGE HI-LITER/MCN

The Antioch Police Department is circulating this poster in an effort to locate Megan Bos. If you have any information on her whereabouts please contact either of the numbers on the poster.

Antioch Police Department ask for public help in search for missing resident

Anyone who may have seen the missing woman is asked to call police

The Village of Antioch Police Department is asking for the public's assistance in locating a 37-year-old local resident. Megan Bos was last heard from by family members on February 17, 2025. She was reported missing to the Antioch Police Department last week.

Antioch Police Detectives have pursued multiple leads and are coordinating with several law enforcement agencies in northeastern Illinois and southeastern Wisconsin. Her whereabouts remain unknown. Her family says she is known to frequent the Waukegan, Kenosha, Racine and Milwaukee areas. Bos is 5'4" tall,

weighs approximately 160 pounds, has dark brown hair, dark brown eyes, and a birthmark below her left eye. She also has tattoos on her right bicep, chest, and right thigh.

"We are asking anyone with information to come forward to help Megan reunite with her family," said Antioch Police Chief Geoffrey Guttenschow. "We ask anyone with information regarding her whereabouts is urged to call the CenCom Dispatch Center at 847-270-9111."

The Village of Antioch Police Department Facebook page will have all official updates for this investigation.

Court & crime news

Fleeing suspect caught with drugs, credit cards belonging to others

Lake County Sheriff's Deputies took a man into custody who fled from a traffic stop, with the assistance of a Gurnee Police Department K9 Team and Libertyville Police Drone Operator.



Shelmar K. Mays, Jr.

At approximately 9:00 p.m. on March 11, a Lake County Sheriff's Deputy was conducting speed enforcement on Route 41 near Wadsworth Road in Wadsworth, when he observed a red Chevrolet sedan traveling at a high rate of speed. The driver quickly pulled into a gas station at Route 41 and Wadsworth Road. When the deputy pulled behind the vehicle, the driver fled, speeding northbound in the southbound lanes of Route 41.

The deputy briefly lost sight of the fleeing vehicle but soon located it abandoned near Kelly Road and Mill Creek Road, close to Wadsworth. A short time later, a 911 caller reported seeing two people running westbound across the tollway. A Gurnee Police K9 Team and a Libertyville Police Drone Operator were requested to assist.

Using the drone, the Libertyville Police Drone Operator located the two individuals hiding in a tree line west of the tollway. The drone operator guided the Gurnee Police K9 Team and Lake County Sheriff's Deputies to their location, where both individuals were taken into custody.

The driver, Shelmar K. Mays, Jr., 28, of the 4100 block of Continental Drive, Waukegan, was found in possession of multiple baggies of cannabis, as well as numerous credit cards belonging to other people.

Mays' vehicle was seized, and deputies intend to apply for a search warrant to search for additional evidence. His passenger, a 22-year-old woman, was released pending further investigation.

After reviewing the case, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office approved the following charges against Mays: Unlawful Possession of Cannabis with Intent to

Deliver, Obstructing Justice, Driving While License Revoked, Fleeing to Elude, Reckless Driving, and Numerous Traffic Violations.

The investigation remains active and ongoing.

Deputies rescue people from attack, arrest man who chased them with knife

Lake County Sheriff's Deputies arrested a man overnight for assaulting multiple people with a knife.

On March 8, at approximately 11:45 p.m., Lake County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a residence in the 35800 block of North Hillside Avenue, Unincorporated Round Lake, for multiple 911 calls reporting a man inside was assaulting others.

Sheriff's deputies arrived and as they approached the residence, a victim jumped from a second-story window to escape the assault. The man was uninjured in his fall.

Sheriff's deputies forced entry to the front door in order to gain access to inside. Once inside, there were several victims running from the offender, Juan A. Carranco-Salinas, 29, no permanent address. Sheriff's deputies located Carranco-Salinas at the top of a stairway, and he was armed with a knife with an approximate 9-inch blade. Sheriff's deputies gave Carranco-Salinas commands to drop the knife, which he eventually did, but he then advanced to a locked bedroom door, containing several frightened victims. Carranco-Salinas tried to gain entry into the bedroom door and refused to comply with instructions from sheriff's deputies to stop. Sheriff's deputies utilized a Taser to subdue Carranco-Salinas and take him into custody.

Further investigation revealed that Carranco-Salinas became enraged after a woman in the home rejected his sexual advances. He offered her money for sexual favors, but when she refused, he became violent. Others in the home attempted to restrain him but were unsuccessful.

After reviewing the facts and circumstances of the incident, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office approved the following charges: Three Counts of Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon, and Six Counts of Domestic Battery.



Juan A. Carranco-Salinas

ful. Carranco-Salinas then grabbed a kitchen knife and began chasing people inside the residence.

Fortunately, nobody was stabbed or injured inside the home.

After reviewing the facts and circumstances of the incident, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office approved the following charges: Three Counts of Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon, and Six Counts of Domestic Battery.

Carranco-Salinas was held at the Lake County Jail pending First Appearance Court. The Lake County State's Attorney's Office intends to file a petition to detain Carranco-Salinas during court proceedings, while awaiting trial.

Man found guilty of public indecency

The McHenry County State's Attorney Office announces that Edel Castaneda-Carreno, 23, of Woodstock, was convicted of public indecency on March 10, at the conclusion of a jury trial.

On October 30, 2023, a woman was followed by Castaneda-Carreno while exercising at the Planet Fitness in Woodstock. Castaneda-Carreno, whom the woman did not know, followed her to a spa area. While looking at the woman, Castaneda-Carreno exposed himself.

McHenry County State's Attorney, Randi Freese, commends the Woodstock Police Department for their swift and thorough investigation of this matter.

Castaneda-Carreno will be sentenced by the Honorable Judge Justin Hansen on April 3, 2025.

This case was successfully prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorneys Zachariah Sitkiewicz and Sawyer Schexnider of the McHenry County State's Attorney's Office.

Lake County Sheriff's Deputies deescalate armed man in crisis situation

Lake County Sheriff's Deputies saved the life of a man attempting to harm himself, and threatening to kill others.

On March 12, at approximately 4:20 p.m. Lake County Sheriff's Deputies responded to an address on West Verona Avenue, in Unincorporated Lake Villa, for what was initially an assist ambulance call, for a person not breathing. Lake County Sheriff's 911 Emergency Telecommunicators continued asking the 911 caller important questions and learned that the call involved an adult man who was suffering from an intentional drug/alcohol overdose.

Sheriff's 911 Telecommunicators stayed on the phone with the 911 caller and began hearing screaming in the background of the phone call. Sheriff's 911 Telecommunicators learned additional important information that the person who intentionally overdosed threatened to kill any responding deputies, and he was going to try to force deputies to shoot and kill him.

See CRIME, Page 7

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• Crime (Continued from page 6)

Sheriff's 911 Telecommunicators relayed this significant information to responding deputies, so the deputies were better prepared when they arrived.

Sheriff's deputies arrived at the home and located the man inside. Deputies were able to evacuate other people who were in the home to safety. Deputies learned the man recently had a significant life-changing event occur, was in crisis, under the influence, and was armed with a knife. At one point during their interaction the man presented the knife and instructed deputies to shoot him. Sheriff's deputies utilized their de-escalation/crisis intervention techniques to actively communicate with the man.

After approximately one hour and skilled negotiation, sheriff's deputies convinced the man to exit the residence peacefully and unarmed. The man was transported to an area hospital for his mental health crisis. Neither he, nor the family, nor the deputies were injured during this tense situation.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "Our deputies demonstrated incredible patience, skill, and compassion in this life-or-death situation. Through outstanding de-escalation techniques, they were able to safely resolve a crisis involving a man in

deep distress—without anyone getting hurt. This is the kind of professionalism and dedication they bring to our community every single day. I couldn't be more proud of their actions!"

The Sheriff's Crisis Outreach and Support Team (COAST) will be following up with the man and his family, to provide additional Lake County services.

Two men arrested after shooting from car, causing multiple crashes

Lake County Sheriff's Deputies arrested two men after they were involved in a hit-and-run crash and fired a gun at a witness who followed them.

On March 8, at approximately 4:55 p.m., Lake County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a hit-and-run traffic crash with injuries at O'Plaine Road and Route 137 in Green Oaks. Deputies learned that a silver pickup truck had struck the victim's vehicle and fled the scene. A nine-year-old boy sustained serious, but non-life threatening, injuries in the crash.

Further investigation revealed that before the Green Oaks crash, the same pickup truck had been involved in a separate hit-and-run collision at O'Plaine Road and Route 120 in Waukegan. While fleeing that scene, the driver ille-

gally passed another vehicle, nearly forcing it off the road. As the truck sped past, a passenger inside brandished a firearm and fired two rounds, though it was unclear where they were aimed.

Lake County Sheriff's 911 Telecommunicators issued a regional broadcast with a description of the vehicle and suspects. A short time later, a Highland Park Police Officer spotted the pickup truck near Route 41 and Deerfield Road and detained both occupants until sheriff's deputies arrived.

Deputies conducted further investigation and recovered a 9mm pistol and numerous narcotics inside the vehicle. The driver, Paul J. Zawojski, 29, and the passenger, Chase Parthe, 31, both of the 700 block of North Broadway Avenue, Park Ridge, were taken into custody.

After reviewing the case, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office approved the following charges:



Chase Parthe



Paul J. Zawojski

Parthe: Unlawful Possession of a Firearm by a Felon, Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon, Reckless Discharge of a Firearm, Unlawful Possession of Cocaine with intent to Distribute, Unlawful Possession of Cocaine, Unlawful Possession of Xanax, Unlawful Possession of Adderall, and Unlawful Possession of Cannabis.

Zawojski: Unlawful Possession of Cocaine, Failure to Report a Crash Causing Injury, Open Transportation of Alcohol, and Multiple Traffic Violations.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "Yet again, I am incredibly proud of our team! Our deputies quickly responded to the scene and investigated, while our 911 emergency telecommunicators were able to disseminate information quickly. All of this led to the apprehension of two incredibly reckless and dangerous men. We wish the child involved in the crash a speedy recovery."

Zawojski and Parthe remain in the Lake County Jail pending First Appearance Court. The Lake County State's Attorney's Office intends to file a petition to detain both men in custody while they await trial.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office thanks Highland Park Police Department for their assistance.

• Arrests (Continued from page 3)

Long Grove, was cited for a warrant arrest: aggravated assault with a deadly weapon;

Laj D. Clements, 29, Rockford, was cited for a warrant arrest: DUI;

Robert M. McCullagh, 36, Lisle, was cited for criminal damage to property;

Cesar Calihua Macuxtle, 27, Round Lake Beach, was cited for DUI – alcohol, and no driver's license;

Michael J. Dziekan, 48, Loyal, WI, was cited for a warrant arrest: driving while license suspended (Ogle County);

Viviana Mora, 19, Waukegan, was cited for driving while license revoked and no insurance;

Jan. 4
Lawrence Rollins, III, Waukegan, was cited for identity theft, theft, and possession of stolen checks;

Lynn M. Tossi, 44, Spring Grove, was cited for a warrant arrest: retail theft;

Ruben Estrada, 41, Gurnee, was cited for aggravated DUI;

Johnathan J. Coxey, 21, Zion, was cited for fugitive from justice (fleeing from Kenosha County Sheriff);

Jan. 5
Tyree Smith, 27, North Chicago, was cited for aggravated assault of a correctional officer, criminal damage to government property;

Jan. 6
Jacob A. Lage, 24, Lake Villa, was cited for aggravated

speeding in a school zone (65 mph in 20 mph zone);

Luis F. Loza Sandoval, 25, Palatine, was cited for DUI – alcohol, reckless driving and no insurance;

Jan. 7
Aliexis M. Bou, 19, Waukegan, was cited for a warrant arrest: battery;

Eveline R. Angel, 55, Fox Lane, was cited for a warrant arrest: retail theft;

Tony M. Griffin, 36, Zion, was cited for driving while license suspended, and driving with revoked registration;

Jeffery O. Zachary, 32, Round Lake, was cited for DUI – alcohol;

Jacinto Malpica Ortega, 29, Lake Zurich, was cited for aggravated domestic battery to a pregnant woman;

Luis A. Garcia-Ruiz, 44, Tower Lakes, was cited for domestic battery;

Jan. 8
Breanna N. Williams, 33, Beach Park, was cited for domestic battery;

John E. Lance, 52, Cary, was cited for DUI – drugs;

Ania Mackey, 22, North Chicago, was cited for a warrant arrest: battery;

Jan. 9
Giselle Jimenez, 26, Grayslake, was cited for DUI – alcohol, failure to report an accident, and open transportation of alcohol;

Adam D. Cardos, 22, Lake Forest, was cited for DUI – alcohol.

HI-LITER Classifieds

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2021 JAYCO JAYFLIGHT SLX 264 Bunk house. In new condition. Loaded. NO SLIDE. Price to sell \$18,500. Call 815-494-8309

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Help Wanted

SEEKING SKILLED SIDING INSTALLERS Must know exterior construction. Siding, trim and deck work. Full-time positions open. Reliable transport required. Pay based on skill level. Call Eric 262-758-1528.

TODDS IN HOME CARE/KENOSHA Is seeking compassionate and dedicated individuals to join our team as In-Home caregivers in Salem & Burlington. In this role you will provide essential support and assistance to individuals with disabilities, seniors or adults in need of care. This is a rewarding opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of others, to keep them at home. Starting wage \$16.50. Please contact Alyssa at 262-705-5853.

REAL ESTATE

Other Real Estate

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial/ status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-900-669-9777. The toll-free tele phone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275. EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Burial Needs

7 CEMETERY PLOTS Willing to

SERVICES

Home Improvement

RESIDENTIAL GARAGE DOOR Installation & Repair. 224-321-0012.

FOR RENT

Wanted to Rent

WANTED TO RENT local Professional with excellent credit and references looking to rent in Lake Geneva. I am an Employed Behavioral Health Professional with therapy dog. 262-210-0826

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

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

Daytime hours (M,T,W,F). No nights or weekends.

Email resume with salary requirements to hschulz@southernlakesnewspapers.com

DATA ENTRY CLERK

This individual will be inputting information from a variety of sources into documents as well as performing other clerical functions in our Creative Department. The 20-25 hour/week flexible position is available now. The successful Data Entry Clerk applicant will possess the following:

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Data entry experience
- Knowledge of correct spelling, grammar and punctuation
- Ability to be detail-oriented while working under a deadline
- Good communication skills

Knowledge of Adobe InDesign, Microsoft Word, Excel, and/or Filemaker Pro is a plus
Daytime hours (M,T,W,F) in our Delavan office
No nights or weekends

Please send a resume, questions or to request an interview time to Heidi Schulz at: hschulz@southernlakesnewspapers.com



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