

Free!

Residential Shingle Roofs Flat Roofs Metal Siding

Commercial Metal Roofing Gutters Repairs

AMB ROOFING & SHEETMETAL

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL

Building Relationships One Roof At A Time

FREE ESTIMATES

(815) 385-2621

Visit us at www.ambroofing.com

446087

We Recycle Roofing Material & You Save

TOP Choice

VISA

CLC recognized by Achieving the Dream as a 2025 Leader College of Distinction

College of Lake County (CLC) is designated a Leader College of Distinction by Achieving the Dream (ATD), a national nonprofit dedicated to advancing community colleges as hubs of learning, credentialing and economic mobility in their communities.

“The Leader College of Distinction designation is a testament to the data-informed whole college transformation that all CLC faculty and staff have activated over the past several years,” said CLC President Dr. Lori Suddick. “This designation means the evidence shows that the changes that have been implemented are making a difference in outcomes for students, which means we are making a difference in the diverse communities across Lake County.”

ATD created the Leader College of Distinction award in 2018 to recognize colleges that have pursued and met challenging student success goals, often earning Leader College status several times. Leader Colleges of Distinction must show improvement in three or more student outcome metrics, including at least one lagging indicator, such as completion or transfer with an earned baccalaureate. Leader Colleges of Distinction are also required to show they have reduced equity gaps in at least two metrics for at least two student groups. These requirements recognize and motivate sustained and proactive reform efforts that result in greater improvements in student success and equity.

CLC is part of the ATD Network, made up of 300+ colleges commit-

ted to supporting student success at their institutions and promoting economic vitality throughout their communities. CLC has been a member of the ATD Network since 2019 and has held Leader College status since 2023.

“We are proud to recognize our 2025 Leader Colleges and Leader Colleges of Distinction for their extraordinary commitment to student success,” said Dr. Karen A. Stout, president and CEO of Achieving the Dream. “These colleges exemplify excellence within the ATD Network, achieving measurable gains in student outcomes and fostering impactful change within their institutions and communities. Their dedication to using data-informed approaches to create meaningful opportunities for students and their communities serves as a powerful example for all institutions of higher education and especially for those in the ATD Network.”

About Achieving the DREAM

Achieving the Dream (ATD) is a partner and champion of more than 300 community colleges across the country. Drawing on expert coaches, groundbreaking programs, and national peer network, the organization provides institutions with integrated, tailored support for every aspect of their work — from foundational capacities such as leadership, data, and equity to intentional strategies for supporting students holistically, building K-12 partnerships, and more. ATD calls this Whole College Transformation. Its vision is for every college to be a



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

College of Lake County has been designated a Leader College of Distinction by Achieving the Dream. CLC has three campuses located in Grayslake, Vernon Hills and Waukegan. To learn more about the programs available at CLC visit www.clcillinois.edu.

catalyst for equitable and economically vibrant communities. ATD knows that with the right partner and the right approach, colleges can drive access, completion rates, and employment outcomes — so that all students can access life-changing learning that propels them into community-changing careers. Follow ATD on X (Twitter), Facebook,

and LinkedIn. To learn more, visit the Achieving the Dream (ATD) website: www.achievingthedream.org.

About College of Lake County

College of Lake County (CLC) is a comprehensive community college providing northeastern Il-

linois with equitable, high-quality education, cultural enrichment and workforce partnerships. It is designated a Hispanic-Serving Institution by the U.S. Department of Education. In 2023, CLC was named a Leader College by the nationally recognized Achieving the Dream

See COLLEGE, Page 3

ARONSON FENCE CO., INC.

SERVING NORTHERN ILLINOIS AND SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

- Wood ▪ Aluminum ▪ Polyvinyl
- Cedar ▪ Chainlink ▪ Custom



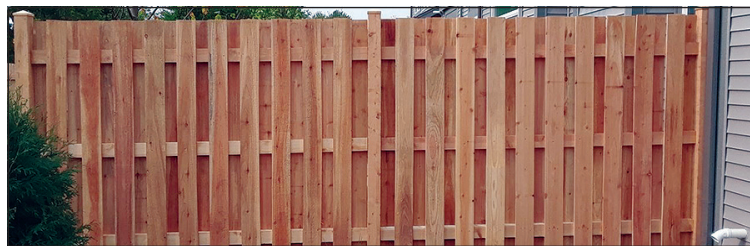
CONTACT US AND REQUEST A FREE ESTIMATE

(262) 248-3390

FINANCING AVAILABLE

Check Out Our Website
Gallery at aronsonfence.com
info@aronsonfence.net

▪ Over 30 Years In Business ▪



Antioch chamber of commerce & industry

882 Main St., Antioch, IL • 847-395-2233 • antiochchamber.org

THE WALL THAT HEALS

VIETNAM VETERANS
MEMORIAL REPLICA & MOBILE
EDUCATION CENTER



JULY 17-20, 2025

Tim Osmond Sports Complex

38 Depot Street, Antioch, IL - 24 Hour Access, Closing at 2 pm Sunday

The Wall That Heals is a three-quarters scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial along with a mobile Education Center. The traveling exhibit honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces in the Vietnam War and it bears the names of more than 52,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam. Visitors experience The Wall rising above them as they walk towards the apex, a key feature of the design of The Wall in D.C. Like the original memorial, The Wall That Heals is erected in a chevron-shape and visitors can do name rubbings of individual service member's names. Modern LED lighting provides readability of The Wall Day and Night.

Volunteers & Tours

There are many volunteer opportunities. Sign Up Genius goes live this spring. Contact the Antioch Chamber to plan your Tour Group.

Escort The Wall
Remove The Wall

Assemble The Wall
Help with Logistics

Be an Ambassador
Tours

Sponsors

The Antioch Chamber is offering sponsorship opportunities to assist with expenses associated with bringing "The Wall That Heals", a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, to Antioch from Thursday, July 17 through Sunday, July 20, 2025. This is a great opportunity to support an extraordinary and impactful event. Please visit AntiochChamber.org for information..



Visit AntiochChamber.org

Contact the Antioch Chamber
of Commerce by emailing
Barbara Porch at
office@AntiochChamber.org



Serving Lake County For Over 55 Years
"Your Complete Service Company"

COMMAND SERVICE

Since 1970

- Heating
- Air Conditioning
- Appliance Repair
- Attic Insulation
- Water Purification
- HVAC Repair

TRANE
It's Hard To Stop A Trane.

(847) 215-9880
www.commandservice.com

467363



NAPA
ANTIOCH AUTO PARTS

Jct. Rts. 83 & 173 Antioch, IL
847.395.3660

NAPA

468311

Audit finds Illinois’ noncitizen health care programs far outstripped original cost estimates

Finding comes after Pritzker proposed to defund the larger of the two programs

By Hannah Meisel
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

A pair of health care programs that benefit noncitizens—one of which is already on Gov. JB Pritzker’s budgetary chopping block—far outstripped its original estimated price tag and cost the state of Illinois \$1.6 billion through last summer, according to a new audit of the programs published last week.

The report also found more than 6,000 people enrolled in the state-funded programs were classified as “undocumented” despite actually having Social Security numbers. Some of those people were green card holders who would have instead qualified for health coverage like Medicaid or traditional insurance.

The audit, which lawmakers requested in late 2023, comes one week after Pritzker delivered his annual budget proposal to the General Assembly. The governor’s plan would defund the newer of the two programs, which is aimed at noncitizens aged 44 to 64, while leaving in place the smaller program for noncitizen seniors aged 65 and older.

Asked about the audit at an unrelated Chicago news conference, Pritzker defended the Department of Healthcare and Family Services’ work on redeterminations in the program over the last year, which has brought down total enrollment in addition to the administration’s freezes on enrollment in the programs in 2023.

“It’s some evidence, any-

way, that there are an awful lot of people out there who need coverage, who aren’t getting it, or who will do anything to get it,” Pritzker said after reiterating his support for universal health care coverage. “And I think that’s a sad state of affairs in our society.”

Republicans, who’ve long criticized both the programs’ ballooning costs and what they’ve characterized as a lack of transparency, said the audit proves them right about Illinois’ first-in-the-nation programs.

“We’re the only state that puts this burden on Illinois tax on their own state taxpayers taking this on and to not run it properly and to have these large cost overruns, that’s how you end up with a budget deficit,” Senate Minority Leader John Curran, R-Downers Grove told reporters at the Capitol. “That’s what’s crowding out spending on education. That’s what’s crowding out spending on other components of the state budget. That’s why we need an audit.”

Vastly underestimated costs

When progressive lawmakers first pushed for the creation of the Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors, or HBIS, program for noncitizens aged 65 and older in the first few months of the COVID-19 pandemic, officials relied on advocates’ \$2 million cost estimate for the program’s first year. Though that projection was later doubled to \$4 million as the

program was being set up in the latter half of 2020, the actual cost ended up at more than \$67 million after HBIS began accepting enrollees in December of that year.

But while actual costs for the seniors’ program in its first three years—\$412 million—ended up being 84 percent higher than original estimates, the price tag for the expanded program for adults aged 44 to 64 was many times larger.

The Health Benefits for Immigrant Adults, or HBIA, program covered noncitizen adults age 55 to 64 and was later expanded to cover those as young as 44. It cost \$485.3 million over its first two years—roughly 284 percent more than the combined original estimate for both programs.

The programs were designed with the same income eligibility thresholds as Medicaid. But since federal Medicaid dollars can’t be spent on many types of non-citizens, the state has had to foot the bill itself instead of receiving a roughly 52 percent federal match like it does for traditional Medicaid coverage.

The audit noted that HFS began seeking federal reimbursement for some emergency services last year, which would be retroactive to mid-2022. But Pritzker last week said part of the reason he was proposing axing the program for adults—which would save an estimated \$330 million next year—was due to the Trump administration signaling it would soon halt that reim-

bursement.

Enrollment has also far outstripped original estimates, especially in the program for adults aged 44 to 64. For fiscal year 2023, nearly 54,000 adults enrolled in the program—about twice the original projection of 26,800.

In 2023, after the Pritzker administration acknowledged the programs’ cost had grown to \$1.1 billion, the governor asked the General Assembly for authority to impose spending controls. After lawmakers followed his request, Pritzker quickly paused enrollment in the program for adults in July of 2023, followed by a pause in the program for seniors in November of that year.

The programs have not accepted any new enrollees since those pauses and redetermination efforts have decreased their headcounts in the last year. The audit cited an enrollment decline in the adults’ program from a high of 53,936 in fiscal year 2023 to 41,537 in fiscal year 2024, which ended June 30.

The day after the second enrollment pause in November 2023, lawmakers approved a resolution calling for an audit of the programs, which authorized Auditor General Frank Mautino’s office to begin work on the report published last week

Pritzker last week proposed defunding the program for adults, telling re-

porters that those aged 44 to 64 are still of working age and could get jobs with health care coverage.

Axing the program renews a disagreement between the governor and progressive members of the General Assembly’s Latino Caucus, who opposed enrollment pauses and efforts to require co-pays for program participants. But the governor framed his proposal as one of shared sacrifice.

“If you come to the table looking to spend more, I’m going to ask you where you want to cut,” the governor told lawmakers in his Budget Address. “I have made difficult decisions—including to programs I have championed, which is hard for me, just as I know some of the difficult decisions you will have to make will be hard for you.”

Mis-enrollments

The audit also found inconsistencies in enrollment data, sometimes relying on misreporting from program participants.

Of the 6,098 enrollees with social security numbers who’d been mislabeled as undocumented, nearly 400 people had been in the U.S. for the five years it takes for legal permanent residents to qualify for Medicaid, according to the audit. Meanwhile, other green card holders who hadn’t yet reached

that five-year threshold but were enrolled in the state-run programs would have been eligible to purchase health coverage from the Affordable Care Act’s insurance marketplace.

HFS last spring issued new rules clarifying that those noncitizens were not eligible for the state health coverage programs, and the agency’s redetermination process has identified and disenrolled many.

Others who had social security numbers are in the U.S. legally but are not eligible for green cards. The HBIA and HBIS programs were designed to cover them but were not intended to cover asylum-seekers who’ve been sent to Illinois from southern border states in recent years.

Those mis-enrollments, which also included nearly 700 people who received coverage under the program for noncitizens 65 and older despite being too young to qualify, drove some of the ballooning costs in the health care initiative. But the audit points to the Pritzker administration relying on vastly underestimated figures when setting up the programs in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

“Actual enrollment and actual costs exceeded the initial program estimates for both the HBIS and HBIA program,” the audit said.

Nominations open for annual Educator of the Year Awards

The McHenry County Regional Office of Education is seeking nominations from the public, parents, students and colleagues for its annual Educator of the Year Awards.

The annual awards, granted in partnership with the Community Foundation for McHenry County, recognize McHenry County’s top teachers, administrators and support staff, Regional Superintendent Diana Hartmann said.

“The Educator of the Year Award is our opportunity to honor the best of the best in McHenry County schools, as nominated by parents, staff, students and the community,” Hartmann said. “I encourage everyone whose lives have been touched by these outstanding educators to nominate them to be recognized as outstanding among their peers.”

The contest is open to all schools in Educational Service Region 44, which covers most of McHenry County except School Districts 300, 220 and 118.

Nominations can be made in nine categories: preschool teacher, elementary school teacher, middle school teacher, high school teacher, administrator, student support personnel, early career educator, private/parochial school employee, and educational service personnel. Teachers must have a minimum of five years of experience and spend

more than half their time in instruction – the early-career educator award recognizes teachers in their second to fifth year of service.

The deadline to submit nomination forms and the needed documentation to the ROE is Tuesday, April 1; the online nomination form can be found on the ROE webpage at www.mchenrycountyiil.gov/departments/schools-roe.

Nominees and winners will be honored at the Educator of

the Year Dinner on Saturday, May 10 at Turnberry Golf Club, 9600 Turnberry Trail, Lakewood. Tickets are \$39, plus a \$4.45 processing fee, and are available for purchase on the ROE website. Nominees must attend the banquet in order to win.

The ROE is soliciting sponsorships to help cover the cost of the event; sponsors who are interested can contact Hartmann at 815-334-4055, or at DKHartmann@mchenrycountyiil.gov.

•College (Continued from front page)

organization. Each person affiliated with the college is committed to ensuring access, belonging and success for all CLC students. The college offers more than 170 degree and career certificate programs. Affordable in-person and online college credit and non-credit classes help students achieve academic,

career and personal goals. CLC has three campuses located in Grayslake, Vernon Hills and Waukegan. The Advanced Technology Center opened in Gurnee in 2022, and Prairie Restaurant at Brae Loch opened in Grayslake in 2023. Learn more at www.clcillinois.edu or call (847) 543-2000.

Hi-LITER

~ including McHenry County News

1102 Ann Street, Delavan, WI 53115

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

DEADLINES:

News..... Friday noon

Display Advertising Friday 3 p.m.

Legal Notices..... Friday 4:30 p.m.

ClassifiedsMonday 10 a.m.

Published by Southern Lakes Newspapers & Rock Valley Publishing

NEWS.....(815) 877-4044

DISPLAY ADS.....(815) 877-4044

DELIVERY.....(815) 877-4044

CLASSIFIED ADS... (815) 877-4044

LEGALS.....(815) 877-4044

— PUBLISHED WEEKLY —

General ManagerDavid Habrat

Advertising Director ...Vicki Vanderwerff

Distribution Director.....Lindy Sweet

Editor.....Heidi Schulz news@hi-liter.com

Advertising.....Becky Loizzo

Becky@SouthernLakesNewspapers.com

• EST. 1966 •

ANTIOCH

Fine Wine & Liquors

Your Bourbon & Rye Barrel Pick Headquarters

Sazerac Rye.....	\$29.99
Rittenhouse Rye.....	\$31.99
Aged in Staggy Bourbon Barrel	
Dancing Goat Brandy.....	\$39.99
Copper & Cask Bourbon.....	\$49.99
Plantation 12 Year Rum.....	\$59.99
Jeppson 8yr Bourbon.....	\$64.99
Jack Daniels	
Barrel Proof Tennessee Whiskey.....	\$65.99
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

antiochwine.com

1180 South Main Street

Southwest Corner Rt. 173 & 83

Antioch, IL 60002 • 847-395-3540

PATRON EL CIELO TEQUILA

\$39.99

750 ML

Cash & Carry Coupon

Expires 3/11/25 (No debit or credit cards)

ADAMIRAL NELSON SPICED RUM

\$12.99

1.75 LITER

Cash & Carry Coupon

Expires 3/11/25 (No debit or credit cards)

SVEDKA VODKA

\$12.99

1.75 LITER

REGULAR ONLY

Cash & Carry Coupon

Expires 3/11/25 (No debit or credit cards)

GRANT'S SCOTCH

\$19.99

1.75 LITER

Cash & Carry Coupon

Expires 3/11/25 (No debit or credit cards)

WE HONOR ALL VALID LAKE COUNTY LIQUOR ADS

Sale Dates:

3/5 - 3/11/2025

The Largest Wine, Beer & Spirits Selection in Lake County

NO LIMIT CASH & CARRY COUPON SPECIALS

(No debit or credit cards)

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES AND CORRECT PRINTING ERRORS

TULLAMORE DEW IRISH WHISKEY

\$16.99

750 ML

(\$19.99 LESS \$3 INSTANT REBATE)

Cash & Carry Coupon

Expires 3/11/25 (No debit or credit cards)

GILBEY'S GIN

\$10.99

1.75 LITER

Cash & Carry Coupon

Expires 3/11/25 (No debit or credit cards)

PAUL MASSON BRANDY

\$14.99

1.75 LITER

Cash & Carry Coupon

Expires 3/11/25 (No debit or credit cards)

BUFFALO TRACE CREAM

\$17.99

750 ML

Cash & Carry Coupon

Expires 3/11/25 (No debit or credit cards)

MIAMI SPRITZ COCKTAILS MIX PACK

\$6.99

CASE OF 24 ML CANS (\$1.75 PER 6 PACK)

Cash & Carry Coupon

Expires 3/11/25 (No debit or credit cards)

Hi-LITER

~ including McHenry County News

REAL NEWS is in THE NEWSPAPER!

Digital Subscription is available for this newspaper for FREE!

Just go to **southernlakesnewspapers.com/**

Click on **“SUBSCRIBE”** in the menu bar at the top of the page, then click **“e-editions”** to choose your newspaper!

Start your electronic subscription today!



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Numerous positions are open at all three golf courses, including ThunderHawk Golf Club in Beach Park. Lake County Forest Preserves is holding a job fair March 10 for anyone interested in seasonal positions.

Forest Preserves holding job fair March 10

The Lake County Forest Preserves is hosting a job fair from 2–6 pm, Monday, March 10, at the Greenbelt Cultural Center, 1215 Green Bay Road in North Chicago. An array of temporary positions is available.

Organizers say participants should dress professionally and bring multiple copies of resumes. Interviews for temporary positions will be held on the spot at the job fair. No registration is required. For more information, call 847-367-6640.

“Spending summer outdoors in a scenic, natural setting is a great opportunity, and we’re hiring for a variety of temporary positions,” said Laurel Diver, deputy director of human resources and risk. “Seasonal job openings are available this spring, offering hands-on experience in a rewarding environment.”

“At Independence Grove Forest Preserve in Libertyville, we are seeking food and beverage attendants for the popular Beer Garden at Independence Grove,” Diver said. Attendants would serve as cashiers and operate, maintain and stock food and beverage supplies. Applicants must be legally able to serve alcohol.

There are also openings at Independence Grove for a variety of other attendants.

These positions assist preserve visitors at the entrance gate, marina and visitors center.

Numerous positions are open at the three golf clubs including laborers, food and beverage attendants, golf coordinators and guest service attendants. The courses are ThunderHawk in Beach Park, Countryside in Mundelein and Brae Loch in Grayslake.

Several temporary positions in the grounds maintenance division are also available. Candidates for these jobs must be 18 years of age. Assisting in keeping buildings and grounds in clean and orderly condition is the main goal of these positions. Those hired for these positions will be expected to work weekends and holidays.

“A great way to be considered for a position is to meet the hiring managers in person at the job fair,” Diver said.

To apply for these employment opportunities, and to watch for future job openings, visit LCFPD.org/jobs or call 847-968-3242 to learn more about the available positions.

Explore the cosmos at the MCC Planetarium

If you love astronomy and science, there’s a hidden jewel in McHenry County just waiting for you to find it. The McHenry County College Planetarium at the Liebman Science Center holds general admission shows for the public, and a number of cool ones are coming up, from the fiery birth of Earth and a look at a

warm and dinosaur-filled Antarctica to a tour of the observable (and unobservable) universe.

Shows are \$15 a person (\$10 for MCC students), and reservations are required.

Visit www.mchenry.edu/planetarium for a list of shows, to register and for sneak-peek trailers of each presentation.

Lawmakers weigh whether to legalize ‘medical aid in dying’

Doctors, disability activists split on support for the controversial procedure

By Andrew Adams
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Lawmakers are considering legalizing a controversial medical practice that proponents say could ease suffering for the terminally ill.

It’s sometimes called “assisted suicide,” although physicians and advocates for the practice prefer the term “medical aid in dying,” or MAID.

While Compassion & Choices—a group that advocates for medical aid in dying policies—found a majority of Illinois voters supported legalizing MAID in a 2023 poll, some critics call the process “barbaric.”

The measure, contained in Senate Bill 9, is being backed by Sen. Linda Holmes, D-Aurora, who told her Senate colleagues at a hearing Feb. 21 that she supports the proposal because of her parents’ deaths. Both her mother and father died after extended battles with cancer.

“You think the toughest thing you go through is watching somebody die, and you know what? It’s not,” Holmes said. “It’s not as tough as watching somebody you love suffer and there’s nothing you can do to ease that suffering. That is the hardest thing I’ve ever gone through.”

Holmes’ proposal would legalize MAID—a process where a doctor prescribes but does not administer a lethal combination of drugs—for patients whose doctors determine have less than six months to live due to a terminal illness. The patient then administers the drugs on their own at a time of their choosing.

The bill contains several safeguards to prevent abuse, according to its proponents, including a waiting period to receive a prescription, a requirement that the patient receive a terminal diagnosis from two doctors, a requirement that patients prescribed lethal medication have sufficient “mental capacity.”

The meeting of the powerful Senate Executive Committee was a “subject matter” hearing, meaning no vote was taken. The bill will need more committee hearings, a vote in both legislative chambers and approval by the governor before becoming law.

Ten other states and Washington, D.C., have all legalized some form of medical aid in dying. Oregon was the first state to legalize MAID in 1994.

Advocates for the proposal include patients with terminal illnesses, people whose loved ones used the procedure in other states and doctors who specialize in end-of-life care. In 2022, Deb Robertson of Lombard was diagnosed with neuroendocrine carcinoma—a rare and aggressive form of liver cancer. She asked lawmakers to give her “permission” to take her own life.

“It would give me the option to die peacefully and on my own terms,” Robertson said. “There’s a level of comfort in that.”

Diana Barnard, a doctor in Vermont who offers MAID prescriptions, said most patients have “a very clear understanding” of what’s an acceptable quality of life as they approach death.

“We have now 27 years of national experience with the practice that really shows these laws are working well,” Barnard said.

But the medical practice is controversial among doctors and disability activists.

Benjamin German, a doctor on the West Side of Chicago, said the “problem” with the bill was its safeguards.

“For some of my patients, these safeguards will be just tight enough for lawmakers to assume things will be okay and amply generous to allow abuse to happen,” German said. “People and organizations looking for ways to exploit this law, I fear, will find a way.”

Disability advocates, meanwhile, say they worry about medical professionals mischaracterizing illnesses as terminal, misdiagnosing people or pushing vulnerable or marginalized people to consider ending their own life.

“As someone with a disability myself – I use a wheelchair – I can say firsthand that my life is often viewed as something to pity and not something to cherish,” Riley Spreadbury, an independent living advocate from Joliet, said. “It’s sentiments like these that make me incredibly concerned regarding Senate Bill 9.”

MAID is also opposed by groups that express a “consistent life ethic,” meaning they object to abortion, capital punishment, assisted suicide, and euthanasia. Those groups include the Catholic Church and non-religious groups such as Illinois Right to Life.

Briefs

The Dole hosting annual Spring Art Show March 15

The Dole and its Creative Arts Inc. nonprofit art studio are once again hosting their annual Spring Art Show.

Explore a wonderful variety of drawings, paintings, digital art, fiber art and more from Creative Arts students and instructors on display from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, March 15 at

The Dole, 401 Country Club Road, Crystal Lake.

Activities for the family-friendly event include face painting, cookie decorating, coloring tables, a scavenger hunt, and more.

The event is free, but donations are welcome and encouraged.

National Weather Service training session offered March 20

Learn how to be prepared when severe weather strikes and how to get involved in severe weather reporting from a National Weather Service (NWS) Chicago meteorologist.

The Lake County Emergency Management Agency, in partnership with NWS will hold the annual NWS Community Weather Preparedness Training from 7 to 9 p.m., March 20 at the Vernon Hills High School auditorium, 145 Lakeview Parkway.

This training is designed for anyone interested in weather, staying safe, accessing forecast information and contributing to their community. It covers hazardous weather conditions common in spring and summer, including thunderstorms, heat waves and beach safety.

Participants ages 10 and older are invited to join. The training will last approximately two hours. No registration is required.

Visit www.weather.gov/lot/spotter_talk to learn more about the courses offered.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Pet of the week

Batty, is about 9 months old, neutered, up-to-date on routine shots (incl. rabies), tested negative for heartworm and on preventative and micro-chipped.

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.

You ought to be in pictures!

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

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

We are interested!

▼ Show the community what your group has been doing!

▼ **NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!**

▼ Just shoot and e-mail!

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

▼ Tell us what’s happening in the photo

▼ **Please do NOT crop your photos.**

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

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

PHOTOS MAY ALSO APPEAR ON OUR WEB SITE,
southernlakesnewspapers.com

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

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

Court & crime news

Lake County Sheriff's SIG arrests meth trafficker

The Lake County Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Group (SIG), a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) funded task force, concluded an investigation that resulted in the arrest of a Wadsworth man for drug trafficking.

SIG began the investigation after developing information that Brandon S. Miller, 35, of the 13000 block of West 29th Street, Wadsworth, was selling narcotics. SIG detectives initiated an undercover operation, and discovered Miller was selling methamphetamine. On one occasion, Miller sold methamphetamine near the playground area of an occupied school.

SIG detectives seized over 140 grams of methamphetamine during their investigation.

Following the investigation, SIG detectives worked with the Lake County State's Attorney's Office, which approved the following charges against Miller:

- Two counts of Unlawful Delivery of Methamphetamine (Class X felonies)
- Two counts of Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine (one Class X felony, one Class 1 felony)

On February 14, a Lake County Judge authorized an arrest warrant for Miller. He was taken into custody on February 20, by authorities



Brandon S. Miller

in Salem Lakes, Wisconsin. Miller remains held at the Kenosha County Jail pending extradition to Lake County.

"Methamphetamine is a highly addictive and dangerous drug that destroys lives and threatens our communities," said Sheriff John D. Idleburg. "I commend our Special Investigations Group for their diligent work in holding another drug trafficker accountable. We will continue to aggressively pursue those who bring illegal drugs into our county, especially near schools and places where children gather."

Three vehicle crash under investigation

A 19-year-old Poplar Grove woman, a 22-year-old Poplar Grove man, and a 37-year-old Belvidere man were injured following a three-vehicle crash in the 15200 block of Kishwaukee Valley Road in unincorporated Woodstock within Seneca Township.

On Tuesday, February 25, at 4:18 p.m. the McHenry County Sheriff's Office, Woodstock Fire & Rescue District, and Marengo Fire & Rescue District responded to a three-vehicle crash on Kishwaukee Valley Road in unincorporated Woodstock within Seneca Township.

Preliminary investigation indicates that a 2022 Chevrolet Equinox was stopped eastbound on Kishwaukee Valley Road, waiting to make a left turn into a driveway when a 2000 Ford Van, traveling eastbound, failed to stop

and struck the left rear of the Chevrolet. The Ford then entered the westbound lane where it struck a westbound 2019 Honda CRV head-on.

The 19-year-old driver of the Ford was transported by ambulance to Northwestern Medicine Woodstock Hospital and airlifted to Advocate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville where she is listed in critical condition. The 22-year-old passenger in the Ford was transported to Northwestern Medical Huntley Hospital and is listed in good condition.

The 62-year-old female driver of the Chevrolet was not injured.

The 37-year-old driver of the Honda was transported to Northwestern Medicine Huntley Hospital where he is listed in good condition.

The investigation remains ongoing by the McHenry County Sheriff's Office Major Traffic Crash Investigation Unit.

McNamara sentenced for aggravated DUI

The McHenry County State's Attorney's Office announces that Max McNamara, 33, of Lakemoor, Illinois, was sentenced to eight years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. The sentence was handed down on February 27, by the Honorable Mark Gerhardt after Mc-



Max McNamara

Namara entered a negotiated plea of guilty to one count of Aggravated Driving Under the Influence, a class two felony. Under truth in sentencing, Mr. McNamara must serve a minimum of 85% of his sentence.

On October 1, 2023, shortly before 2:00 am, McNamara was driving a Chevrolet Silverado eastbound on Illinois Route 173 in unincorporated Harvard. While impaired by both drugs and alcohol, McNamara traveled into the westbound lane of traffic and struck two on-coming vehicles. The driver, a 21-year-old, and the sole occupant of the second vehicle struck, was pronounced dead at the scene. Investigations and tests revealed that at the time of the crash McNamara had both cocaine and alcohol in his system, with a blood alcohol content that registered over two times the legal limit.

McHenry County State's Attorney Randi Freese recognizes that those that drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs continue to destroy the lives of so many families in our community. Freese stated, "DUIs are not victimless crimes. This was a senseless loss of life and the family of this young man is forever changed by this tragic event."

The Office remains steadfast in its commitment to the prosecution of those that drive under the influence in our county and will continue to diligently work on seeking justice for the victims and families impacted.

State's Attorney Freese com-

mends the McHenry County Sheriff's Major Crash Investigation Unit for their thorough investigation of this tragedy and the McHenry County Coroner's Office for their hard work and assistance in the successful prosecution of this case.

Ms. Freese also expresses her appreciation for Polo Fabian, and the McHenry County State's Attorney's Office's whole team of victim witness coordinators, who provide immeasurable assistance to crime victims. This case was successfully prosecuted by Criminal Division Deputy Chief Brian Miller.

Esquivel sentenced to five years for aggravated DUI

The McHenry County State's Attorney's Office announces that on February 26, Sergio Esquivel, of Marengo, was sentenced to 5 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for the charge of Aggravated Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol, to be served at 85%. Esquivel entered his negotiated plea before the Honorable Judge Mark Gerhardt.

On September 22, 2021, at 8:15 pm, Esquivel was driving his Dodge Challenger westbound on Rt. 176 in Woodstock, IL at 70 mph, above the posted speed limit. Esquivel's wife was in the front passenger seat. Esquivel swerved into oncoming traffic, striking a Mazda sedan travelling eastbound. The Dodge Challenger sustained severe damage from the collision, which also caused his passenger's death. The occupants of the Mazda were taken to a nearby hospital and treated for serious, but non-life-threatening, injuries. Esquivel's BAC was determined to be .20 shortly after the crash.

The McHenry County State's Attorney's Office again 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. Our office continues to remain committed to the prosecution of all those that drive under the influence and to seeking justice for the victims and their families.

This case was successfully prosecuted by McHenry County State's Attorney Special Prosecutor William

Bruce. The State's Attorney's Office commends the diligent efforts of the McHenry County Sheriff's Office for their thorough investigation into this tragic traffic crash. We would also like to thank the McHenry County Coroner's Office for their hard work on this case.

Four men charged in undercover child exploitation operation

The Lake County State's Attorney's Office has filed charges against four defendants following an undercover operation conducted by the Illinois State Police, in collaboration with LCSAO anti-trafficking prosecutors, targeting individuals seeking to engage in illegal sexual activity with minors.

Timothy Hansen, 57, Edas Romero-Chinchillo, 32, Sean Powers, 38, and Elijah Newell, 40, were all charged with:

- One count of Traveling to Meet a Minor (Class 3 felony)
- One count of Indecent Solicitation (Class 3 felony)
- One count of Solicitation to Meet a Minor (Class 4 felony)
- One count of Solicitation of a Sexual Activity (Class A misdemeanor)

Lake County State's Attorney Eric Rinehart stated, "Our anti-trafficking prosecutors, law enforcement partners, and victim support providers are making our communities safer by holding anyone responsible who would exploit others. Their dedication sends a clear message that we will not tolerate the exploitation of vulnerable individuals. Thank you to the Illinois State Police for this proactive investigation and for their continued partnership in protecting Lake County."

The ISP operation involved an undercover agent posting online advertisements. All four defendants responded to these ads, engaged in text message conversations where the undercover agent explicitly stated she was underage, and each defendant continued to arrange to meet with the agent and proceeded to the agreed-upon location.

All four defendants made their first court appearance on February 27, where the State filed petitions to detain in each case.

Under bail reform measures, that became effective in late 2023, defendants charged with sex offenses such as those in this case are no longer able to use cash to secure release awaiting trial. Now in determining who is held prior to trial, judges assess whether the offender is a flight risk or a danger to the community.

SPRING Home Improvement

Please use these local businesses for all of your home improvement needs



REALTY WORLD
BROKER NETWORK
TIFFANY REAL ESTATE

Find us on the web at RealtyWorld.us

Serving the Lakes Region since 1965

549 Lake Street
Antioch, IL 60002
847-395-1010

SERVING ILLINOIS AND WISCONSIN

435623



ACE Hardware

WE SERVICE THE POWER EQUIPMENT THAT WE SELL AND MORE

Beat The Rush!

Get Your Lawnmower Tuned Up Now!

▪ WE TAKE TRADE-INS ▪ WE SELL & SPECIAL ORDER PARTS

Route 59 & 173, Antioch, IL • 847-603-1844

www.laskowskiacehardware.com

451410



L. C. M.

LAKE COUNTY MECHANICAL

Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation, Duct Cleaning, & Indoor Air Quality

847-989-4649 • 847-356-5252



Dave Lennox
PREMIER DEALER



lakecountymechanical.com

SERVICING LAKE COUNTY ILLINOIS AND SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

Fully Licensed, Bonded and Insured



Follow us on Facebook



PROUD ANTIOCH CHAMBER MEMBER

468452

WE DO METAL ROOFING



AMB ROOFING

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL

& SHEETMETAL

Building relationships, one roof at a time.

FREE ESTIMATES

Shingle • Flat • Metal Roofing
Metal Siding

5", 6" 7" & Copper Custom Gutters

(815) 385-2621

www.ambroofing.com

451409



Hi-LITER

We want your news!

The Hi-Liter is looking to publish the news of your lives in stories and photos. Are you hosting an event? Send us a preview story. Do you know someone who recently won an award? Send us a photo along with the pertinent information. Community events, school activities and family milestones are all fair game and will be considered for print.

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

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

342521

Man in custody after threatening to kill deputies during eviction

On February 27, Lake County Sheriff's Deputies were enforcing a court-ordered eviction in the 3600 block of Skokie Highway, unincorporated Lake Bluff.

The property is a large commercial site with extensive land, including a section densely covered in foliage. In the summer of last year, the property owners discovered a concealed tent structure—approximately 400 square feet—

hidden in thick brush. A man, later identified as Christopher J. Hermanson, 63, with no permanent address, had been living there for about seven years. Despite being asked to leave, Hermanson refused, prompting the property owners to seek an eviction order.

In the fall, sheriff's deputies served Hermanson with notice of his eviction hearing. While he verbally objected, he was otherwise cooperative. Given

the property's conditions, deputies determined late winter or early spring would be the safest time to enforce the eviction.

Recently, Hermanson was served with a final notice of eviction. When deputies arrived to enforce it, he began shouting threats from inside the tent that he was armed and would kill them if they approached. Despite attempts to de-escalate, he repeatedly threatened harm, insisting the property belonged to him. Additional resources were requested, and the Lake County Sheriff's Tactical Response Team (TRT) responded, including sheriff's canines. Hermanson also threatened to kill the canines if they came near him.

For approximately four hours, sheriff's crisis negotiators attempted to reason with Hermanson, but he refused to exit peacefully. Just after 2:00 p.m., TRT began issuing final warnings and ordered him to surrender. At approximately 2:10 p.m., Hermanson suddenly cut a hole in the tarp and emerged from the structure with a hammer, refusing com-



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Christopher Hermanson had been living illegally on this property for about seven years when he was served with an eviction notice in the fall. The Sheriff's department was enforcing the eviction late last month when he threatened to kill deputies.

mands to drop it as he aggressively advanced toward TRT members. Deputies deployed a less-lethal beanbag shotgun, striking him and allowing TRT

to take him into custody without further incident.

Hermanson was transported to a local hospital, treated, and released back into sher-

iff's custody. He remains in custody while deputies work with the Lake County State's Attorney's Office to determine charges.

Hi-LITER Classifieds

TRANSPORTATION

Automobiles

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.

Automobiles Wanted

CASH FOR YOUR FULL SIZE JUNK TRUCKS & SUV's. HAUL AWAY 7 DAYS A WEEK! CALL 262-758-1807.

Campers and RVs

2016 FLEETWOOD TERRA 34B MOTOR HOME 35' 27,000 Miles 3 Slideouts 2 New WI-FI TV's 5.5k Generator. \$79,000 262-206-4164.

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

Sports/Classic Cars

1949 CHEVY STYLELINE DELUXE 2 Door, New engine, New tires, Clean interior. Runs Great! \$7,500. Elkhorn Text only (708) 785-2440.

1952 CHEVY PICKUP Solid Nevada truck, runs great. \$19,750. (262) 949-6997.

Trucks & Trailers

UTILITY TRAILER With tool box and ramps. High speed tires. \$1,800. OBO. Call 224-518-6491

FOR SALE

Announcements

CLASSIFIED IN-COLUMN ADS cannot be credited or refunded after the ad has been placed. Ads canceled before deadline will be removed from the paper as a service to our customers, but no credit or refund will be issued to your account.

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

Agriculture

ROUND ALFALFA & GRASS Excellent quality round alfalfa & grass hay bales for sale, stored inside,\$40 each. 815-291-2382 or 815-291-2381.

Wanted to Buy

OLDER / VINTAGE CAMPER TRAILER RV & Older Golf Cart. Call or Text 262-903-7522.

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.

FOR RENT

Delavan Apartments

DELAVAN 2 BEDROOM APT. Available March 1st. \$1150. includes util. Call for appt. Sue 262-203-0397.

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

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, familiar/ 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 telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275. EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Guns, Knives, & Militaria Auction

Saturday-Sunday, March 15-16
Starts at 10 am CT
Preview noon-5 pm on Friday, March 14
Live in Union, Illinois & Online at DonleyAuctions.com
Call Randy Donley to Consign at 815-790-9435
or Email Photos to Consign@DonleyAuctions.com

468481



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

467289

HELP WANTED

Skilled Trades

PERMA-STRUCTO, INC. IS CURRENTLY HIRING For Concrete Foundation Laborers & Concrete Finishers. Job duties include but are not limited to setting up, pouring and stripping of foundations and setting up, pouring, and finishing of flatwork. Essential Functions: · Be able to perform basic labor and construction duties. Preferred: 1+ year(s) of experience in concrete or similar construction job · Have your own transportation to and from our office, transportation from office to job will be provided * Have good communication skills and able to work with others on the job · Able to lift and carry 50-100 lbs. Hourly rates vary on

the individual's experience and knowledge. Along with hourly rates, we offer a compensation package that is considered the best in our industry. Please Contact: hr@permastructo.com

Help Wanted

HELP WANTED: WAREHOUSE LIGHT MACHINES, MAILINGS, INKJET. WILL TRAIN THE BEST CANDIDATE. 3 DAYS PER WEEK. 18-26 HOURS. MON/TUES/WED. CALL TO INQUIRE 262-725-7704.

Managerial

WAREHOUSE ASSISTANT MANAGER 4 DAYS PER WEEK. DELAVAN LOCATION. PUBLISHERS OF WEEKLY NEWS-PAPERS & TMC PRODUCTS. CALL TO INQUIRE 262-725-7704 OR SEND RESUME TO lsweet@rvpublishing.com

Part Time Help Wanted

DATA ENTRY, MAILROOM PREPARATIONS FLEXIBLE HOURS. PLEASE APPLY AT 1102 ANN ST. DELAVAN, WI OR CALL 262-725-7704 TO INQUIRE

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

SOUTHERN LAKES
Newspapers LLC

467288

verlo

MISMATCH MATTRESS SALE

WHY MISMATCH?

We use mismatched or discontinued fabrics to cover your high-quality Verlo mattress. Put a sheet on it, and the only difference you'll notice is the price.



v3 PLUSH
1-Sided No Flip Set Starting at

QUEEN SET

\$999

TWIN SET **\$749** FULL SET **\$899** KING SET **\$1399**



v5 FIRM

1-Sided No Flip Starting at

QUEEN SET

\$1599

TWIN SET **\$1049** FULL SET **\$1349** KING SET **\$1999**



v7 PLUSH

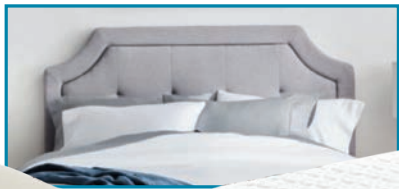
1-Sided No Flip Starting at

QUEEN SET

\$2099

TWIN SET **\$1399** FULL SET **\$1949** KING SET **\$2699**

BUY MORE \$SAVE MORE Mattress Protectors | Headboards | Pillows



30% OFF
3+ ITEMS
-OR-
20% OFF 2 ITEMS
On accessory bundles.



vMotion

SAVE UP TO
\$400 OFF
Adjustable Bases!

Great for watching TV or reading in bed
Reduces snoring & acid reflux effects
Alleviates lower back, knee & leg pain | Aids in circulation

HURRY!
WHILE
SUPPLIES
LAST!

**BEST
SALE
OF THE
YEAR**

**BRING IN
THIS COUPON**

**SAVE
10%
OFF**

All Mismatch
Mattresses &
Boxsprings

*On set purchase with factory select covers. Not applicable on previous purchases. One coupon per set purchase. See store for details.

**TWIN
MATTRESS**
Starting at
\$199

**QUEEN
MATTRESS**
Starting at
\$259



LAKE GENEVA
2462 Hwy 120
262.249.0420

CRYSTAL LAKE
5150 Northwest Hwy
815.455.2570

McHENRY
3710 West Elm St.
815.578.8375

1-866-99-VERLO (866-998-3756) • verlo.com

**FINANCING
AVAILABLE**

See store for details.