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~ including McHenry County News

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World-Class Wildlife Photography on display at Dunn Museum

Some of the most powerful images ever captured of the animal kingdom are part of a special exhibition at the Dunn Museum in Libertyville.

National Geographic: The Greatest Wildlife Photographs reveals rare and dramatic moments in nature through the lenses of the world's top photographers. The exhibit runs through September 21.

Curated by longtime National Geographic photo editor Kathy Moran, the exhibition explores the drama, beauty and wonder of the natural world. For 115 years, National Geographic has pioneered and championed the art of wildlife photography, captivating generations with extraordinary images of animals in nature. From the first wildlife photo—of a reindeer in 1903—the organization has led the field through artistic, scientific and technical innovation.

These images don't just stun—they educate. Many were captured using cutting-edge technology like camera traps, underwater rigs and remote imaging, offering intimate access to animals in their natural habitats.

The exhibition features approximately 60 photographs, accompanied by audio-video elements and interpretive panels that provide context through text and graphics.

National Geographic has shaped the art and science of wildlife photography for more than a century. These images at the Dunn Museum stir emotion, raise awareness and deepen a connection to the natural world.

"We're thrilled to bring this extraordinary exhibition to Lake County," said Alyssa Firkus, di-



RANDY OLSON PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

The photographer captured this electric storm while photographing sandhill cranes at Platte River, Nebraska in 2016. He shot a series of 30-second exposures through the night, hoping lightning would strike during one. The result: a dramatic and rare view of these iconic birds.

rector of education for the Lake County Forest Preserves, which operates the museum. "It aligns perfectly with our mission to connect people with nature through

powerful storytelling and unforgettable experiences."

Dunn Museum is operated by the Lake County Forest Preserves, and is located at 1899 W. Win-

chester Road in Libertyville. It's dedicated to sharing the entwined stories of people, events and nature through exhibitions, education and community engagement.

With a focus on local history, culture and natural environments, the Dunn Museum offers visitors of all ages an enriching and immersive experience.

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DOUBLE THE MAGIC IN SCHOOL • NEW DIAGON ALLEY • NEW MARAUDERS EXPERIENCE



Wizards Weekend Day

Antioch, IL 

Saturday, June 14 • Downtown Antioch, IL

A MAGICAL DAY FOR AGES 2-262

Adults, Teens & Kids

If you are a magical being or even a Muggle . . . make your way to Antioch's Wizards Weekend Day on June 14, 2025. Grab your broom, portkey or car and travel to Antioch for magical day filled with spells, magical activities, climbing to Azkaban, photo ops, invisibility, magical moments, wizard swag, magical creatures, contests and so much more! Must have Magical Band to experience any/all Wizards Weekend Day Activities. (School is a separate registration.) Begin your magical day by visiting the new Diagon Alley located inside the United Methodist Church (back door) at 848 Main Street.

YOUR MAGICAL BAND = ENTRY TO MAGIC

Purchase your Magical Band to enjoy dozens of Magical Moments and other magical fun in Antioch's Wizard Town (10-3) AND JOIN US FOR NEW MAGICAL ACTIVITIES! A Magical Moment might be becoming invisible, being a Magical Portrait, catching the Golden Snitch, learning Magic, Invisibility Cloak, climb to Azkaban, find the Dragon Eggs, Magical Ink, Potion Cauldron, Horcrux Hunt, and so much more! All ages 2-672 need to purchase a Magical Band to experience the magical fun.

NEW - THE MARAUDERS EXPERIENCE

All ages Muggle, Wizard or Witch - Follow the footsteps to experience some of your favorite magical moments . . . a patronus . . . the spiders . . . a mirror . . . Dobby . . . what is around the corner? Kids can climb aboard the Muggle version of the holiday Hogwarts Express. Magical Bands required for entry, 11-4. No pets, food or dark magic allowed.

NEW - DIAGON ALLEY - Magical Crafters 10-4

Magical Crafters are hidden inside of Diagon Alley . . . bring your gold to take home some of the cleverest items from our magical crafters. No spells allowed. The Ministry of Magic Booth is located inside of Diagon Alley (United Methodist Church in downtown at 848 Main Street (back entrance only).

CLIMB THE TOWER TO AZKABAN

CLIMB...CLIMB...CLIMB TO THE TOP...THEN DROP TO GROUND

All ages can climb the tower to try to rescue Sirius from Azkaban. Your Magical Band is your ticket for all things magical, 10-3

FIND THE HORCRUX - Only the brave will take on the Horcrux Challenge . . .

Find the 7 Horcrux within our Wizard Town. Use your entry form and search using the clues. Once you have found a Horcrux, write where you found each one, then turn the completed form in at the Ministry of Magic Booth at Diagon Alley (United Methodist Church at 848 Main Street) before 3 pm for a chance to win a Magical Prize. Must have Magical Band to enter this challenge!

FIND THE DRAGON EGGS

Search through the Wizard Village and find the 10 hidden dragon eggs. Use the connected colored marker attached to each egg to check off that it is still safely hidden. After finding all 10 Dragon Eggs, drop your completed entry at the Ministry of Magic Booth located at Diagon Alley (United Methodist Church at 848 Main Street) before 3 pm for a chance to win a Magical Prize! Must have a Magical Band to enter this challenge!

SCHOOL OF MAGIC - Just for Kids**

Morning Classes, advance registration required, for ages 7-13. Kids- start off your magical day of fun at School - Wizard School! Classes are 8:30 am-11:00 am, held at the Antioch Public Library. All registered students receive a Wand, Magical Band, Keepsake Gift and a Wizard Map to enjoy Antioch's Wizard Town, tickets are limited, (Please register online). School is \$28 online or \$35 at the door if tickets are still available). Students will experience magical classes such as: Care of Magical Creatures, Defense against the Dark Arts, Herbology, Broomstick 101, Divination, Magical Knowledge, and "I will not tell Lies" and others followed by an in-School Finale against the Death Eaters. All students registered before May 5, 2025 will receive a School Acceptance Letter mailed to them "Under the Stairs".

**For More Information Check Out Our Website: WizardsWeekend.com
or call Antioch Chamber 847-395-2233**

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(Left to right, top to bottom) Chenel Vanden Berk, Julie Becktold, Bruce Johnson, Keith Grant, Chief Joe Leonas, Christina Sinclair, Pat Davenport, Brian Isam, Tom Golebiewski, Maritza De La Cruz, Courtney Krznarich, Sara Block, Jacie Wolfe, Lauren Callinan, Dr. Margarita Garcia, Jennifer Banek

Lake County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team analyzes its first case

In April, the Lake County Domestic Violence Fatality Review (DVFR) Team conducted its first in-depth analysis of the circumstances and causes of a Lake County domestic violence homicide. The team met twice in April, and, this review corresponded with National Crime Victim Rights Week, which is honored within Lake County as a time to remember victims, to raise awareness about victims' rights, and to increase the flow of services. While the case reviews themselves remain confidential, they are part of the work outlined in the Illinois Domestic Violence Fatality Review Act.

Lake County State's Attorney First Assistant and co-chair of the DVFR, Lauren Callinan, stated, "Reviewing our first case with the assistance of so many professionals from different disciplines highlighted the need to address domestic violence as a public health issue. I am encouraged by the level of participation on our DVFR Team, and I look forward to additional case reviews where we can continue to develop concrete and effective recommendations for reducing domestic violence and domestic violence fatalities." First Assistant Callinan also expressed gratitude to Lincolnshire Police Chief Joe Leonas and his police department for providing the team a space to conduct their review.

The DVFR team has been meeting since June 2024, and they intend to conduct a minimum of two annual case reviews of fatalities or near fatalities. The goals for the team include examining barriers to safety, justice and equity; identifying gaps in the response of systems; considering alternate and more effective systemic responses; and developing policy recommendations.

State's Attorney Eric Rinehart stated, "Whatever it takes, we must use evidence-based practices and a multi-disciplinary approach to reduce the occurrence, frequency, severity and lethality of domestic violence. I want to thank First Assistant Callinan and her group for their pioneering work."

After two years of case analysis, the DVFR Team will create a report that lists

its recommendations to reduce domestic violence and domestic violence fatalities. The DVFR Team's co-chairs are Lake County State's Attorney First Assistant Lauren Callinan and Executive Director of A Safe Place, Pat Davenport. Chenel Vanden Berk, a Forensic Nursing Specialist at the International Association of Forensic Nurses serves as the secretary for the team. The team also includes prosecutors, law enforcement, defense attorneys, judges, probations officers, the Coroner's Office, social service providers, offender treatment providers, a Guardian Ad Litem, DCFS personnel, nurses, substance abuse and behavioral counselors, and legal aid attorneys.

"I am deeply grateful for the Lake County State's Attorney's Office and every member of the DVFR for their dedication to prevention and commitment to improving our systems," Executive Director Pat Davenport said. She continued, "Each team member is making a huge impact in saving lives and helping ensure the safety and well-being of victims and their families."

The Illinois Domestic Violence Fatality Review Act was signed into law in 2021. Under this legislation, a Statewide Committee is responsible for overseeing the formation of regional domestic violence review teams across Illinois and providing technical assistance and support.

The Lake County State's Attorney's office has worked closely with A Safe Place since 1978 when the non-profit organization was founded to serve survivors of domestic violence. In 2022, A Safe Place and the Lake County State's Attorney's Office were also awarded a joint grant to reduce Human Trafficking in Lake County. In 2024, State's Attorney Rinehart was selected to serve on A Safe Place's Honorary Board of Directors.

Since December 2020, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office has increased the number of domestic violence prosecutors, total number of victim-support professionals, and Spanish-speaking victim specialists to improve the quality of service for all communities.

Illinois bill aims to lower cost of prescriptions, reign in pharmacy benefit managers

Legislation seeks to regulate third-party insurers and prevent spread of 'pharmacy deserts'

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

A bill that seeks to control the rising cost of prescription drugs while also offering financial help for many small, independent pharmacies in Illinois cleared the state Senate last week and awaits action in the House.

The bill, known as the Prescription Drug Affordability Act, contained in House Bill 1697, would put new regulations and impose new fees on a large but little understood segment of the prescription drug industry—pharmacy benefit managers, or PBMs.

"This really restricts the ability of PBMs to extract large amounts of money out of the prescription drug system," Sen. Dave Koehler, D-Peoria, the bill's chief Senate sponsor, said in an interview.

PBMs act as a kind of third-party intermediary in the insurance industry who manage prescription drug benefits on behalf of insurance plans. They do that by negotiating prices with drug manufacturers, setting reimbursement rates paid to pharmacies, developing formularies, or "preferred drug lists," and maintaining pharmacy networks where insured individuals get their prescriptions filled.

But they have also come under criticism in recent years for being too closely integrated with some of the nation's largest retail pharmacy chains and for helping drive up the cost of prescription drugs, often at the expense of smaller, independent community pharmacies.

"They extract extra profit from patients through opaque and often predatory tactics," Gov. JB Pritzker said in calling for the legislation during his State of the State address in February. "Not only are they driving up health care costs for Illinois families by hundreds of millions of dollars per year,

but they are also putting small, local, independent pharmacies out of business."

Many large PBMs, such as CVS Caremark, a subsidiary of CVS Health, also either own or are affiliated with large retail chain pharmacies. Critics of their practices argue they use their position to steer patients to their own pharmacies, often to the detriment of smaller, independent pharmacies. That has resulted in what some people call "pharmacy deserts" in many small towns, rural areas and low-income urban communities.

"PBMs routinely reimburse my pharmacy below cost for brand name prescriptions, medications where they're already pocketing massive rebates from drug manufacturers," David Bagot, an independent pharmacist from Petersburg who is also president of the Illinois Pharmacists Association, told a Senate committee. "Meanwhile, they pay their own affiliated pharmacies—including PBM-owned community, mail-order and specialty pharmacies—much higher rates for the same medications."

The bill would prohibit PBMs from "steering" insured patients to their own affiliated pharmacies, either by requiring them to use a particular pharmacy or by forcing the patient to pay more for their medications if they use a different outlet.

It would also prohibit the practice of "spread pricing," or charging an insurance plan one price for a given drug while reimbursing pharmacies at a lower rate for that same drug and pocketing the difference.

In addition, the bill calls for levying a fee on PBMs based on the number of patients they insure. Money from that fee would go into a fund for the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to award up to \$25 million a year in grants to independent pharmacies

and pharmacies located in rural counties, medically underserved areas, low-income communities and pharmacies that serve high concentrations of Medicaid patients.

It also would require PBMs to remit all the money they receive in the form of rebates from drug manufacturers to the insurance plan sponsors. And it would require them to disclose to state regulators how much they receive in rebates each year.

Pharmaceutical industry lobbyists argued many provisions of the bill, including the fee levied on PBMs, will actually end up being passed on to insurance plans and consumers, thus resulting in higher prescription drug prices.

"This is not a prescription drug affordability bill," said Lori Reimers, lobbyist for the Pharmaceutical Care Management Association. "Costs will rise. When you give more money to pharmacies, when you restrict tools that lower cost, the cost of insurance and health plans are going to go up on your constituents."

Reimers noted that since 2016, Illinois lawmakers have enacted 20 new laws pertaining to PBMs including laws granting the state Department of Insurance regulatory powers over PBMs, all with the intent of bringing down drug prices.

"And I don't think anybody's here saying that drug prices have gotten lower yet," she said. "But here we are with a much bigger bill." The bill passed the Senate with bipartisan support, 56-1. Sen. Dave Syverson, R-Cherry Valley, cast the only no vote.

The language the Senate passed was an amendment to a House bill that originally dealt with training for 911 dispatchers. The bill now goes back to the House for concurrence with the Senate amendments.

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Antioch officials sworn in, Guttschow appointed as Village Administrator

Mayor Scott Gartner and three members of the Antioch Village Board were sworn in Wednesday, May 14, marking a new chapter in Village leadership as several redevelopment projects near completion.

Mayor Gartner begins his second term alongside Trustee Brent Bluthardt, who is also starting a second term. Trustee Scott Pierce took the oath for a seventh term. Newly elected Trustee Jose Martinez, a conductor on Metra's North Central Service line, joins the board after serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

"This board brings together institutional knowledge, fresh perspective, and deep ties to the community," Gartner said.

Mayor Gartner's First-Term Projects

The swearing-in marks more than a ceremonial reset. It comes as Antioch prepares to complete two major projects launched during Mayor Gartner's first term: redevelopment of Sequoit Creek Park and transformation of a former medical building into a new Village Hall.

The \$12 million park construction project turned four acres of downtown blight into a welcoming public space featuring an accessible playground, splash pad, café building, and a performance pavilion that seats hundreds. It also addressed longstanding flooding and soil contamination on the site.

"The park has already become a central gathering place — and a symbol of what we can do when we invest in Antioch," Gartner said.

The new Village Hall at 953 Skidmore Avenue is nearly complete and expected to open in August. Once staff move in, the Village will begin marketing the current Village Hall building at 874 Main Street for private redevelopment — a move expected to activate another piece of downtown real estate and increase property tax revenue for Antioch.

Guttschow Appointed Village Administrator

In a broader push to improve efficiency and service in Village operations, Gartner has promoted Antioch Police Chief

Geoffrey Guttschow to a permanent dual role as both Chief and Village Administrator. In his first term, the mayor brought in several new department heads with a broad array of experience and success to reorganize Village government.

Chief Guttschow, who joined the Antioch Police Department in 1999 and rose through the ranks, has served as interim administrator since December 2023.

"The success Geoff has had at improving police department culture and service to residents is something we wanted implemented Village-wide," Gartner said.

Guttschow's appointment is expected to save Antioch more than \$200,000 a year. A full-time administrator would cost about \$263,729 in salary and benefits. Guttschow will receive a \$63,000 annual stipend in addition to his salary as police chief.

Fiscal Efficiency in Antioch

Over the last 17 months, Guttschow has implemented cost-saving efforts and helped restructure village operations to run more efficiently. He also oversaw the completion of the Sequoit Creek Park project and the ongoing Village Hall renovation.

Mayor Gartner and the newly seated board are expected to continue to focus on redevelopment, fiscal efficiency and improving resident services in the coming term.

"As a village, we've been working to decrease the property tax burden on residents," said Mayor Gartner. "In my next term, I plan to continue to focus on new and innovative ways to increase economic development opportunities and other efficiencies in village operation, which will lessen our dependence on income from homeowners in the village."



Mayor Scott Gartner



Geoffrey Guttschow



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SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Pet of the week

Zillah, is about 1 year old, spayed, up-to-date on routine shots (incl. rabies), tested negative for feline leukemia, FIV and heartworm 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.

The Village of Antioch held their swearing in ceremony on May 14. From top: Brent Bluthardt, second term as Trustee, Jose Martinez, newly elected Trustee, and Scott Pierce who will be serving his seventh term are shown here taking their oath of office.

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Conservation district hosting award-winning summer-long outdoor scavenger hunt

McHenry County Conservation District invites visitors to “Find Your Wild” and join an interactive journey through the county’s public open spaces all summer long in pursuit of fun prizes.

The 2025 challenge on September 1. Participants use the Goosechase app on their mobile devices to join this scavenger hunt that melds technology with outdoor exploration. Points are earned by visiting and checking into conservation areas, sharing photos while

completing recreation activities and answering District trivia questions.

Find Your Wild challenge prizes include sixteen stickers featuring different plants and animals representing three local ecosystems: prairie, wetland and woodland. Active participants will be entered into drawings for outdoor-recreation themed prize baskets throughout the summer. Baskets are sponsored by local businesses and organizations including All-Trails, Dave’s Bait, Tackle & Taxi-

dermy, McHenry County Audubon, McHenry County Conservation Foundation, Spec Bicycles and The Running Depot.

Additionally, twelve libraries throughout McHenry County are partnering with the challenge this summer. Participants can stop by their local library to receive bonus points and check out their nature-themed book recommendations. Participating libraries include Algonquin Area Public Library, Cary Area Public Library, Cry-

stal Lake Public Library, Fox River Grove Memorial Library, Harvard Diggins Library, Huntley Area Public Library, Johnsburg Public Library, Marengo-Union Library District, McHenry Public Library District, Nippersink Public Library District, River East Public Library and Woodstock Public Library.



















Last year’s Find Your Wild challenge was wildly successful—over 1,400 registered participants checked in at conservation areas over 5,800 times and submitted

over 11,900 photos to complete missions! This campaign has been awarded the Advancing Trails Award for Trail Promotion and Education Award from international organization American Trails, the Outstanding Program Award from Illinois Parks and Recreation Association and was featured in National Parks and Recreation Association’s Parks & Rec Magazine.



Learn more about the 2025 Find Your Wild challenge at MCCD.me/FindYourWild.

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Lake County Sheriff's Special Investigations Group, ATF arrest and charge gun trafficker

The Lake County Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Group (SIG), a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)-funded task force, with the close assistance of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) — Chicago Field Division, concluded an investigation that resulted in the arrest of a North Chicago man for gunrunning and multiple other weapons offenses.



Eric Raines-Sylvestre

firearms from Lake County and Cook County.

On May 9, 2025, the facts of the case were presented to a Statewide Grand Jury by the Illinois Attorney General's Office. The Statewide Grand Jury indicted Raines-Sylvestre on the following charges:

- Gunrunning (Class 1 Felony)
- Two counts of Unlawful Possession of a Weapon (Class 2 Felonies)
- Ten counts of Unlawful Sale of a Firearm (Class 4 Felonies)
- Nine counts of Unlawful Sale of an Unserialized Firearm (Class 4 Felonies)

A direct indictment warrant was issued for Raines-Sylvestre, following the indictment. Raines-Sylvestre was arrested without incident on May 19, 2025, when SIG detectives conducted a traffic stop on his vehicle.

Raines-Sylvestre remains held in the Lake County Jail pending a detention hearing this afternoon.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "This case is a powerful example of what's possible when agencies come together with a shared mission of keeping our communities safe. These are ten firearms and dozens of potentially convert-

ed machine guns that we've been able to take off the streets and out of the hands of dangerous criminals. The ATF - Chicago Field Division brought unmatched expertise and tireless dedication to this investigation, and we're incredibly proud of our close partnership with them and HIDTA. Together, we've disrupted a dangerous operation and held an illegal firearms dealer accountable."

"Individuals who illegally possess and traffic machine-gun conversion devices pose a grave threat to law enforcement and the communities they protect. Our partnerships and investigations remain steadfast on identifying those individuals, their co-conspirators and sources and holding them accountable for their actions," states Chicago Field Division Special Agent-in-Charge Christopher Amon.

Foulk sentence to five years for aggravated DUI

The McHenry County State's Attorney's Office announced that on May 19, Steven Foulk, of Island Lake, was sentenced to five years in the Illinois Department of Corrections by the Honorable Judge Mark Gerhardt after pleading guilty to Aggravated Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol on February 4, 2025. Truth in Sentencing will require Foulk to serve 85% of his sentence, which was ordered to begin on August 1, 2025.



Steven Foulk

On July 15, 2021, at 2:00 a.m., Foulk was driving his Toyota Camry southbound on Chapel Hill Road approaching Route 120 in McHenry. The victim, Kenneth Jackson, was also travelling southbound on Chapel Hill Road while driving a motorcycle. Foulk struck Kenneth Jackson from behind at the intersection while driving 15 mph over the speed limit. The collision caused the victim to be thrown from the motorcycle, impacting the front of Foulk's vehicle. Medical personnel were unable to save Kenneth Jackson's life, and he died as a result of the serious injuries he sustained from the crash.

The investigation by the McHenry County Sheriff's Office and the McHenry Police Department revealed Foulk's BAC was .159, nearly twice the legal limit, three hours after the crash.

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

The State's Attorney's Office recognizes the diligent efforts by the responding officers of the McHenry Police Department and the McHenry County Sheriff's Office for

their thorough investigation into this tragic traffic crash. This case was successfully prosecuted by McHenry County State's Attorney's Office Special Prosecutor William Bruce.

Judge grants state's petition to detain man accused of fatal 2021 road rage shooting

On May 21, a Lake County Judge granted the State's petition to detain Llovani Gomez, 35, who has been charged for the fatal 2021 road rage homicide of Daniel Lobo, 22.



Llovani Gomez

The approved charges are: Three counts of First-Degree Murder, One count of Attempt First-Degree Murder (Class X Felony) and One count of Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm (Class 1 Felony).

On November 20, 2021, a road rage altercation between two vehicles escalated when an occupant of one vehicle opened fired. Lobo, a passenger in the other vehicle was shot in the back. He was taken to a nearby hospital where he succumbed his injuries.

At the detention hearing, prosecutors argued that Gomez poses a serious threat to public safety due to the violent nature of this defendant's actions in November 2021, which resulted in Lobo's death, and his extensive criminal history.

After the detention hearing, Lake County State's Attorney Eric Rinehart stated, "Our Violent Crimes Unit has been working tirelessly with the Gurnee Police Department and the Lake County Major Crimes Task Force from the very beginning of this case to secure justice for Daniel and his loved ones. We never gave up and we will never give up when it comes to solving these difficult, violent crimes. Lake County is safer when those who commit murder and shootings are detained without the ability to post a cash bond."

The Honorable Judge Michael Nerheim granted the State's Petition to Detain. Gomez was scheduled for arraignment on May 29.

Prior to being charged in this case, Gomez was serving a 10-year sentence in the Illinois Department of Corrections for a separate, unrelated firearm offense. Gomez will be held in the Lake County Jail while this case is pending.

O'Farrell sentenced to two years for grooming

The McHenry County State's Attorney's Office announced that on May 20, Patrick S. O'Farrell, 58, of Woodstock, was sentenced to two years in the Illinois Department of Corrections after entering a plea of guilty to one count of Grooming, a Class 4 felony. Upon release, O'Farrell must also register as a sex offender for a period of ten years. The sentence was handed down by the Honorable

Judge Mark Gerhardt after O'Farrell entered a negotiated plea of guilty to the charge.

In April of 2024, a report was made to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) that a teen was being groomed and inappropriately touched by a youth group leader at her church in Woodstock. A victim-sensitive interview was conducted at the Child Advocacy Center, where the victim further revealed specific details and identified O'Farrell as the abuser. Additional interviews were conducted by Woodstock Police Detectives, including one with the defendant, who under questioning, ultimately admitted to the behavior.

McHenry County State's Attorney Randi Freese commends the teen for her courage to speak up and report the abuse. Freese appreciates the thorough investigative efforts by those involved from the Woodstock Police Department, especially Detectives Sharp, Gustafson, and Fischer, as well as the trained staff at the Child Advocacy Center. This case was successfully prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorney Elizabeth M. Vonau.

Lake County Sheriff's SIG seizes record amount of drugs in 2024

The Lake County Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Group (SIG), a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) funded task force, achieved a record-breaking year in 2024.

SIG opened 156 criminal investigations, leading to the arrest of 80 drug traffickers, gun traffickers, and human traffickers. The team and their federal partners seized more than \$24 million street value worth of trafficked drugs, over 130 illegally possessed firearms, and 58 machine gun conversion devices—many of which were in the possession of convicted felons.

"The work done by SIG in 2024 is nothing short of extraordinary," said Sheriff John D. Idleburg. "These results represent safer communities, disrupted criminal enterprises, and lives saved. I am so proud of the partnerships we have with both our federal and local law enforcement partners. These relationships truly make our community safer, and I could not be any prouder of the work done by those assigned to SIG."

SIG is the only HIDTA-funded initiative in Lake County, and it is led by the Lake County Sheriff's Office. "Because of the strong partnership we have with Chicago HIDTA, these types of investigations and seizures are possible," added Sheriff Idleburg.

The task force is made up of local and federal law enforcement investigators who collaborate to dismantle drug trafficking organizations, money laundering operations, and criminal enterprises.



Patrick O'Farrell

2024 Drug Seizure Highlights

- 173+ pounds of methamphetamine
- 34+ pounds of powder cocaine
- 950+ grams of heroin
- 300+ grams of crack cocaine
- 480+ grams of psilocybin mushrooms
- 100+ pounds of illegally trafficked cannabis

Most of these drug seizures took place in Lake County, while some occurred in surrounding collar counties in anticipation that the drugs would be distributed in Lake County.

For nearly a decade SIG has played a vital role in combating human trafficking. Working alongside local and federal partners, SIG is committed to identifying traffickers, rescuing victims, and supporting survivors on their path to recovery.

In 2024 alone, SIG rescued 11 human trafficking victims and connected them with vital support services through partnerships with local social service providers. As a founding member of the **Lake County Coalition Against Human Trafficking**, SIG continues to lead efforts that combine enforcement with compassionate care.

Beyond investigations, SIG is equally committed to prevention and education. In 2024, SIG delivered numerous presentations across Lake County to raise awareness about the warning signs of human trafficking. Members also provided training for school staff, students, community groups, and neighborhood organizations on both human trafficking and current drug trends.

These efforts have led to significant success, with traffickers prosecuted and convicted at both the state and federal levels.

Participating SIG Agencies

- Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)
- Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)
- Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS)
- Highland Park Police Department
- Lake County Sheriff's Office
- Park City Police Department
- Round Lake Police Department
- Round Lake Beach Police Department
- Round Lake Park Police Department
- Wauconda Police Department
- Waukegan Police Department
- Winthrop Harbor Police Department
- Zion Police Department

The Chicago HIDTA program is an Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) sponsored counterdrug grant program that coordinates and provides funding resources to multiagency drug enforcement task forces to disrupt or dismantle local, multi-state, and international drug trafficking organizations.

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TOOLS: 9 Kennedy & 4 Craftsman tool chests; Many Craftsman sets of wrenches & sockets up to 2"; Air & elec. power tools; Table, miter, R/A, & bandsaws; Greenlee punches; Floor jacks & stands; Clamps; Punches & chisels; Parts washer; Forstner bit set; Files; LP Shop heaters & tanks; Shop Vac; Welding Vise Grips; Porta-Power; Shop stools; Hardware; EZ Outs; **MACHINIST TOOLS:** Tap & drill sets; Precision tools; Dial indicators; Calipers; Dividers; Mikes; Square sets; Taper & S&D drills; Holesaws; V-Blocks; Tool steel; Set-up tooling; Toolbits; Drafting machine; Transfer punches; Hex key sets; Planer & radius gages; Dies; **TRUCK:** 2015 Chevy Silverado 1500 4x4 Crew Cab V8, new tires, w/topper, 149K mi; **HUNTING/FISHING:** Deer head & antler mounts; Hides; Duck decoys; Rifle jig & bore sighter; Cleaning kits; Targets; Duck calls; Range finder; Hunting clothes & hats; Rods, reels, & tackle; Camping equipment; Ice fishing shantys; Hunting videos; Shoe ice treads & dryer; Reloading equipment; Camp generator; Tip-ups; Gun cases; Shooting trophies; Turkey fryer; Gas ice auger; Oars; Fish finder; **COLLECTIBLES:** Art deco bronze bird lamp; Mugs & steins; Terry Redlin prints; Lard press; Kevin Harvick Nascar toys; Farm tractor & truck toys; Pine drysink & cabinets; Red Power magazines; Danbury Mint deer statues; **LAWN & GARDEN:** Stihl 011 AVT & Poulan chainsaws; Snowblowers; Garden hand tools; **TRAILER & ATVs:** 8.5x12 Chilton aluminum snowmobile trailer; Trailer dolly; Polaris 2005 400 Sportsman & 1998 Polaris 425 4x4 Magnum w/winch; Hitch carrier & receiver tools; Bungies & straps; **MISC:** Roku 50" TV; Stereos; Microwave; Jackets; Curio cabinet; Bike; CB Radio equip; Dining table; & **MUCH MORE.**

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Lake County Sheriff's arrest bulletin

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

April 6
Bryan R. Wojdelko, 18, Long Grove, was cited for reckless driving, and aggravated speeding (83 mph in 45 mph zone);

Juan Gonzalez-Limon, 48, Waukegan, was cited for DUI – alcohol;

Anthony B. Palacios Mendoza, 32, Chicago, was cited for possession of burglary tools;

Miguel N. Hildalgo-Rivas, 26, no permanent address, was cited for possession of burglary tools.

April 7
John K. May, 59, Waukegan, was cited for a warrant arrest: unlawful possession of a controlled substance;

Erica Martinez-Dominquez, 47, Cicero, was cited for aggravated battery to a peace

officer;

Miguel Perez-Fuentes, 47, Chicago, was cited for disorderly conduct;

April 8
Genesis Roman, 34, Waukegan, was cited for a warrant obtained: aggravated battery;

Zuri M. Blackmon, 29, North Chicago, was cited for driving while license revoked; Anthony D. Hicks, 18, Round Lake, was cited for a warrant arrest: burglary;

Joseph F. Crago, 34, Grayslake, was cited for retail theft; Randy R. Ratajczyk, 34, Antioch, was cited for criminal damage to property, disorderly conduct, and harassment by telephone;

April 9
Jason D. Jones, 48, Chicago, was cited for obstructing a peace officer and resisting a peace officer;

Patrick J. Felber, 49, Fox Lake, was cited for aggravated DUI;

Michael A. Moberg, Jr., 51,

Grayslake, was cited for aggravated fleeing to elude, and driving while license revoked;

April 11
David Navarrete-Castelan, 35, Waukegan, was cited for a warrant arrest: violating an order of protection;

Damion M. Amelio, 27, Round Lake, was cited for criminal damage to property;

Joseph W. Banks, 43, Ingleside, was cited for DUI – alcohol, and open transportation of alcohol;

Isreal D. Medina, 34, Beach Park, was cited for driving while license revoked; Joshua R. Reed, 40, Wadsworth, was cited for driving while license suspended and a warrant arrest: theft;

April 12
Thomas R. Brunner, 42, Waukegan, was cited for a warrant arrest: resisting arrest;

Ivan J. Vasquez-Villagomez, 23, Belvidere, was cited for a warrant arrest: resisting a peace officer (McHenry

County);

Juan L. Ramos-Vazquez, 45, Waukegan, was cited for a warrant arrest: unlawful possession of a controlled substance;

Wesley Eulises Tomas-Castillo, 27, Kenosha, WI, was cited for DUI – alcohol, open transportation of alcohol, leaving the scene of an accident, no insurance, and driving while license suspended;

Craig E. Callahan, 44, Park City, was cited for DUI – alcohol, no driver's license and no insurance;

Merce S. White, 20, Zion, was cited for improper transportation of cannabis;

April 13
Kevin Morales-Gonzalez, 48, Waukegan, was cited for no driver's license, suspended registration, and aggravated speeding (85 mph in 45 mph zone);

Marcy C. Schwanderlik, 62, Antioch, was cited for DUI – alcohol;

Lynn Staples, 65, Zion, was cited for a warrant arrest:

identity theft;

April 14
Edwin C. McKee, 38, Silver Lake, WI, was cited for reckless driving, and disorderly conduct;

April 15
Christine M. Slayton, 58, Beach Park, was cited with a warrant arrest: DUI – drugs;

April 16
Justin L. Miller, 27, Lake Bluff, was cited for driving while license revoked;

April 18
Patience J. Cedzidlo, 40, Libertyville, was cited for a warrant arrest: false complaint to 911;

Catoni L. Collins, 29, Gurnee, was cited for driving while license suspended;

Israel Vara Millan, 31, North Chicago, DUI - alcohol; Derek A. Miks, 44, Grayslake, was cited for DUI – alcohol, leaving the scene of a crash and no insurance;

April 19

Jessica D. Willemarck, 36, Twin Lakes, WI, was cited for warrant arrest: criminal damage to property and disorderly conduct;

April 20
John Neveitt, 36, Woodstock, was cited for aggravated fleeing to elude, criminal trespass to vehicle, and driving while license revoked;

Damian E. Szykczak, 41, Lake Villa, was cited for a warrant arrest: battery (Cook County);

April 21
Lloydell L. Price, 38, Waukegan, was cited for a warrant obtained/warrant arrest: identity theft, continuing a financial crimes enterprise and money laundering;

Christian A. Russell, 26, Waukegan, was cited for driving while license suspended and suspended registration;

April 22
Uriel Morales-Vargas, 42, Mundelein, was cited for a warrant arrest: retail theft.

Hi-LITER Classifieds

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Automobiles

1999 SUBARU FORESTER AWD S, project car. I hit a deer on the right side and did not deploy air bags. I have a replacement fender and hood. I also purchased the remainder of other components for the repair. The engine is completely rebuilt 2.5 LEJ25 with oversized injectors, milled heads and block. Aftermarket cam, Borla headers, remote oil filter. The transmission is a completely rebuilt 4EAT, with H-d Clutch packs and H-d torque converter. Rim and tires 215/60R16 Blizzak WS70. \$2K OBO. Cobb Engineering long port cold air intake upon request extra \$\$262-325-8951.

Boats

1997 SEA RAY 175 BOW RIDER FISH SKI. I/O Merc., with 19' trailer, \$7000. Good cond. Richmond, IL 630-212-4945.

1998 23' POWERPLAY With Shorelander Roller Trailer. 454/330 HP, Bravo 1 outdrive. Under 100 hours. Great project boat. \$2,600. 773-370-7467.

2003 ALUMACRAFT 175 TROPHY W/ Trailer. 90 HP, 9.9HP & equip. 815-389-2480.

Campers and RVs

2022 COACHMAN FREEDOM EXPRESS 24' Travel Trailer with Q bed. Very clean. \$17,000. OBO. Call 262-470-4083.

Motorcycles

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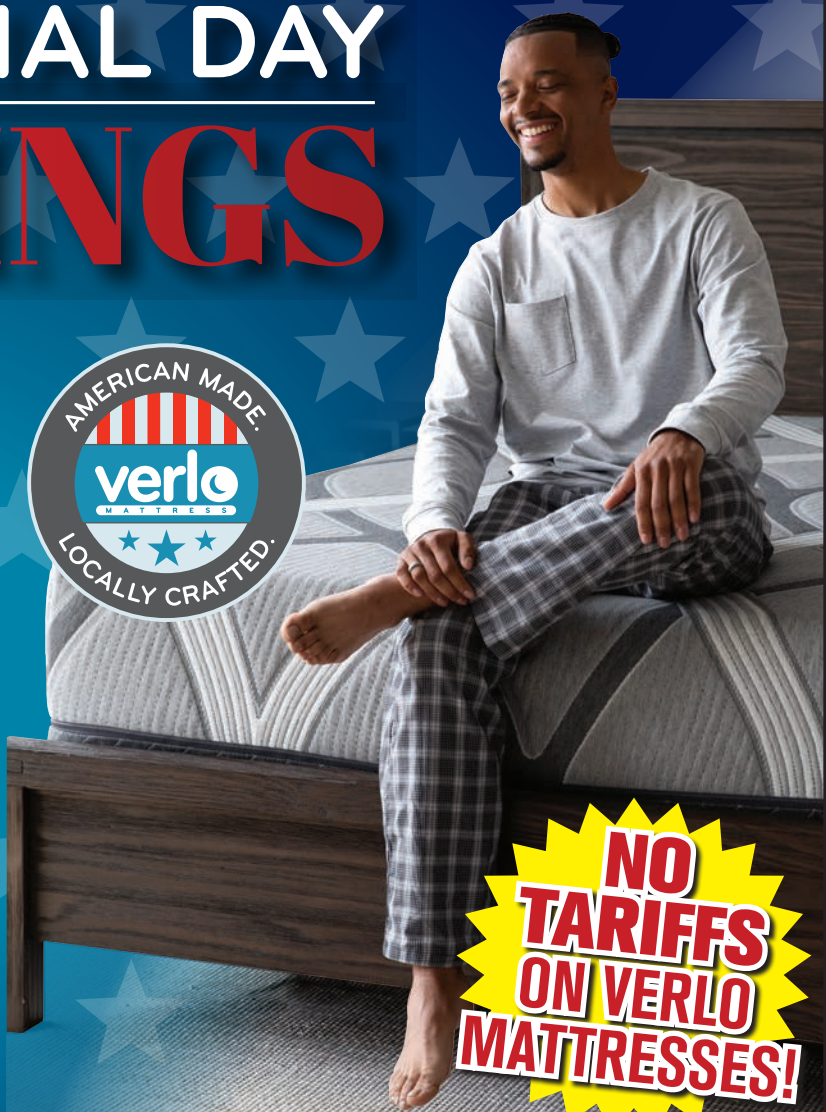
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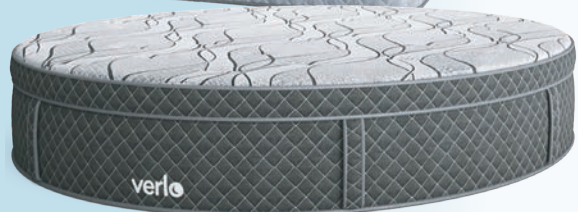
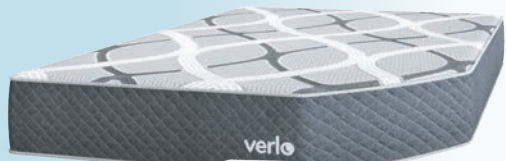
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