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McHenry Outdoor launches sensory-friendly Wednesdays

By Cynthia Wolf
CONTRIBUTOR

Finding entertainment options suitable for a special-needs child was a challenge as Angela Krambeer and her husband, Chris Krambeer, were raising their youngest son, Dylan, now 23.

Dylan has Prader-Willi Syndrome, a genetic disorder characterized by low muscle tone, feeding difficulties, developmental delays, sometimes sensory challenges and other effects.

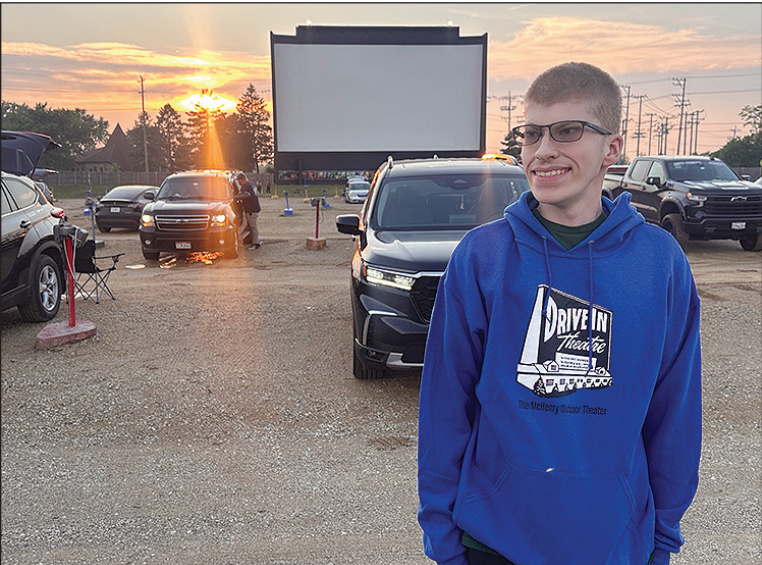
“We couldn’t go out and enjoy the same things,” the Crystal Lake mother said. “We didn’t have access to play groups that would accommodate his needs. Libraries didn’t have sensory story times for kids who couldn’t sit still ... there wasn’t a whole lot out there that we were comfortable with,

so we were a little more isolated.”

An offering like the McHenry Outdoor Theater’s new Sensory-Friendly Wednesdays will be a godsend for families like hers, said Krambeer, now a longtime employee of Options & Advocacy for McHenry County, where Dylan received services and now volunteers.

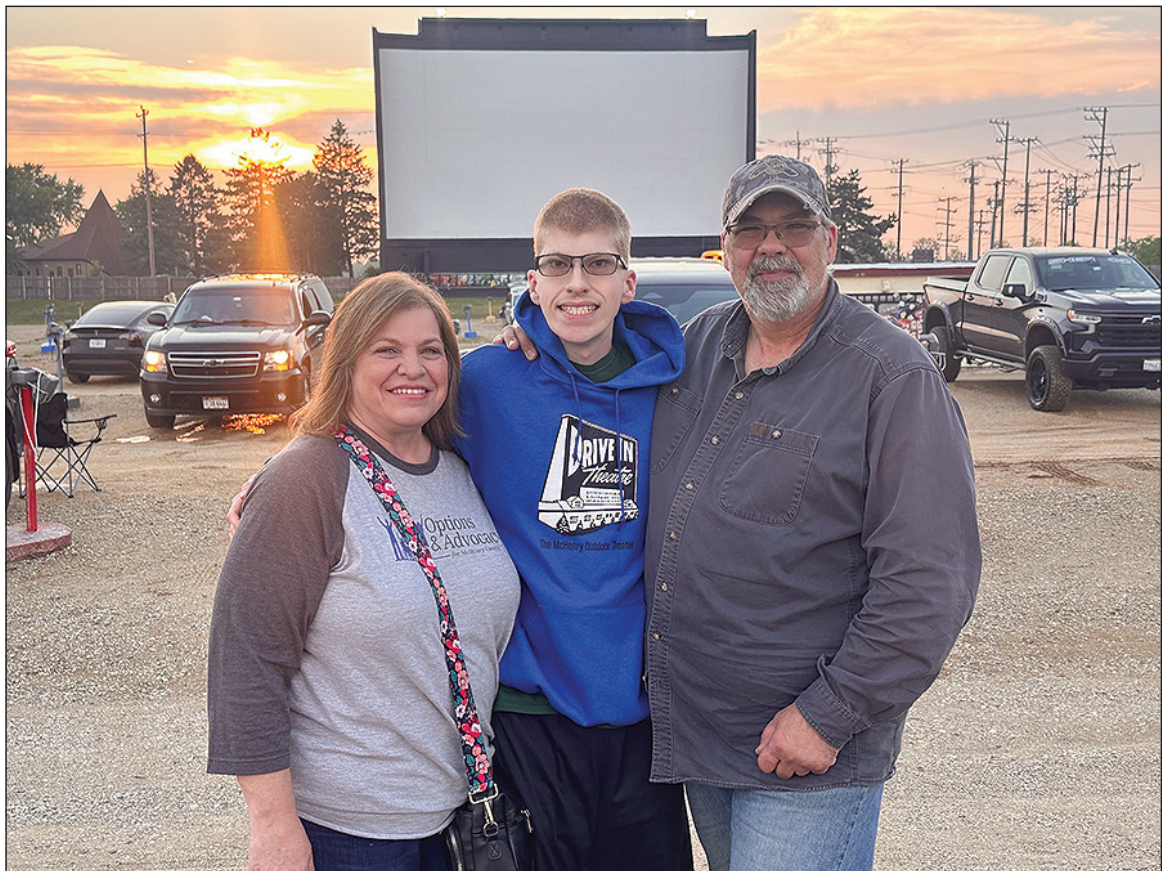
“Having a local business with such an influence in the community stepping up like this is a great show of support that hopefully will spill out into more community partners being aware and taking on the same stance for this population,” Krambeer said. “It’s a fantastic idea. I really respect that they’re doing this.”

Options & Advocacy’s mission of inclusivity is something that Joe Cicero — who met Dylan when Dylan



JOE CICERO PHOTO HI-Liter/MCN

A beneficiary of Options & Advocacy for McHenry County services, Dylan Krambeer now volunteers for the nonprofit that supports neurodivergent and autistic populations. He and others from the agency offered input into the McHenry Outdoor Theater’s new Sensory-Friendly Wednesdays.



JOE CICERO PHOTO HI-Liter/MCN

Dylan Krambeer (center) recently visited the McHenry Outdoor with his mother, Angela Krambeer, and father, Chris Krambeer, to talk with President of Marketing and Promotions Joe Cicero about the theater’s new Sensory-Friendly Wednesdays.

was a boy — has long admired. The Crystal Lake-based nonprofit offers programs and support services for autistic and neurodivergent individuals, infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities, and caregivers navigating unique life circumstances from pregnancy to age 3.

So when Cicero, the McHenry Outdoor’s president of marketing and promotions, decided to add Sensory-Friendly Wednesdays to the theater’s lineup, he enlisted Options & Advocacy leaders to help.

“We are so excited to offer this inclusive movie night for neurodivergent individuals and anyone with sensitivity to loud, busy environments,” Cicero said. “Options & Advocacy offered fantastic input into making this comfortable, engaging and fun for these families.”

Winter Noe is executive director of Options & Advocacy. She applauded the theater’s accommodations, which she and Cicero said will include low-volume music before movies begin, closed captioning during films so that audio can be kept to a minimum, and predictable, softly amplified announcement times.

See **MCHENRY OUTDOOR**, Page 3

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ABOUT THE WALL

The three-quarter scale Wall replica is 375 feet in length and stands 7.5 feet high at its tallest point. Visitors will experience The Wall rising above them as they walk towards the apex, a key feature of the design of The Wall in Washington D.C. Visitors are able to do name rubbings of individual service member's names on The Wall. Mobile Education Center Exhibit included. Can be found at www.thewallthatheals.org

LOCAL HOSTS

The Wall That Heals is hosted by the Antioch Chamber of Commerce along with Antioch Post 748 American Legion and the cooperation of the Village of Antioch and Antioch Township. This is a community endeavor, and we hope to work with many people to bring The Wall That Heals to Antioch IL. We also welcome those from surrounding communities to become involved.

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27 arrested in Lake County human trafficking suppression initiative

In continued efforts to combat human trafficking, the Lake County Sheriff's Special Investigations Group (SIG) conducted a two-day human trafficking suppression operation this week, focused on reducing the demand for purchased sex. A total of 27 men were arrested during the operation.

The operation specifically targeted individuals attempting to purchase sex through online classified advertisements, a tactic regularly used by traffickers to market victims of human trafficking. Undercover detectives posed as individuals offering sex for money. When the offenders arrived at a Gurnee-area hotel, and offered money for sexual acts, they were arrested and transported to the Lake County Jail.

While some may perceive prostitution as a consensual transaction between adults, experience and investigative work have consistently shown that many individuals being sold for sex are not participating willingly. Traffickers often force victims into prostitution through physical violence, manipulation, fraud, or coercion. Many of these victims are vulnerable and live in fear of the repercussions they'll face if they do not comply, often being forced to surrender any money they receive to their trafficker.

"These operations are about protecting victims and holding sex buyers accountable," said Lake County Sheriff John D. Idleburg. "Suppressing the demand is a critical piece of dismantling the human trafficking pipeline. If there is no buyer,

there is no market."

Two of the offenders resisted arrest during the operation, one instance resulted in minor injuries to an officer, and the other caused damage to a hotel hallway.

Arrested during the operation were:

- Abelardo A. Velasquez, 30, 10000 block of Waldo, Beach Park
- Robert L. Rowels, 39, 35000 block of Franklin St, Ingleside
- James A. Kavinsky, 30, 8100 block of Ballard Rd, Niles
- Jamir D. Holmes, 20, 3500 Rebecca Dr, Zion
- Mathew Reynolds, 23, 10000 block of Seasons Pl, Pleasant Prairie
- Jesus S. Munoz, 35, 1100 block Kishwaukee Valley, Woodstock
- Hakeem A. Moore, 22, 500 block of Farragut Ave, Great Lakes
- Jesus Navarrete-Vega, 30, 900 block of Magnolia Ave, Gurnee
- Also charged with resisting a police officer (Class A), criminal damage to property (Class A)
- Jesus M. Valdez, 28, 2700 block Emmaus, Zion
- Tyree R.L. Alexander, 32, 6000 block of Goldfish Dr, Gurnee
- Alexis M. Lopez, 31, 600 block of Brynmawr St, Park City
- Adrion E. Reynolds, 21, 3100 block 7th St, Park City
- Eryk P. Plawinski, 26, 500 block Harper Dr, Algonquin
- Daevion Garland, 21, 900 block Keith, Waukegan
- Joshua L. Powell, 34, 200 block Brookhill Rd, Liber-

tyville

- Daniel Corona, 29, 8400 block 82nd, Pleasant Prairie
- Deybys Matute Moncada, 31, unknown address – Zion
- Also charged with resisting a peace officer resulting in injury (Class 4), aggravated battery (Class 2) – after kneeing a detective in the face, causing injury
- Charles A. Lintner, 35, 1100 Quincy Ave, Johnsburg
- Argyll Piansay, 61, 3400 block of Sherman Ave, Gurnee
- Also charged with attempt possession of a controlled substance – cocaine (Class A)
- Andre L. Harevey, 41, 1700 block Arrington Ct, North Chicago
- Ryan P. Gibbs, 26, 700 Thomas Ct, Libertyville
- Ubaldo L. Sanchez, 28, 800 block McAllister, Waukegan
- Jonathan R. Litson, 45, 5200 Frederick Ct, Gurnee
- Essodong Tchakpala, 25, 1100 Nature Ct, Round Lake Beach
- Adam S.W. Porwit, 26, 32000 120th St, Twin Lakes
- Carl R. Weber, 35, 1900 block of Red Oak Ct, Muskego, WI
- John Garcia, 53, 4800 85th St, Kenosha

All those arrested, unless otherwise noted, were charged with one count of soliciting a sexual act. They were cited, processed at the Lake County Jail, and released pending a court date.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office thanks the Gurnee Police Department and Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) for their partnership and dedication during this operation.

Convicted felon charged after threatening others with knife

A man charged in a 2017 stabbing of his roommate was arrested yesterday, with the assistance of sheriff's canines, after he threatened to stab people at the property where he was living.



Joshua W. Marksberry

On June 25, at approximately 9:40 a.m., Lake County Sheriff's Deputies responded to an address in the 15900 block of West Wadsworth Road, Wadsworth, for an aggravated assault that just occurred. Sheriff's deputies arrived and learned that Joshua W. Marksberry, 39, of the same residence, had pulled a knife on a victim, threatened that victim, and also threatened to slit the throat of another person on the property.

Marksberry fled on foot, prior to the arrival of sheriff's deputies and he was not immediately located.

At approximately 8:30 p.m., a person matching Marksberry's description was seen in the area of Wadsworth Road and Dilleys Road. Sheriff's deputies arrived and established a perimeter around the area. Lake County Sheriff's

Canine Hemi/Deputy Kevin Zerbe and Canine Danno/Deputy Andrew Martini searched the inside of the perimeter. While searching, Canine Hemi led deputies toward a tent in a wooded area on the property. Sheriff's deputies made announcements for Marksberry to exit the tent, which he did, and he was taken into custody without incident.

After reviewing the facts and circumstances of the incident, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office approved the charges of Unlawful Use of a Weapon by a Felon (class 3 felony) and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon (class A misdemeanor).

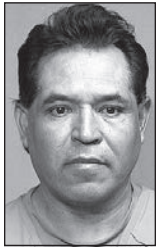
Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "We are very pleased our Patrol Division and Canine Teams were able to successfully apprehend this violent man, before someone was seriously injured or worse. Great job to Canines Hemi and Danno and congratulations to Canine Hemi on his first track resulting in a find!"

Marksberry remains held in the Lake County Jail pending an initial court hearing this morning. The Lake County State's Attorney's Office intends to file a petition to detain Marksberry while awaiting trial.

Esquivel sentenced to ten years for criminal sexual assault

McHenry County State's Attorney Randi Freese announced that on June 13, Fernando Esquivel, 50, of Harvard, Illinois, was sentenced to ten years in the Illinois Department of Corrections on two counts of Criminal Sexual Assault, a Class 1 felony. Esquivel was sentenced by the Honorable Judge Mark Gerhardt after entering a negotiated plea of guilty to both counts.

In April of 2024, the Harvard Police Department began investigating a report of sexual assault of a child. During the investigation, it was discovered that Esquivel had been assaulting two minor female victims between January 1, 2022, through



Fernando Esquivel

and sexual conduct upon them.

Truth-in-Sentencing will require that Esquivel serve a minimum of 85 percent of his sentence. Upon his release from custody, Esquivel will be placed on Mandatory Supervised Release for a period of between three years to natural life. He will also be re-

quired to register as a sexual predator for the remainder of his life.

State's Attorney Randi Freese commends the victims for having the courage to come forward to report this abuse. Ms. Freese is grateful for the swift response and thorough investigation led by Detective Carmen Sacco of the Harvard Police Department. Freese also recognizes the Child Advocacy Center of McHenry County and members of the medical staff at Northwestern Medicine Hospital for their work on this case and their continued dedication to child victims.

This case was successfully prosecuted by Deputy Criminal Chief Margaret O'Brien.

Man sentenced to nineteen years

McHenry County State's Attorney Randi L. Freese announced that on June 12, Rufus L. McGee, 34, of Chicago, was sentenced to nineteen years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for the offenses of Drug In-

duced Homicide and Unlawful Delivery of a Controlled Substance. McGee was sentenced by the Honorable Judge Tiffany Davis after entering a negotiated plea of guilty.

On May 28, 2019, a wom-

an died of a heroin and fentanyl overdose in Algonquin, Illinois. The death was initially investigated by the Algonquin Police Department. The investigation was turned over to the Illinois State Police North Central Narcotics Task Force. The Task Force discovered that, on May 27, 2019, the deceased traveled with three other people to Oak Brook, Illinois. While there, the deceased and her companions met with McGee, or an individual dealing drugs on his behalf, who sold them heroin laced with fentanyl. The deceased consumed the drugs prior to her death in Algonquin.



Rufus L. McGee

Throughout the investigation, the Task Force learned that McGee, who operated under the street name "Mello", conducted an elaborate drug dealing scheme throughout the northwest Chicago suburbs. Evidence showed that McGee, and his associates, sold drugs in Cook, DuPage and Kane Counties. While McGee's group

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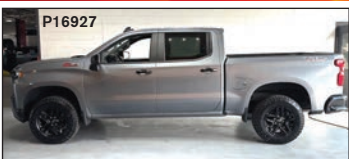
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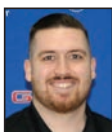
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Many consider Memorial Day the unofficial start of summer as we see consistently warmer weather and the start of swimming season. Whether enjoying the waters at your local pool or your favorite beach, it is important to protect yourself from illness, prevent the spread of germs, and practice safe swimming.

Recreational water illnesses (RWIs) can spread if you swallow, have contact with, or breathe in mists or aerosols from water contaminated with germs. You can also get them by having contact with chemicals that are in the water or that evaporate from the water and turn into gas in the air. Diarrhea is the most common

RWI.

The Lake County Health Department monitors lake water for E.coli bacteria in over 100 Lake Michigan and inland lake beaches to ensure that the water is acceptable for swimming. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, beach closure information can be found through the interactive map

on the Health Department's Beach Monitoring and Advisories web page at <https://www.lakecountyil.gov/2385/Beach-Monitoring-and-Advisories>, which is updated daily by 10:00 a.m.

When bacteria levels are high, the Health Department notifies the beach's manager, and signs are posted indicat-

ing a swim ban is in place. Water samples are taken daily until the bacteria levels fall below the standard.

"Recreational water illnesses can not only hamper your summer plans, but they can also get others sick," said Alana Bartolai, Ecological Services Program Coordinator. "We monitor the water quality to ensure that individuals and families can enjoy the many beautiful lakes and beaches in Lake County to their fullest."

Here are ways to protect yourself from illness at pools and water parks:

- Don't swim or let your children swim when sick with diarrhea.

- Don't swallow the water.
- Take children on bathroom breaks every 60 minutes.

- Check diapers every 30-60 minutes and change them in a bathroom or diaper-changing area—not waterside—to keep germs away from the water.

- Shower before you enter the water.

- Never swim alone.

Follow these tips to avoid hazards when swimming in our lakes this summer:

- Before heading to your favorite lake, check if the beach is open on the Health Department website. If a swim ban is in place, do not swim in the lake.

- Avoid swimming in lakes after a large rain event, since rainfall can wash pollutants into lakes resulting in elevated bacteria levels.

- On Lake Michigan, don't swim during times of heavy

surf (i.e., high waves), which can overpower even the strongest swimmer. Know before you go and check the National Weather Service for any beach hazard advisories and never swim alone.

- On inland lakes, occasional harmful algae blooms may occur. Avoid areas where the water has a green or blue-green appearance. Report any algae blooms to the Health Department.

Throughout the summer, the Health Department samples 11 beaches along Lake Michigan four days per week:

- North Point Marina Beach, Winthrop Harbor
- Illinois Beach State Park North Beach, Zion
- Illinois Beach State Park South Beach, Zion
- Illinois Beach State Park Resort Beach, Zion

- Waukegan North Beach, Waukegan
- Waukegan South Beach, Waukegan
- Foss Park Beach, North Chicago
- Lake Bluff Sunrise Beach, Lake Bluff
- Forest Park Beach, Lake Forest

- Park Avenue Beach, Highland Park
- Rosewood Beach, Highland Park

The Health Department also samples Lake Bluff Dog Beach and Moraine Dog Beach once a week.

For more information on beach monitoring, please call Lake County Health Department's Environmental Services at 847-377-8020.

• Sentenced

(Continued from page 4)

never sold drugs in McHenry County, they regularly sold drugs to McHenry County residents. The investigation showed that their sales were directly related to a Harvard man's death in March of 2019. That death was investigated by the Harvard Police Department in cooperation with the North Central Narcotics Task Force. Ultimately, McGee pled guilty to Drug Induced Homicide in relation to the woman who died in Algonquin. He pled guilty to Unlawful Delivery of a Controlled Substance in connection to the death of the man in Harvard.

State's Attorney Freese is proud of the work that the McHenry County State's Attorney's Office does in partnership with local law enforcement to prosecute overdose deaths in McHenry County. She emphasized that, "all drug dealers who sell death to McHenry Coun-

ty residents will be investigated and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, regardless of whether or not they physically set foot in McHenry County." Freese further commented that, "her heart goes out to the families of the victims in these cases, and all who have lost loved ones to the opioid epidemic."

Ms. Freese expresses special gratitude for the tireless investigative efforts that John Palmer, Jeffrey File and David Sander put into this case while working for the North Central Narcotics Task Force. She congratulates the entire North Central Narcotics Task Force, the Algonquin Police Department, and the Harvard Police Department for their work in bringing Mr. McGee to justice. This case was successfully prosecuted by McHenry County State's Attorney's Office Deputy Chief Brian Miller.

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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.

May 2

Juvenile, was cited for battery;

Juvenile, was cited for no driver's license, suspended registration and no insurance;

Saeed Rafaty, 60, Volo, was cited for unlawful transportation of a weapon, and disorderly conduct;

Peter Hixson, 40, Barrington Hills, was cited for a warrant arrest: retail theft (Kane County);

May 3

Jesus Quebrado, 47, Park City, was cited for trespass to

property, disorderly conduct, and obstructing identification;

Alexandra C. Campos, 37, Lake Villa, was cited for disorderly conduct;

Marina E. Burciaga, 41, Lake Villa, was cited for disorderly conduct;

May 4

Marc A. Wolak, 44, no permanent address, was cited for no driver's license and leaving the scene of an accident.

May 6

Alma Lopez, 34, Vernon Hills, was cited for driving while license suspended;

Nikesa N. Glaspie, 42, Zion, was cited for driving while license revoked;

Darion D. Hill, 31, Waukegan, was cited for improper transportation of cannabis;

Martin Tovar, 53, Lake Villa, was cited for driving while license revoked, suspended registration and no insurance;

May 7

Mario M. Castillo, 29, Inglewood, was cited for disorderly conduct;

Michael A. Carter, 29, Waukegan, was cited for fleeing to elude, aggravated speeding, leaving the scene of an accident and no insurance;

Thomas J. Zowada, 63, Round Lake, was cited for a warrant arrest: assault;

Forest E. Olson, Jr., 46, Round Lake, was cited for disorderly conduct;

May 9

Giselle Jimenez, 27, Grayslake, was cited for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest;

May 10

Maria C. Trujillo, 24, Park City, was cited for DUI – alcohol, and driving while license revoked;

May 11

Denise Lynn Villa, 55, Salem, WI, was cited for leaving the scene of an accident (Rt. 173), and leaving the scene of an accident (N. Lake Ave.);

Adam M. Ullrich, 41, Long Grove, was cited for DUI – alcohol;

Michael B. Kelleher, Jr., 35, Antioch, was cited for battery;

Daniel Acevedo, 37, Lake Villa, was cited for criminal damage to property;

Manuel A. Santiago Belrut, 32, Waukegan, was cited for driving while license suspended and no insurance.

Single vehicle crash under investigation

A 35-year-old Harvard man has died after a single-vehicle crash near Harvard on June 24.

At approximately 6:56 a.m., the McHenry County Sheriff's Office, McHenry County Conservation Police, Harvard Fire Protection District, and Hebron-Alden-Greenwood Fire Protection District responded to the 19000 block of Hebron Road in unincorporated Harvard for reports of a single-vehicle crash.

A 1997 GMC Sierra was traveling eastbound on Hebron Road, east of US Route 14, when the vehicle left the roadway for unknown reasons. The truck then hit a utility pole and flipped over, landing on its roof. The driver was pronounced dead at the scene.

The crash remains under investigation by the McHenry County Sheriff's Office Major Traffic Crash Investigation Unit and the McHenry County Coroner's Office.

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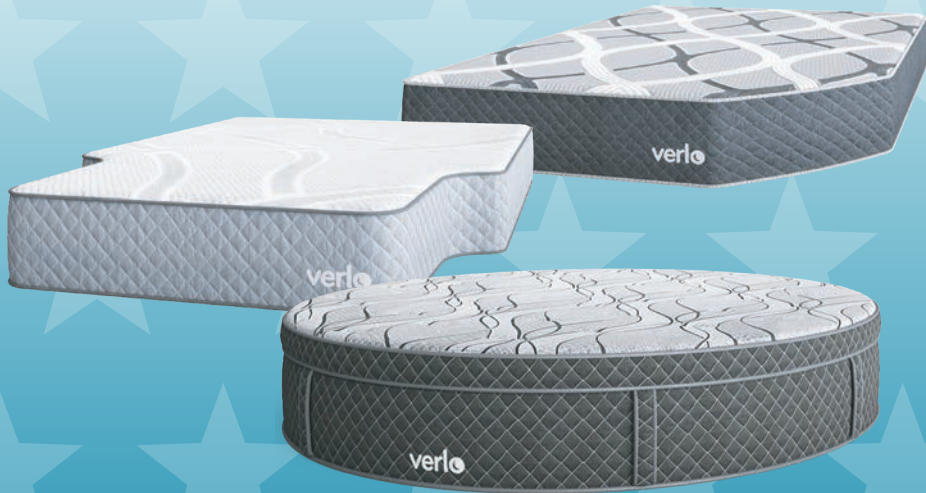
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