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**2017 TOYOTA PRIUS** 4cyl., auto, A/C, power all, Heated Seats, NAV, Rear View Camera, Bluetooth, Apple Car Play, Android Auto #35204B  
WAS \$17,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$14,560\***  
**2019 FORD FUSION TITANIUM** 4 cyl, Auto, A/C, Power All, Heated Seats & Steering Wheel, Remote Start, Nav, Rear View Camera #P5677  
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**2023 CADILLAC CT5** 4 cyl, Auto, A/C, Power All, Leather, Remote Start, Heated Steering Wheel, Cooled Seats, NAV. #P3301  
WAS \$37,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$31,613\***

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WAS \$24,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$21,815\***  
**2022 TOYOTA TACOMA TRD SPORT** 4WD/AWD, 6 CYL, Auto, A/C, Power All, Rear View Camera, Certified Pre-Owned #P3264  
WAS \$38,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$35,344**  
**2022 FORD F-150 XLT** 4WD/AWD, 6 CYL, Auto, A/C, Power All, Remote Start, Rearview Camera, Trailer Tow/Hitch Pack, Certified Pre-Owned #P3284  
WAS \$44,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$38,240\***



**2018 JEEP WRANGLER JR** 4WD/AWD, Auto, A/C, Power all, Heated Seats, Remote Start, Bluetooth, Certified Pre-Owned. #P3303A  
WAS \$25,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$22,690\***

**2018 FORD FOCUS TITANIUM** 4 cyl, auto, A/C, Power All, Heated Seats & Steering Wheel, Rear View Camera, Sunroof Remote Start #35122B  
WAS \$10,990.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$7,990**  
**2023 NISSAN FRONTIER PRO-4X** 6 Cyl, Auto, A/C, Power All, Heated Seats & Steering Wheel, Remote Start, NAV, Tow Hitch & Tow Package. #P3348  
WAS \$43,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$38,751\***  
**2022 FORD F150 XLT** 6 Cyl, Auto, A/C, Power All, Heated Seats, Remote Start, Rear View Camera, Certified Pre-Owned #P3292WAS \$42,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$38,985**  
**2022 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 LTD** 4WD/AWD, 8 Cyl, Auto, A/C, Power All, Heated Seats & Steering Wheel, Remote Start, Rear View Camera, Trailer Tow /Hitch Package #P3350  
WAS \$44,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$41,316**



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WAS \$9,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$6,387\***  
**2013 GMC YUKON XL DENALI** 4WD/AWD, 8 cyl, Auto, A/C, Power All, Heated Seats & Steering Wheel, Rear View Camera, NAV, Remote Start. #34251A  
WAS \$14,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$12,995**  
**2020 JEEP COMPASS LIMITED** 4WD/AWD, 4 cyl, Auto, A/C, Power All, Heated Seats & Steering Wheel, Leather, Remote Start, Certified Pre-Owned. #P3188A  
WAS \$19,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$15,854**  
**2016 HONDA CR-V EX** 4WD/AWD, 4 cyl, Auto, A/C, Power All, Heated Seats, Sun Roof, Rear View Camera, Certified Pre-Owned. #P3319A  
WAS \$18,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$15,795**  
**2017 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN LS** 4WD/AWD, 8 cyl, Auto, A/C, Power All, NAV, Remote Start, Rear View Camera, Certified Pre-Owned. #P3114A  
WAS \$23,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$19,950**  
**2022 FORD ESCAPE SE** 4WD/AWD, 3 cyl, Auto, A/C, Power All, Heated Seats & Steering Wheel, Remote Start, Rear view camera, Certified Pre-Owned. #P3328A  
WAS \$25,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$22,490**

**2021 CHEVROLET BLAZER RS** 4WD/AWD, 6 cyl, Auto, A/C, Power All, Heated Seats & Steering Wheel, Cooled Seats, Remote Start, Sun Roof, Rear View Camera, Certified Pre-Owned. #P3263  
WAS \$29,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$23,916**  
**2023 TOYOTA RAV 4 HYBRID XLE** 4WD/AWD, 4 cyl, Auto, A/C, Power All, Heated Seats & Steering Wheel, Leather, Remote Start, Certified Pre-Owned. #P3270  
WAS \$31,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$25,857**



BUDGET PRICED

**2018 FORD FOCUS TITANIUM** 4 cyl., Auto, A/C, Power All, Heated Seats & Steering Wheel, Rear View Camera, Sunroof Remote Start #P35122B  
WAS \$10,990.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$7,895\***

**2024 HYUNDAI TUCSON PLUG-IN HYBRID** 4WD/AWD, 4 cyl, Auto, A/C, Power All, Heated Seats & Steering Wheel, Remote Start, NAV, Rear View Camera, Factory Warranty Certified Pre-Owned. #P3201  
WAS \$34,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$28,404**  
**2024 FORD EDGE TITANIUM** 4WD/AWD, 4 cyl, Auto, A/C, Power All, Heated Seats & Steering Wheel, Remote Start, Certified Pre-Owned. #P3260. WAS \$39,945.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$30,725**  
**2022 FORD EXPLORER XLT** 4WD/AWD, 4 cyl, Auto, A/C, Power All, Heated Seats & Steering Wheel, Rear View Camera, NAV, Remote Start, Certified Pre-Owned. #P3337  
WAS \$35,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$31,490**  
**2024 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE L** 4WD/AWD, 4 cyl, Auto, A/C, Power All, Heated Seats & Steering Wheel, Leather, Remote Start, Certified Pre-Owned. #P3241  
WAS \$47,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$37,531**  
**2022 FORD EXPEDITION XLT** 4WD/AWD, 6 cyl, Heated Seats & Steering Wheel, Remote Start, NAV, Rear View Camera, Trailer Hitch/Tow Package, Certified Pre-Owned. #P3324  
WAS \$47,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$44,960**  
**2024 GMC YUKON XL** 4WD/AWD, 8 cyl, Turbo Charged, Heated Seats & Steering Wheel, Cooled Seats Remote Start, NAV, Rear View Camera. #P3324  
WAS \$72,995.....**MARKET BASED PRICE \$61,304**



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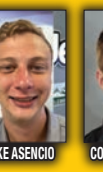
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## SIG arrests Waukegan man for drug trafficking

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 Waukegan man for drug trafficking.

SIG began the investigation after developing information that Agustin Arias, Jr., 41, of the 900 block of Woodlawn Avenue, Waukegan, was selling narcotics. SIG detectives initiated an undercover operation and discovered Arias was selling cocaine in Lake County.

During the investigation, Arias sold drugs to undercover detectives several times, within 500 feet of an elementary school. On July 17, 2025, sheriff's detectives took Arias into custody, following a traffic stop.

After reviewing the facts



**Agustin Arias Jr.**

and circumstances of the investigation, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office approved the charges of three counts of delivery of a controlled substance within 500 feet of a school.

The Lake County State's Attorney's Office filed a petition to detain Arias in custody while awaiting trial. The petition was granted by the Court following a detention hearing.

Arias remains in the Lake County Jail. His next scheduled court date is August 6, 2025, at 1:30PM in courtroom T020.

All defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

## Offending vehicle identified in fatal Beach Park hit-and-run

Lake County Sheriff's Traffic Crash Investigators are asking for the community's assistance in locating the identified offending vehicle in the hit-and-run crash that took the life of Adrian Rogel-Villanueva, of Waukegan.

Sheriff's crash investigators have identified the vehicle as a maroon 2017 GMC Sierra pickup truck. The GMC is believed to be currently garaged or at a body repair shop somewhere. The GMC would have front-end damage and damage to the passenger side.

Crash investigators believe the owner removed the license plates, so it's possible it has no plates or plates that

do not match the vehicle. The GMC might have two decals on the top of the rear window, however, those may have been removed by the owner.

The photos contained in this news release contain photos of the actual GMC involved in the crash. Flock safety cameras played a significant role in helping develop leads in this fatal hit-and-run traffic crash.

If you have any information about the location of the vehicle or about the hit-and-run crash, please call sheriff's crash investigators at 847-377-4000; or <https://bit.ly/3JdUpoY>; or reach to Lake County CrimeStoppers at: 847-662-2222.

## Waukegan man arrested for drug trafficking

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 Waukegan man for drug trafficking.

SIG began the investigation after developing information that Carlton Thomas, 47, of the 200 block of South Victory Street, Waukegan, was selling narcotics. SIG detectives initiated an undercover operation and discovered Thomas was selling crack cocaine in Lake County.

Following the investigation, SIG detectives obtained a search warrant for Thomas' home, which was executed on July 22, 2025. Just prior to conducting the search warrant, SIG detectives observed Thomas leaving his home in a vehicle and conducted a traffic stop on him. Thomas was found to be in possession of just under five grams of crack cocaine when arrested.

During the search warrant of Thomas' home, SIG detectives located nearly 10 grams of crack cocaine, over 2,500 grams of cannabis, and two firearms.

After reviewing the facts and circumstances of the investigation, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office approved the following charges:



**Carlton Thomas**

Delivery of Cannabis (Class 1 Felony)  
Delivery of Controlled Substance (Class 1 Felony)  
Two (2) Counts of Unlawful Possession of a Weapon by felon (Class 2 Felony)  
Unlawful Possession of Cannabis (Class 2 Felony)  
Unlawful Possession of Controlled Substance (Class 4 Felony)

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "Drug trafficking and illegal firearm possession are a dangerous combination that fuels violence and endangers our communities. I'm proud of the work our Special Investigations Group continues to do in removing narcotics and weapons from our streets, and I thank our law enforcement and prosecutorial partners for their continued collaboration in keeping Lake County safe."

The Lake County State's Attorney's Office filed a petition to detain Thomas while awaiting trial. He remains held in the Lake County Jail pending a detention hearing this afternoon.

All defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

## Siblings charged after lying to crash investigators

Following an extensive investigation, Lake County Sheriff's Crash Investigators determined that Jordan Ricks, 29, of the 12600 block of West Chaplain, Beach Park, and his sister, Asia Ricks, 23, of the 12200



**Jordan Ricks**



**Asia Ricks**

block of West Yorkhouse Road, Beach Park, provided false information to responding deputies at the time of a late-night fatal traffic crash that occurred in Beach Park. Both have been charged with Obstruction of Justice (Class 4 Felony).

On October 18, 2024, at approximately 11:15 p.m., deputies

were dispatched to Green Bay Road and Aviation Drive for a car versus motorcycle traffic crash with injuries. The investigation shows the motorcycle, a 2007 Suzuki GSXR600 was traveling southbound on Green Bay Road. According to witnesses, the motorcycle operator was traveling at an excessively fast speed. As the motorcycle was traveling southbound, a 2022 Kia Rio, operated by a 28-year-old man of Beach Park, was making a left turn from northbound Green Bay Road onto westbound Chaplin Street. As the Kia turned, the motorcycle struck

the passenger side of the Kia, and the driver of the motorcycle was thrown and sustained fatal injuries. Crash investigators learned Jordan Ricks lied about being the driver of the Kia at the time of the crash, and Asia Ricks falsely claimed to be a passenger.

The investigation revealed the siblings fabricated the story because Asia was likely under the influence of alcohol at the time of the crash and did not want to be held accountable for her actions.

Both individuals surrendered themselves to the Lake County Jail on July 28. Both appeared in court and are due back on Aug. 28.

All defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

## Court brief

McHenry County State's Attorney Randi Freese announced today that Judge Cynthia Lamb has granted the State's motion to detain Jason Land, 18, of Fox River Grove, while he is awaiting trial on charges of Aggravated Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol, causing the death of 2 individuals.

Evidence presented in



**Jason Land**

court established that these charges stem from a traffic crash investigation on July 28, 2025, in McHenry, Illinois. The evidence showed that

Land was driving a vehicle at a high rate of speed when he ran through a red light and struck a vehicle occupied by 2 teenagers, killing both at the scene. Land was transported to the hospital, where police were advised he had a blood serum alcohol level of 0.350 and minor injuries.

Land's next court appearance is scheduled for August

7, 2025.

Members of the public are reminded that this complaint contains only charges and is not proof of the defendant's guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial in which it is the government's burden to prove his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

## Update: Man charged in crash that killed son

Lake County Sheriff's Traffic Crash Investigators concluded the investigation into the November 26, 2024, traffic crash that took the life of 5-year-old Sy'mere McKnight, of Zion.

Crash investigators concluded Steven McKnight, Jr., 25, of the 900 block of Countrywood Drive, Zion, was driving under the influence of cannabis and recklessly at the time of the crash. McKnight, Jr. did not have his two-year-old son or five-year-old son in any sort of restraining device while driving. Both children sustained horrific injuries, and un-



**Sy'mere McKnight**

fortunately, the injuries were fatal for Sy'mere.

Crash investigators reviewed their concluded investigation with the

Lake County State's Attorney's Office who approved the following charges against McKnight, Jr.:

Two Counts of Aggravated DUI Causing Death (Class 2 Felonies)  
Reckless Homicide (Class 3

Felony)  
Endangering the Life of a Child Causing Death (Class 3 Felony)

Four Counts of Aggravated DUI (Class 4 Felonies)

McKnight, Jr., was arrested at his home on July 24 by sheriff's deputies and members of sheriff's SWAT.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "This crash was not an accident, it was the result of reckless, impaired driving that took the life of an innocent two-year-old child, severely injured another child, and seriously injured an uninvolved motorist who was simply in

the wrong place at the wrong time. There is absolutely no excuse for putting children, or anyone, at risk. Our hearts are with Sy'mere's family as they continue to grieve an unimaginable loss."

The Lake County State's Attorney's Office filed a petition to detain McKnight, Jr. while awaiting trial. The Court granted that petition and McKnight, Jr. was remanded to the Lake County Jail pending his next court date of August 7, 2025.

All defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

## Serious unincorporated Grayslake traffic crash

Lake County Sheriff's Traffic Crash Investigators are investigating a morning crash in unincorporated Grayslake resulting in one driver sustaining life-threatening injuries.

On July 27, 2025, at approximately 7:00 a.m., Lake County Sheriff's Deputies responded to Route 60 and Fairfield Road, for a traffic crash with injuries. Sheriff's deputies arrived and located two vehicles with heavy damage.

A preliminary investigation shows a Volkswagen Atlas, driven by a 32-year-old woman of Volo, was traveling eastbound on Route 60. As she approached Fairfield Road, witnesses reported she failed to stop at a red light and struck a southbound Nissan Pathfinder, driven by a 42-year-old woman of Round Lake, in the intersection. The impact of the crash caused the vehicles to then strike a traffic light

pole.

The driver of the Volkswagen was transported to an area hospital with critical, life-threatening injuries. The driver of the Nissan and two passengers in the Nissan were transported to an area hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The crash remains under investigation by the Lake County Sheriff's Office Technical Crash Investigations Team.

## Lake Zurich man arrested in child pornography case

Cybercrime Investigators from the Lake County Sheriff's Office and Lake County State's Attorney's Office arrested a Lake Zurich man for possessing numerous videos and images of child pornography, many involving children as young toddlers.

Cybercrime Investigators from the Lake County Sheriff's Office and State's Attorney's Offices received information that an electronic device in Lake County was being used for the purpose of downloading and sharing child pornography. Investigators conducted an investigation and through legal process, learned the device was likely coming



**Randall Grueb**

residence, which was conducted on July 24, 2025. Lake County Sheriff's Office Electronic Detection Canine Enzo and Lake County State's Attorney's Office Electronic Detection Canine Grip assisted with the search. During the search, electronic devices be-

longing to Randall R. Grueb, 59, of the same address, were seized and analyzed.

The investigation and analysis revealed Grueb likely downloaded thousands of images of child pornography over recent months, with videos and images of children from the ages of toddlers to teens being sexually abused. He was still in possession of over 100 of those images and videos downloaded.

After reviewing the facts and circumstances of the investigation, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office approved the following charges:

Ten Counts of Possessing Child Pornography of Chil-

dren Under the Age of 13. Additional charges are possible.

Lake County Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "Our Cybercrime Unit remains relentless in identifying and arresting those who exploit children online. Possessing and distributing child pornography is a horrific crime, and we will continue working with our local, state, and federal partners to ensure these predators are held accountable. There is no place for this behavior in our community."

Lake County State's Attorney Eric Rinehart said,



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Hi-Liter/MCN*

# Pet of the week

Rosa Barks is a Husky mix, about 2 months old. She is spayed, up-to-date on shots (incl. rabies vaccination), tested negative for heartworm and on preventative and microchipped.

Along with adoption appointments, walk-ins are also welcome and will be accommodated as time permits them. All adoptions, whether by appointment or not, require an approved adoption application (done on-site or online). For information and/or to complete an online application, please visit [www.saveapetil.org/adopt](http://www.saveapetil.org/adopt)

# Hackmatack Monarch Coalition hosts Monarch Fair for families on Aug. 10

The popular Monarch Family Fun Fair is celebrating its 10th year. This fair will be held from 12:30 to 4 pm on Sunday, August 11 at Crystal Lake Main Beach Pavilion, 300 Lake Shore Dr, Crystal Lake, Illinois. Hosted by the Hackmatack Monarch Coalition, the fair is an opportunity for families to learn what they can do to help monarchs and other butterflies and pollinators.

Members of the public are invited to migrate to the beach and get in FREE for a family afternoon and learn all about monarchs, with butterfly and pollinator plants information, a monarch art show, science and art activities, and loads of information from 16 exhibitors! Pollinator plants will be available to purchase from Countryside Flower Shop & Nursery. Everyone who completes the Monarch Quiz will get a free ice cream token, redeemable at the Crystal Lake Culver's restaurant. A Community Band Showcase will fill the afternoon with music at the beach band shell starting at 1 pm, featuring 1-1:45 pm Knock on Wood Clarinet Ensemble, 2-2:30 pm Crystal Lake Community Band (CLCB) Saxophone Quartet, 2:45-3:15 pm CLCB Flute Quartet and 3:30-4:15 pm CLCB "Big Band" Jazz Band.

The Monarch Fair is sponsored by Friends of Hackmatack National Wild-



life Refuge, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Crystal Lake Park District featuring activities from numerous conservation, education and arts groups involved in the Hackmatack Monarch Coalition. Other participating organizations include Citizens' Climate Lobby, Conversación de Conservación, Creative Arts Fine Arts School, Environmental Defenders of McHenry County, Girl Scouts, McHenry County Conservation District, McHenry County Master Gardeners, McHenry County Schools Environmental Education Program (McSEEP), Small Waters Education, The Land Conservancy of McHenry County's Conservation@Home, Sierra Club and the Wildflower Preservation and Propagation Committee.

For more info, contact Friends of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge at 262-448-3558.

# Mixed Martial Arts event set to kick up excitement after hiatus

*XFO Presents: Return of the Outdoor War Aug. 9 at Sideouts, Island Lake*

By Cynthia Wolf  
CONTRIBUTOR

It's been six years since 3D Sideouts hosted an MMA event. On Aug. 9, the thrills return.

According to Sideouts owner Jerry DeLaurentis and others, a whole lot of people have been clamoring for the return of the Outdoor War, which had been an annual summertime staple there from 2005 to 2019. Like many events, it disappeared in the crowd-thwarting protocols of the 2020 pandemic.

The upcoming event — XFO Presents: Return of the Outdoor War — will feature more than 15 bouts plus a title fight between Jaime Martinez and Austin Cloe. The ankle picks, sweeps, chokes, kicks, strikes and more all start at 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9, at Side-outs Sports Tavern, 4018 W. Roberts Road, Island Lake.

Tickets range from \$30 each for general admission to \$1,000 for a cage-side VIP table for 10. Visit [fightertix.com](http://fightertix.com) for details.

Among those especially excited to see the Mixed Martial Arts event's return is former top-ranked MMA fighter Jeff Curran of Island Lake. The owner and operator of Curran Jiu-Jitsu Academy in Crystal Lake, Curran founded the XFO, or Xtreme Fighting Organization, now re-launched by one of Curran's former



COURTESY OF 3D SIDEOUT *Hi-Liter/MCM*

**A fighter places a hold on his opponent during the XFO's Outdoor War at Sideouts Sports Tavern in Island Lake in 2010. Missed by fans, the event returns to Sideouts Aug. 9 after a six-year hiatus.**

XFO partners, Dan Lardy.

Curran said he never missed an XFO MMA event at Sideouts during the Outdoor War's former run, as he was always there as a coach, fielding Team Curran. The main reason he and then-partners Lardy and Monte Cox started the Midwest's XFO was to give area fighters a forum, he said. Many of those fighters, like him, went on to have careers in the UFC and with other

upper-echelon organizations.

“This year, I’m just going to get to go there and enjoy it,” Curran said. “The shows at Sideouts were never disappointing. It was always our favorite one of the year. It’s like a big gathering. You’re not just stuck in your seat waiting for the next fight. You can float around, eat, drink and socialize.”

Lardy, who grew up in Wauconda and now lives in

Texas, agreed. He said his phone hasn't stopped ringing and pinging since he announced the event's return on his social media channels.

"It's always been my favorite event," he said. "The atmosphere, the fights, being outside — everybody loves it. It's a big, giant party. We've had a lot of named fighters come through there."

**See MARTIAL ARTS, Page 6**

TOMBA-IMAGES PHOTOGRAPHY *Hi-Liter/MCM*

Fighters mix it up at the Outdoor War at 3D Sideouts Sports Tavern in 2009. Featuring MMA fights from 2005 to 2019, the Xtreme Fighting Organization event returns to Sideouts on Aug. 9. Left: A fighter prepares to enter the cage in 2009 at the Outdoor War at 3D Sideouts Sports Tavern in Island Lake. After a six-year hiatus, the MMA event returns to Sideouts Aug. 9.

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Left: Chicagoans Ken Payne and Julie Connors brought their newly adopted pup, Charlie, to the McHenry Outdoor Theater July 26. While Payne snapped his fingers to try to draw Charlie's attention forward, Charlie only had eyes for Connors. Right:



CYNTHIA WOLF/ WOLF WORDSMITHING Hi-Liter/MCN

Accompanying Australian Shepherd Ripley to the McHenry Outdoor Theater to see "Superman" July 26 were (from left) Amber Cook, Wayne Viehweg, Jheri Emmerling and Silke Cook, all of the Wadsworth area.

# The McHenry Outdoor Theater goes to the dogs

## Bring Your Dog to the Movies event set for Aug. 22-23

By Cynthia Wolf  
CONTRIBUTOR

Sleepy Hollow residents Gabe and Kristi Regnas, their teens, Lily and Jackson, and their beloved pup, Ryder, are among the many who have developed a deep affection for the pet-friendly ways of the McHenry Outdoor Theater. "I would say if you're worried, don't be," Gabe Regnas said of those who have yet to try out a trip to the movies with their favorite furry friend. "The dog will love it there as much as you do. They just end up having so much fun. That's what everyone is there to do — to have fun. I think the dogs pick up on that."

In celebration of canines and their humans, the McHenry Outdoor will host a special Bring Your Dog to the Movies event Friday and Saturday, Aug. 22-23. While well-behaved, leashed

dogs are always welcome, this special night will feature representatives from several area pet adoption and rescue centers as well as businesses that cater to pet lovers. "This is our first official Bring Your Dog to the Movies event, featuring treats for humans and dogs alike," said Joe Cicero, president of Marketing and Promotions for the Outdoor. And on the screen Aug. 22-23? A pair of Fido and Fifi aficionados' favorites, of course. The slobbering St. Bernard antics of "Beethoven" will be followed by "The Secret Life of Pets," the humorous tale of one dog's reaction to his human adopting a second. Adoption and rescue centers represented Friday, Aug. 22, will be Adopt a Husky, which serves communities along the Illinois-Wisconsin border, as well as Chi-

cago-based ALIVE Rescue and Helping Paws of Woodstock. On Saturday, Aug. 23, on hand will be Grayslake-based Save-A-Pet, Lake in the Hills-based Bark of an Angel Dog Rescue and A Heart for Animals No-Kill Animal Rescue, of Huntley. Featured businesses will include Lambs Farm's Dogwood Garden & Pet Center and Aussie Pet Mobile of NW Chicagoland on Friday, and Nature's Feed, Kaya's Pawfect Dog Treats, Warbler Creative and Bentley's Pet Stuff on Saturday. Rock Lake Escape, a Trevor, Wisconsin-based, pet-friendly vacation home rental business, plans to be present both Friday and Saturday, Cicero said. Donna Matejka, president of Helping Paws, said her organization is thrilled to join in, and she hopes it becomes an annual event.

"Maybe some of the people we meet will become adopters or donors or fosters," she said. "I think it's fabulous." Marisa Rademaker of Lambs Farm applauded Cicero and the Outdoor for coordinating the Bring Your Dog to the Movies fun, as well as for adopting a pet-friendly business stance. She said the Dogwood table will feature treats, home décor, bandanas and pet adoption information.



CYNTHIA WOLF/ WOLF WORDSMITHING Hi-Liter/MCN

Carlos Sol of Round Lake dressed up his Maltipoo, Gus, in a red cape to bring him to the McHenry Outdoor Theater July 26 for a double feature that included "Superman." While well-behaved, leashed dogs are always welcome, a special Bring Your Dog to the Movies event is set for Aug. 22-23.

"I think what the Outdoor is doing is amazing," said Rademaker, associate director of marketing and communications for the Libertyville-based organization, which provides housing, programming and jobs for developmentally dis-

abled adults. "Dogs always make anything more fun!" The McHenry Outdoor Theater is open seven days a week throughout the summer. Regular admission is \$15 per adult and \$10 per child ages 4 through 12. Those 3 and younger are admitted free.

The theater will remain open weekends only after summer, with movie showings planned through Christmas, Cicero said. View the updated movie schedule and learn about family-friendly budget night options at goldenagecinemas.com.

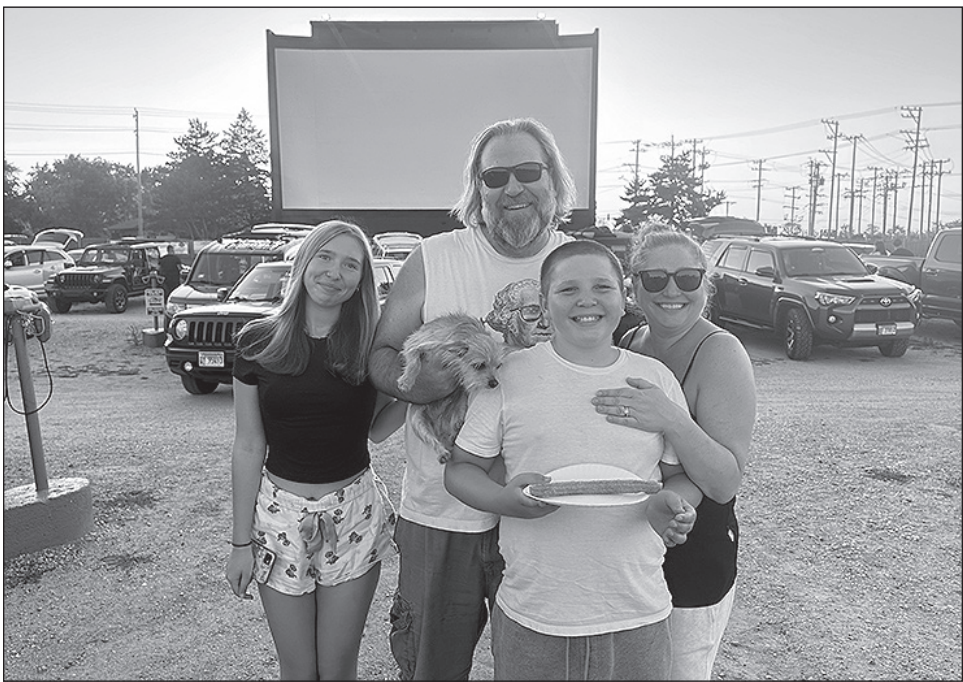
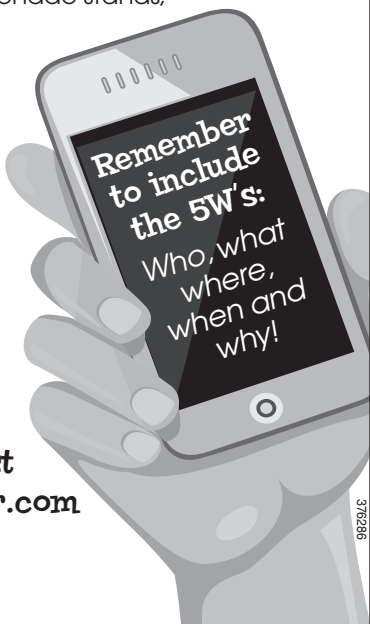
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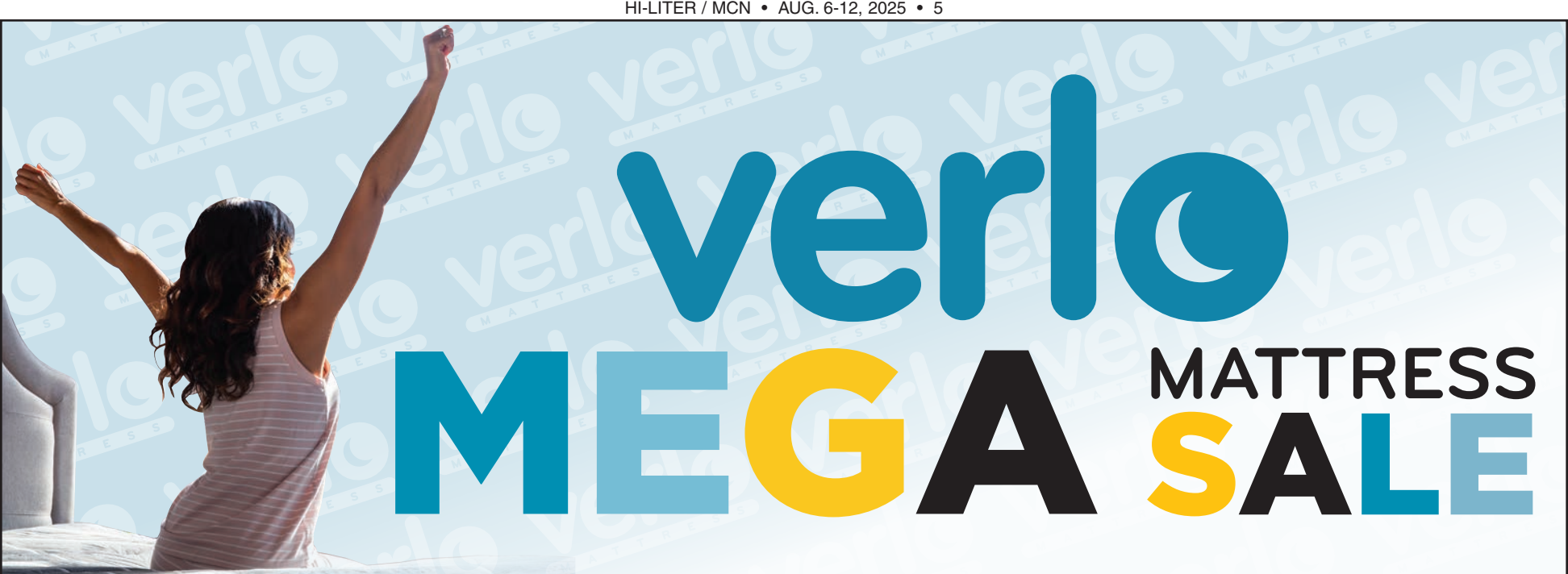
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JOE CICERO MCHENRY OUTDOOR THEATER Hi-Liter/MCN

Regnas family members (from left) Lily, Gabe, Jackson and Kristi enjoyed a recent evening at the McHenry Outdoor Theater with their pooch, Ryder. While well-behaved, leashed dogs are always welcome, a special Bring Your Dog to the Movies event is set for Aug. 22-23.





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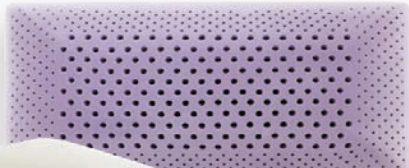
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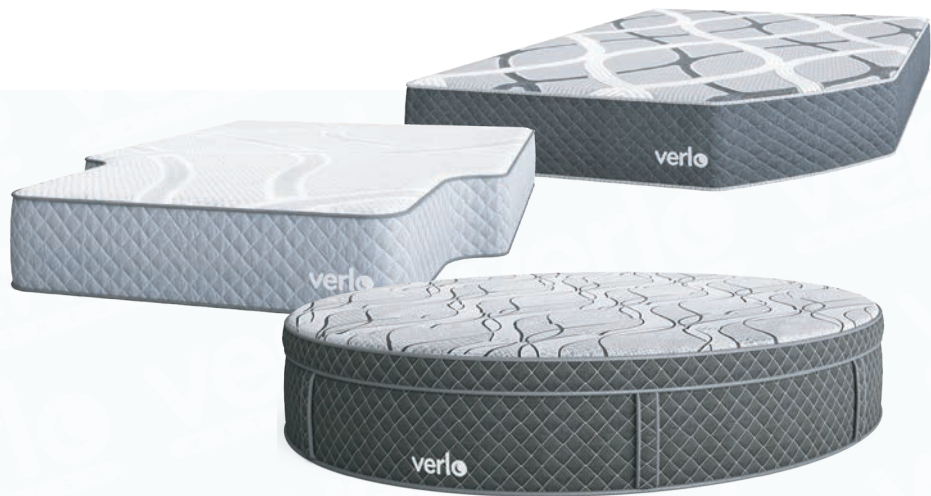
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**After a few months of a downward trend, inflation is on the rise again with food prices following suit.**

## •Food prices (Continued from page 6)

Meanwhile, pork prices rose 0.7 percent from April to May and were 0.6 percent higher than in May 2024. Pork prices are predicted to increase a modest 0.5 percent in 2025. In contrast to beef, pork production is projected to increase this year.

“It is a bit of a delicate balance and especially with all the global uncertainty, more measured (pork) production growth is probably beneficial in these times,” said Erin Borrer of the U.S. Meat Export Federation.

Retail egg prices decreased for the second month in a row, falling 7.5 percent. Egg prices in May were still 41.5 percent higher than in May 2024, continuing to experience volatile month-to-month changes due to an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) that began in 2022. In April, confirmed cases of HPAI tapered and in May, the number of confirmed detections remained low compared with earlier in the year.

Egg prices are predicted to increase 33.2 percent in 2025, which includes price increases already realized from January through March 2025. USDA reported that even if retail egg prices continue to decrease over the coming months, higher prices realized earlier in the year will continue to factor into the forecast.

In 2025, overall food prices are anticipated to rise

at about the historical average rate of growth. This year prices for all food are predicted to increase 2.9 percent with food-at-home prices up 2.2 percent and food-away-from-home prices up 3.9 percent. Prices for poultry, sugar and sweets and nonalcoholic beverages are predicted to increase, while prices for items like fresh vegetables are expected to ease.

USDA data shows farmers both made and paid more for products in May.

The index of prices received for May rose 1.7 percent due to gains in categories like cattle, hogs and milk, that offset losses in categories like broilers, market eggs, lettuce, and strawberries.

The index of prices paid was up 0.4 percent as increased costs for categories like feeder cattle, hay and forages and nitrogen canceled out decreases in some categories including feeder pigs, self-propelled machinery, LP gas and complete feeds.

Compared to a year ago, the index of prices received was 13 percent higher thanks to a boost in livestock prices, while the index of prices paid was up 6.4 percent.

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit [FarmWeekNow.com](http://FarmWeekNow.com).

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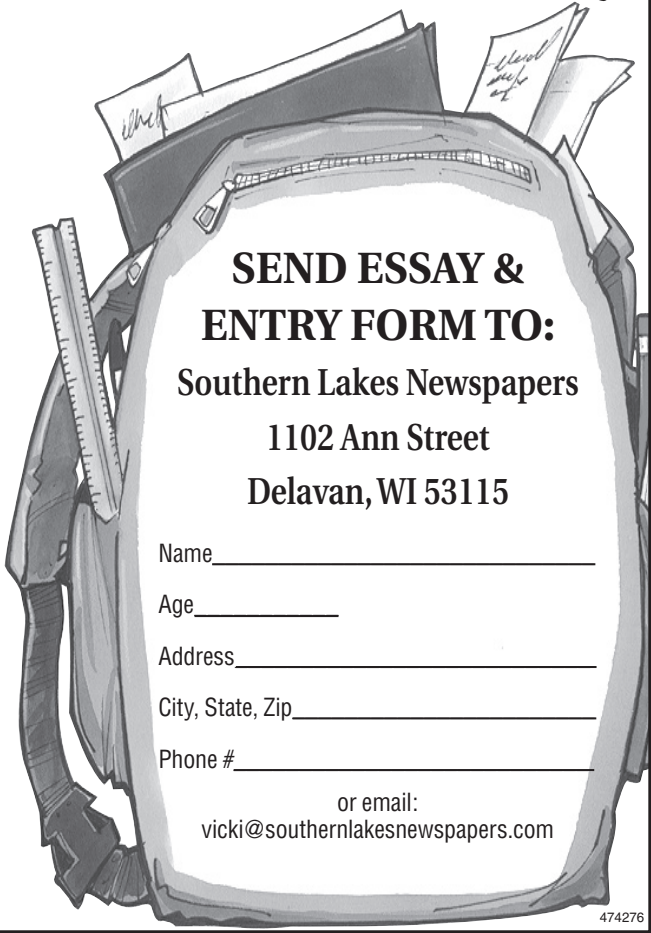
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