~ including McHenry County News

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As of Feb. 9, 2022 Hi-Liter is the successor publication to McHenry County News **Village of Antioch moving forward on** downtown park development project

Accepting bids on construction project that is expected to begin later this summer

announced the request for sealed bids for the construction of the Downtown Community Open Space Redevelopment Project, Contract 2 2023. The project aims to transform an existing site of approximately 4.5 acres into a new park with an emphasis on the Sequoit Creek channel.

This development project will provide a major boost in tourism and economic development opportunities for the Village of Antioch. The park will include the installation of stone walls, a cast-in-place pedestrian bridge, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, water/sewer service lines, electrical and lighting improvements, concrete walkways, decorative walls, irrigation, and landscaping. Additional features will include a splash pad, playground equipment, and a pavilion, alongside the reconstruction of Depot Street and a restroom/ concession facility.

Interested bidders may download the digital project bidding documents for \$75 from the websites www. strand.com or www.questcdn. com by inputting Quest project number 8464525 on the project search page. Bidders must obtain the bidding documents from Strand Associates, Inc.® or QuestCDN.com. Paper cop-

The Village of Antioch has ies will require a nonrefundable fee of \$250.

> Bids must be submitted in a sealed format and received at the Village Hall located at 874 Main Street, Antioch, IL 60002, no later than Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 2 p.m. local time. All sealed bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud.

> Antioch Mayor Scott J. Gartner says the request for bid proposals is another big milestone forward for this landmark project. Preliminary environmental construction began last fall. Park construction is expected to begin later this summer.

> "This redevelopment project is a significant investment in the heart of our village. It will provide a space for residents to gather, relax, and enjoy the natural surroundings," Gartner. "We look forward to reviewing the bids and seeing this project come to fruition."

> This Project is supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number SLT 3381 awarded to the State of Illinois by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Bidders must comply with all laws, including those related to the employment of labor and payment of the general prevailing rate of hourly wages in the locality in which the work will be performed.





These renderings show what some areas of the downtown redevelopment project will look like after its completion. The transformation will take place on 4.5 acres with emphasis on the Sequoit Creek channel. The project will provide a major boost in tourism and economic development opportunities in Antioch.

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Chicago mayor-elect hails Illinois as 'vanguard for progressive policy' in speech to lawmakers

GOP: Speech was 'a partisan political speech unheard of in our legislative chamber'

By Jerry Nowicki and Andrew Adams CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Mayor-elect Chicago Brandon Johnson said last week his goal was to unify the state while calling Illinois a "vanguard for progressive policy all over this country" in an address to a joint session of the General Assembly.

Johnson, a former middle school teacher and one-time staffer for Senate President Don Harmon, said he came to Springfield to "establish a productive, collaborative and energetic partnership to invest in the people of Chicago and the engine of this economy here in Illinois.'

Some of Johnson's agenda for the city, such as increasing the city's real estate transfer tax on properties exceeding \$1 million, would require action from the General Assembly. In his speech to lawmakers, he also supported a "revised school funding formula," with unspecified changes that would "help ensure there is a nurse and a social worker in every single school in Chi-

"I stand ready to continue to make those strong investments and to deliver on the promise of fully funded neighborhood schools," he said. "Public education at the expense of the state, after all, is a Negro idea."

One major ask for state funding was an increase to the Local Government Distributive Fund, a share of the state's income tax that is directed to local municipalities across Illinois. It was originally earmarked for 10 percent of those revenues to go to municipalities in 1969, but that number has decreased over the years to 6.16 percent of personal income tax collec-

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porate income taxes.

Mayors from across the state were in Springfield April 18 to request that funding be increased to 10 percent once again over the next four fiscal vears. That would cost about \$250 million for each percentage point the rate is increased. "By increasing funding, this body can help provide Chicago and cities and towns across the state with the resources that are needed to build from the ground up," Johnson said. "And when we build a better." stronger, safer Chicago we are building a better, stronger safer Illinois.

He praised recent state budgets that included hundreds of millions of dollars aimed at addressing gun violence with youth intervention programs, and increasing spending on public schools, domestic violence prevention and trauma recovery centers. Johnson's speech aimed to weave a staunchly liberal agenda with a conciliatory

"For years, they've told us that this is a zero-sum game, that if something's good for Chicago, well, that means we're taking something away from Peoria," Johnson said. "They tell us that the challenges that we face in the city of Chicago and families like mine, on the West Side of Chicago, aren't the same challenges shared by families from Rockford to Carbondale from East St. Louis to Champaign, and everywhere in between.'

It's an approach that didn't land with House Republican Leader Tony McCombie, of Savanna.

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ber," she said in a statement. "Where Mayor Johnson says he wants to collaborate on job growth, support law enforcement, and increase education funding, Republicans will be good partners. However, we won't stand for rhetoric that divides our state, burdens Illinois families, or support bailouts for ineffective program-

The strongest pushback from Republicans came regarding the mayor-elect's stance on public safety.

His recent election win over a more conservative candidate, Paul Vallas, was an electoral mandate for his response to crime in the city, he

"Public safety is a prerequisite to the prosperity of Chicago," he said. "And the voters have sent a clear message that they want to get smart, not just tough on crime. We have a mandate to make bold, necessary investments that address the root causes of violence.'

His plan includes adding 200 detectives in the city and expanding mental health services for police officers, who are asked to do too much, he

of in our legislative cham- to decrease the city' unemployment rates of 19 percent for those 16 to 19 years old and 12 percent for those 20 to 24 years old.

'As a result, too many young Chicagoans feel there is nowhere to turn," he said. "Instead of lagging behind other major cities on youth summer jobs, Chicago will look to aggressively expand the number of jobs for young people. We'll do it by bringing government, philanthropy, the private enterprises together around our common interests to invest in people, particularly young people.

The mayor-elect's visit to Springfield comes after a weekend of widely publicized reports of property damage and assault in downtown Chicago. Videos circulated on social media showing large gatherings in Chicago's Loop neighborhood and at a beach on the city's South Side, with at least one showing a group of young people assaulting a

Johnson issued a statement on April 16 calling for the creation of "spaces for youth to gather safely and responsibly. under adult guidance and su-

"In no way do I condone His agenda would also aim the destructive activity we

in the statement. "It is unacceptable and has no place in our city. However, it is not constructive to demonize youth who have otherwise been starved of opportunities in their own communities."

The violence—and Jonson's statement—have attracted criticism.

Chicago Alderman Raymond Lopez, a Democrat who ran for mayor earlier this year, in an appearance on Fox News, said that the city needs to deal with "the here and now," not just the "root caus-

"We absolutely need to demonize this kind of behavior because this is unacceptable,' Lopez said on Fox. "We know not all of our youth are bad, but we do know there are organized efforts to bring them downtown and other neighborhoods to cause chaos and pandemonium."

Some conservative downstate lawmakers called a news conference following Johnson's address to criticize his plans for addressing violence in the city.

While Rep. Brad Halbrook, R-Shelbyville, said downstate lawmakers respect the city's role as an economic engine,

saw in the Loop and lakefront they believe the violence in Chicago poses a threat to business and tourism. The Republicans sought a tougher approach to policing with more accountability for those committing crimes.

> "Imagine being a Missouri resident contemplating visiting Chicago and seeing what has happened on Michigan Avenue," Halbrook said. "People do not want to visit places where they may get mugged or beaten.'

> Rep. Dan Caulkins, R-Decatur, spoke directly to the camera in addressing potential attendees of the 2024 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, which Johnson celebrated in his speech.

"What you saw last weekend is just the tip of the iceberg," Caulkins said. "It's just the beginning. Be very aware of the environment that you're being invited to."

Johnson defended his statement on the violence in the city at a news conference following the address.

'You can make sure that we eradicate the root causes that lead to violence," Johnson said. "And we also can make sure that there's support on the front line to make sure that we're preventing vio-

Strikes suspended at three universities

Governors State, Chicago State and EIU faculty have all ended their strikes

By Andrew Adams CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Faculty at Governors State University ended a strike last week after being on the picket line for five days.

Governors State was one of three Illinois universities which saw a faculty strike and the last to see their strike end. Union members at Chicago State University ended their 10-day strike on April 16 and those at Eastern Illinois University ended their six-day strike April 13.

"This contract is a step towards strengthening our university and the support we can give our students, and it will contribute to attracting high-quality educators and retaining the excellent faculty and staff we have," GSU union president Mike Hart said in a statement.

The university's administration shared the optimistic tone in a separate statement.

Governors State Presi-

dent Chervl F. Green said the tentative contract is "an agreement that recognizes the valuable contributions of the faculty and academic support professionals to the University while at the same time recognizing the University's fiscal realities."

Faculty returned to classes at Governors State on April

CSU's strike was the longest at 10 days. Union members at CSU also held a "sitin" protest in which representatives of the union sat inside the offices of CSU President Zaldwavnaka Scott. A video released by the union showed a university police officer requesting them to leave.

'Our members never wanted to strike, but being forced to do so has made us more unified and stronger than ever," CSU union president Valerie Goss said in a statement when the strike was sus-

When the two sides reached a tentative agreement, the university released a statement saying the agreement "accomplishes the goals of both parties" and addresses a wide array of subjects, including wages, workload and parental leave.

At EIU in downstate Charleston, faculty have voted to end the strike. A ratification vote was to have taken place on Tuesday.

The strike ended despite the bargaining teams having some disagreement over endof-strike terms. The union's bargaining team wanted a provision in the agreement that would have allowed professors to be paid for making up work they missed during the strike, such as grading or holding additional office hours. A union news release indicated this issue could delay ratification.

"EIU's administration has demonstrated how they truly feel about the instruction and instructional support at EIU throughout this negotiation process," EIU union president Jennifer Stringfellow said. "I have found that I'm no longer surprised when I'm disappointed by the administration of this institution."

The university took a more optimistic tone in a short statement issued by the university's media relations department or behalf of the university: "EIU thanks all parties for their commitment to our students and willingness to collaboratively chart a pathway forward as the University and its (union) partners work together to advance EIU's mission."

Bargaining is also ongoing between administrators and faculty at Northeastern Illinois University. The faculty union there voted to authorize a strike last week and has also requested mediation.

Faculty at University of Illinois Chicago went on strike for six days in January before the two sides reached ar agreement. The union ratified the contract in early February.

Nobiling accepted into Wartburg's **Teacher Education Program**

Devin Nobiling, of Antioch, has been accepted into the Wartburg College Teacher Education Program.

Nobiling, had to demonstrate effective reflective components in teaching and complete several other requirements to be considered for the program.

Admission to the Teacher Education Program allows students to begin professional education courses in their field.

Wartburg, a four-year liberal arts college in Waverly, IA is internationally recognized for community engagement and enrolls 1,444 students.



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Democratic Justices, citing Republican predecessor, won't step aside from assault weapons case

Newly elected Justices O'Brien, Rochford challenged over campaign donations

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Two newly elected justices of the Illinois Supreme Court have declined to recuse themselves from a case challenging the state's recently passed ban on assault weapons and high-capacity

The court as a whole also issued an unsigned order declining to disqualify them.

Attorneys for the plaintiffs in the case, which include state Rep. Dan Caulkins, R-Decatur, filed a motion March 30 asking Justices Mary Kay O'Brien and Elizabeth Rochford, both Democrats, to recuse themselves from the case or, in the alternative, that the court disqualify them from participating.

The motion noted that both received substantial campaign donations during their 2022 campaigns from Gov. JB Pritzker and House Speaker Emanuel "Chris' Welch, both of whom are named defendants in the case. The motion also noted that both received endorsements from two prominent gun control lobby organizations, Gun Violence Preven- had endorsed in the election. tion PAC and Giffords PAC.

According to campaign finance records, both judicial candidates received \$500,000 each from the JB for Governor campaign and another \$500,000 each from the Jay Robert Pritzker Revocable Trust. Both also received contributions from Welch's campaign committee, \$350,000 for O'Brien and \$150,000 for Rochford.

"The significance of the campaign contributions cannot be understated as often in politics, cash follows cash. especially when one considers the stake the Governor and/or Speaker were taking in the race(s)," the motion stated. "Thirty-Nine percent (39%) of Justice O'Brien's cash came from litigation stakeholders. Thirty-Six percent (36%) of Justice Rochford's cash came from litigation stakeholders.'

The motion also cited a joint statement from G-PAC and Giffords PAC issued Nov. 9, the day after the election, in which the groups touted the victories of 88 "gun-safety" candidates they

"Chief among them are victories in both contested Illinois Supreme Court races as well as a pickup in the Illinois Senate and four pickups that build the supermajority in the Illinois House,' the groups said.

"G-PAC congratulates the gun safety candidates who were victorious in the general election, particularly newly elected Supreme Court Justices Elizabeth Rochford and Mary Kay O'Brien as well as Senator-elect Rachel Ventura and Representatives-elect Diane Blair-Sherlock, Nabeela Syed, Mary Beth Canty and Laura Faver Dias," they said.

In their motion, the plaintiffs' attorneys conceded that there is no Supreme Court rule specifying how a justice could be disqualified. But they did cite portions of the Illinois Code of Judicial Conduct, which states in part that, "A judge shall be disqualified in any proceeding in which judge's impartiality might reasonably be ques-

which the judge has a personal bias or prejudice concerning the parties, attorneys or issues involved, as well as cases in which the judge has made public statements outside of a court proceeding that appear to commit the judge to a particular decision.

In Illinois, the decision on whether Supreme Court justices should recuse themselves from a case rests solely with the justices themselves, and both O'Brien and Rochford declined to do so.

In separate orders written by each of the two justices, O'Brien and Rochford noted that the plaintiffs did not point to any specific pledges or statements that would indicate a bias in the case. They both also argued that the contributions they had received were within the state's campaign finance limits for judicial elections.

Both justices cited a case involving now-retired Justice Lloyd Karmeier, a Republican, who was asked in 2014 to recuse himself from hearing an appeal in a \$10

That includes cases in against tobacco giant Philip Morris. Plaintiffs in that case argued that Philip Morris' parent company, Altria Group, had given \$500,000 to a group that supported

"The claim that a judge may not hear a case because a party may have some association with a public interest group or political party that did support or may have supported the judge's candidacy has no basis in the law, would be unworkable and is contrary to the very notion of an elected judiciary,' Rochford quoted Karmeier as writing at the time.

"When judges are elected, as the Illinois Constitution requires, it is inevitable (and entirely appropriate) that interest groups will support judges whose judicial philosophies they believe are most closely aligned with their own views," Rochford's quotation of Karmeier continued.

O'Brien quoted Karmeier as well, stating: "Litigants must not be permitted to create the grounds for recusal by criticizing the judge or billion class action lawsuit casting sinister aspersions, judge heard oral arguments.

'judge-shopping' by manufacturing bias or prejudice that previously did not exist."

Lawmakers passed the ban on more than 170 types of semiautomatic firearms and high-capacity magazines during a special lame duck session in January. Gov. JB Pritzker signed it into law within hours of its passage, making Illinois the ninth state to enact such a ban.

There are currently two challenges to the law pending in state courts. The Caulkins case originated in Macon County while a separate suit filed by attorney Thomas DeVore, the 2022 Republican candidate for attorney general, originated in Effingham County.

Supreme Court agreed to hear the Macon County case on an expedited schedule while the Effingham County case is being held "in abeyance" pending the outcome of the Macon County case.

The law is also being challenged in federal court in East St. Louis where a

Join the mission to back local veterans with Operation Dropbox

The McHenry County Department of Health and its participating partners are pleased to announce that the annual Operation Dropbox donation drive will begin May 1 and run throughout

Operation Dropbox is a county-wide event that has continued to grow as representatives from local businesses, agencies and organizations have committed their support to a campaign that champions local heroes.

drop sites to collect donations at their locations, these representatives have chosen to support McHenry County veterans and their families.

Now in its fourth year since its inception, the Operation Dropbox campaign has grown to include 25 local businesses and organizations and has proven to be a success that has positively impacted men, women and their families. Last year alone, the people of McHenry County came together and DH's Emergency Response Through their pledge to host were able to support more Coordinator. "We have a

veterans and their families.

To make Operation Dropbox possible, MCDH continues to partner with a key group of partners to promote the campaign and provide a location large enough so volunteers can sort items and deliver the much-needed items to veterans and their

"When we work together, we rise together," said Bridgett Hoffmann, MC-

make this event possible every year, but without the care and support of the people who contribute to the event, we would not be able to call this campaign a success."

All contributed items will be collected by MCDH, sorted by Medical Reserve Corps volunteers at the McHenry County Division of Transportation and delivered to Veterans Path to Hope by McDoT. The McHenry County Veterans Assistance Commission is also instrumental in Operation Dropbox by promoting the event through its partners and the veterans it serves.

Beginning May 1, people who live, work, play and learn in McHenry County can also join the mission by backing veterans and their families in the form of a donation.

Those who elect to offer their support can deliver one or more of the following new or unexpired store-bought items at dropbox locations.

 Non-perishable food and snacks: canned soups, stews,

la bars, shelf -stable milk, condiments, cereal, bottled juice, sugar, peanut butter, jelly, salad dressing, apple

- sauce and fruit cups Manual can openers
- Coffee pots and supplies
- · Paper products and plastic silverware: paper towels, napkins, toilet paper, paper plates and bowls
- Full-sized personal hygiene products
- Household cleaning sup-
- Garbage bags: 12 gallon and 65 gallon industrial · Detergent: dish and laun-
- New socks for men and
- women New pillows
- Cookware: pots, pans, utensils and baking sheets
- · Gift cards: Walmart and

"Operation Dropbox has been a lifesaver," said Laura Franz, Executive Director of Veterans Path to Hope. "Prior to this campaign, our onsite food pantry would often run short this time of year partment/operation-dropbox.

to have to turn veteran families in need away due to lack of inventory. The food also goes out to veteran families that have been placed back into housing after a period of homelessness; this is where the additional household items also make such a difference. We are honored and humbled by the generosity of this community that cares so much for military veter-

Veterans Path to Hope is a Crystal Lake-based organization that provides vital assistance and resources to veterans. VPH has served over 3,200 veterans through its on-site food pantry, provided employment support to 250 veterans and has provided homeless support to more than 520 veterans.

For more information about Operation Dropbox, including a list of locations collecting items, please visit https://www.mchenrycountyil.gov/county-government/ departments-a-i/health-de-

Randall Road project awarded \$3 million grant from state

The McHenry County Division of Transportation has received a \$3 million grant from the State of Illinois to add a sidewalk and a shared-use path as part of the final phase of the Randall Road Corridor Improvement Project.

The grant, awarded through the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program, will finance the addition of a sidewalk and shared-use path along Randall Road for the upcoming Northern Segment portion. The Northern Segment Project will widen and rebuild a 1.3-mile section of Randall Road between Ackman Road, in Crystal Lake, and Acorn Lane/Polaris Drive, in Lake in the Hills. The new sidewalk and path will connect to existing bicycle and pedestrian trails in the area.

The grant is part of \$127.9 million awarded this year through the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program, which was created to expand travel options and enhance the quality of life in communities throughout the state. Other local grant recipients include Crystal Lake, McHenry, and Huntley.

The grant is one of many that MCDOT has applied for to save taxpayers money by defraying the cost of transportation improvement projects. In just the last month, MCDOT has applied for \$286 million in federal funding opportunities.

You can follow the Division of Transportation on Facebook at www facebook.com/McHenryCountyDOT to stay abreast of construction projects on county highways.

The DOT has started work on McHenry County Moves 2050, a long-range transportation plan to examine the ways that people and goods move in our area, and develop solutions that will make it easier for everyone, and everything, to get where they need to go. Visit www. mchenrycountymoves2050.com to learn more about it.





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Lake County State's Attorney's Office files lawsuit against insulin manufacturers and pharmacy benefit managers

On April 18 the Lake County State's Attorney's Office announced it filed a lawsuit against the nation's largest insulin manufacturers and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) demonstrating that the defendants had illegally conspired to artificially increase insulin prices in violation of the Illinois's Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act.

Over the past 25 years, the list price of certain insulins has greatly increased -in some cases by more than 1000%. This increase has vastly outpaced the consumer price index or the relevant rise in costs associated with manufacturing and research.

The lawsuit argues that manufacturers Eli Lilly, Novo Nordisk, and Sanofi, and PBMs CVS Caremark, Express Scripts, and OptumRx, have leveraged their market power to increase profits at the expense of Lake County and the payors who need the lifesaving medication.

"Equal access to healthcare is a basic right. But the high cost of prescription drugs is hurting millions of people. These defendants have illegally conspired to unfairly increase their profits. Fair competition and enhanced technology should be driving prices down, but the defendants' scheme raised prices on a drug that is necessary for millions. On behalf of our retirees and employees, and by extension the taxpayers of Lake County, we seek to recover costs that unfairly burdened Lake County as a result of this illegal pricing scheme. I am proud that our office is leading the way in this fight for basic decency and fairness in our markets," stated Lake County State's Attorney Eric

Approximately one million Illinois residents – 10% of the adult population has diabetes. In Lake County, 11% of the adult population has diabetes. The lawsuit focuses on the inflated costs that Lake County government has paid on behalf of its employees and a special program for some Medicare recipients.

The complaint describes how three manufacturers control over 90% of the global market for diabetes drugs.

work in conjunction with three PBMs named in the suit, which administer pharmacy benefits for roughly 80% of prescription claims managed in the United States.

Because competition is extremely limited, manufacturers and PBMs can work together to aggressively increase the prices of the diabetes medication. The lawsuit argues that PBMs derive massive profits from manufacturer rebates. Because rebates are based on a percentage of the medication's list price, manufacturers increase drug prices to provide more incentive to PBMs. Allegedly, PBMs have been selecting the medication based on the highest possible rebates, and not necessarily on the lowest price for the consumer. The manufacturer/PBM ments resulted in the "Insulin Pricing Scheme" described in the complaint and violate federal RICO statutes as well as Illinois consumer protection

Rinehart added, "PBMs can capture as much as half of the consumer price on each insulin prescription although they do not contribute anything to the manufacturing, innovation, production of the

As a result, the artificially increased prices of insulin have had a negative effect on Lake County's overall budget and impacts the County's ability provide essential services to its community mem-

Through the lawsuit, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office seeks restitution and economic damages associated with the price increases, punitive damages to deter others, and attorney costs that are permitted under federal and state law.

Lake County Board Chair Sandy Hart stated, "The Lake County Board has been striving to control the costs of its health insurance plans for its employees. Lawsuits like these tell companies that they must follow the rules and allow competition to benefit everyone. Along with State's Attorney Rinehart, we will never stop fighting for basic economic fairness for everyone in Lake County."



MCHS certifies 221 students in CPR/ AED during the 10th year of training

McHenry Community High School schools. is celebrating the 10th anniversary of offering American Heart Association CPR/AED training and the 1,902 students who have learned lifesaving skills over the last decade.

Northwestern Medicine officials joined with high school teachers and administrators April 19 to honor the most recent class of 221 students to become certified through the American Heart Association's HeartSaver K-12 CPR/AED course.

CPR/AED training has been in the news lately with Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin crediting CPR and AED for saving his life when he collapsed on field earlier this year. Hamlin is working to encourage CPR and AED use and training in

The physical education department offers the HeartSaver for K-12 Schools training in collaboration with Northwestern Medicine McHenry. The course includes CPR, handling choking emergencies and using an AED (automatic external defibrillator.)

Elizabeth DePouw, McHenry and Western Lake County EMS system coordinator for Northwestern Medicine, said studies show a patient's outcome improves dramatically if life-saving methods are used before paramedics arrive "McHenry High School has empowered you to act," she told students during the ceremony, "that makes each and every one of you a

very important person."

The HeartSaver course is offered through the school's physical education department. Seven PE instructors offer the training.

'Our community is safer because of all this training the kids have gotten," said Dr. John Beerbower, assistant division chair for McHenry High School District 156 physical education, health and driver's education at Upper Campus. Beerbower said he's heard from several former students that the training allowed them to respond well in emergencies.

Students receive an electronic certification to show they've completed the rescue training for infants, children and adults.

Six more Advance McHenry County grants approved Lake, said. "As the Advance resiliency of its water system most \$25.3 million in American

Six local governments were awarded Advance McHenry County grants, totaling more than \$6.5 million, to improve water and sewer service for residents and businesses.

County The McHenry Board approved the funding requests at its April 18 meeting, bringing to 29 the number of grants approved through the groundbreaking Advance McHenry County program, which the County Board created to invest tens of millions of dollars in federal COVID-19 recovery funding into projects that directly benefit the com-

'Since we awarded the first grants in January 2022, we've been amazed by the thoughtful, innovative and original requests that have come before us - and we've been absolutely blown away by the results so far," County Board Chairman Mike Buehler, R-Crystal

McHenry County program winds down, it's only fitting that we allocate a portion of the remaining funding to help local governments improve their vital water and sewer infrastruc-

Governments that will receive Advance grants include: • The Village of Wonder Lake,

will receive nearly \$2.63 million to connect the Hancock Drive business area to the village's water and sewer system; The Northern Moraine Waste-

water Reclamation District, will receive \$2 million to extend sewer service to an unincorporated subdivision.

• The Village of Union, which requested \$590,000 to help replace a municipal well to ensure that village residents have a constant supply of clean

· The Village of Cary, will receive \$560,000 to increase the and better equip it to mitigate certain chemicals;

• The Village of Fox River Grove, will receive \$500,000 for an ammonia nitrogen removal system; and

• The Village of Huntley, will receive \$250,000 toward building a new water main underneath Route 47.

The Advance McHenry County grants approved to date by the County Board total al-

Rescue Plan Act funding which has been invested directly into infrastructure capital projects, workforce development and jobs programs, nonprofit agencies, special districts, and local governments.

You can learn more about the Advance McHenry County initiative, and review approved grants and expenditures, by visiting www.mchenrycountyil. gov/advance.



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Conservation district celebrates World Migratory Bird Day Ringwood. Participants

McHenry County and partners Friends of Hackmatack Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Illinois Department of Natural Resources and McHenry Audubon, invite visitors to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day on Sunday, May 7

Birders of all ages and levels have the opportunity to learn all about birds at this special event. Activity stations and Bird Passports are available from noon - 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 30 at Volo Bog, 28478 W. Brandenburg Road, Ingleside and from noon - 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 7 at Glacial Park, Route 31 and Harts Road,

can conect passport stamps during games and activities to win prizes. Door prizes include binoculars, photo prints and more.

A licensed bird bander will be banding and releasing migratory birds at the Four Season Nature Preserve located at N. 1889 Co. Trunk H, Lake Geneva, WI from 8-9:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 7. Stephanie Schmidt, Whooping Crane Outreach Coordinator for the International Crane Foundation, will host a presentation about cranes at 10 a.m. at Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park, Route 31 and Harts

Registration required at MCCD.me/Cranes.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Pet of the week

Zadie, is about 3 years old, spayed, up-to-date on routine shots (incl. rabies), tested negative heartworm and on preventative and microchipped.

She is an active and playful do and loves to cuddle with people. While being a great lap dog, she has not been dealing with the stress of being in a kennel very well.

While walk-ins are welcome, adoptions are by appointments only to ensure we have the staff available to help adopters. For information and/ or to complete an online application, please visit www.saveapetil.org/adopt.

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* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

MCC unveils partnership to offer four-year degrees credit for beginning this idea ing agreements with several Aurora University (AU), constantly need new solu-

The pathway to completing four-year degrees across McHenry County just got straighter and smoother. McHenry County College (MCC) announced its intentions to start a University Center in Woodstock beginning this Summer, providing local students the opportunity to obtain a bachelor's degree from partnering universities while remaining in McHenry County to learn. This initiative will make the dream of a bachelor's degree achievable to all residents of the county, removing the sometimes-overwhelming barrier of having to travel to pursue

Located in a historic building in the heart of downtown Woodstock, the MCC 2009. In cooperation with of higher education will

MCC will purchase the space and transition it to the MCC University Center, adding additional partner universities while continuing to collaborate with AU in offering their degree programs already in

"Students finishing their associate's degrees at MCC, or community members who have stopped out to work or raise families after completing parts of degrees, deserve a local opportunity to complete bachelor's and master's degrees," said MCC President Dr Clint Gabbard "Instead of ignoring the barriers facing folks in dealing with work, family, distance barriers, this MCC University Center will build an exciting, University Center has been essential bridge to degree the home of Aurora Univer- completion, in the heart of sity Woodstock Center since our community. The future

tions to old problems, and the MCC University Center is one more step in making what seemed overwhelmingly challenging to our students now immensely possible," Gabbard added.

The MCC Board of Trustees unanimously approved a purchase agreement at its regular Board Meeting on Thursday, March 23, unanimously supporting the process of purchasing the building and pursuing all work on the MCC University Center transformation.

Aurora University will be MCC's first partner to offer several exciting degree programs that will help students prepare for some of the county's most in-demand occupations, including Elementary Education and Social Work.

"Aurora University's leadership deserves so much by planting several Aurora undergraduate and graduate degree programs in our community," Gabbard shared. "We will be forever grateful for their vision, and for the tremendous partnership and support we have received from the AU Board, administration, and former President, Dr. Rebecca Sherrick."

"AU is proud to have provided educational opportunities to students at the Woodstock Center since 2009. We are honored to be a founding partner in this exciting new initiative with MCC and look forward to building our legacy of academic excellence in the region," said John Ammons, Chair of Aurora University's Board of Trustees.

In addition to the MCC University Center's founding partnership with Aurora University, MCC is finalizother universities in Illinois. Each of these universities will offer their own degree programs, providing an array of opportunities for prospective students.

The new Center will provide critical onsite resources to help transfer students succeed, including advisors to assist in the transfer planning process. The purchase and renovation of the center will be funded by a combination of private philanthropic gifts, grant funding, and College capital funds.

"We are excited to support this important new asset for students of all ages in McHenry County," expressed friends and supporters of MCC, Greg and Dana Gliniecki. "It truly changes the landscape for higher education locally and benefits McHenry County." the entire community.'

With the MCC University Center's opening, McHenry County College will become one of only a few community colleges in Illinois connecting graduates with bachelor's and master's completion programs in the same community where they already work and live, expanding the accessibility to education for all citizens of McHenry County.

"We have taken to thinking of the University Center as the further 'democratization of education'. Anyone and everyone who aspires to complete degrees should be given that chance," shared Gabbard. "These degrees change the trajectory of people's future for a lifetime And there is a strong likelihood that University Degree earners will settle in to live work, and raise families in

Court & crime news

Home invasion suspect apprehended by K9 Dax

On April 23, at approximately 8:30 p.m., Lake County Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to a residence in the 36200



North Old Creek Court, Unincorporated Gurnee, for a possible home invasion.

A 911 caller indicated he was on FaceTime with the victim, a 36-year-old woman. While speaking to the victim, a man appeared in the video behind the woman, she screamed, and the call disconnected.

Sheriff's deputies arrived and located the victim, who had been battered by the man. Further investigation revealed a former acquaintance of the victim, Joshua Simmons, 34, of the 800 block of Woodvale Drive, Dublin, Georgia, forced entry into the victim's home, took her phone and struck her in the face and neck. When sheriff's deputies arrived, Simmons fled on foot. The victim declined medical treatment

A sheriff's sergeant loparked about a block from of the victim's friend, this situ-

the scene. Sheriff's K9 Dax ation could have ended much responded and conducted a differently. I am proud of the track for Simmons. After a one-mile track, K9 Dax located Simmons in a three seasons room of a residence, hiding. Simmons refused to surrender, and K9 Dax was deployed. K9 Dax bit Simmons on his arm and Simmons struck K9 Dax. Simmons subsequently surrendered. K9 Dax was unfazed by Simmons' punch.

Simmons was transported to an area hospital for treatment for the dog bite. He was treated and released back into the custody of sheriff's depu-

After reviewing the facts and circumstances of the case, the Lake County State's Attorney's Office approved the following charges for Simmons: Home Invasion (Class X Felony), Two Counts of Domestic Battery (Class 4 Felonies), Criminal Trespass to Residence (Class 4 Felony), Striking a Police K9 (Class A Misdemeanor) and Resisting Arrest (Class A Misdemeanor).

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "Fortunately, the victim was on a telephone call when this incident occurred, and her friend was able to call 911. If it cated Simmons' vehicle were not for the quick thinking

You ought to be in pictured

THIS IS AN OPEN CALL FOR SUBMITTED PHOTOS

TO BE USED IN YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER.

work of our Patrol Division and Sheriff's K9 Team who worked quickly to locate and apprehend this violent offender.'

Double fatal UTV crash under investigation

On April 18, at approximately 9:45 p.m., Lake County Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to West Dressel Road and Douglas Avenue in unincorporated Antioch for a traffic crash with injuries. Sheriff's deputies arrived and located a Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) with major dam-

Preliminary investigation shows a 56-year-old man of unincorporated Antioch was driving the UTV and a 50-year-old woman of unincorporated Antioch was in the front passenger seat of the UTV. The driver of the UTV was traveling westbound on West Dressel Road just west of Douglas Avenue. For an unknown reason the driver veered off the south side of the roadway and struck a large tree. Neither occupant was wearing a seatbelt or helmet, and both were partially ejected from the vehicle.

Both the driver and the passenger sustained major injuries, and both were pronounced deceased at the

The Lake County Coroner's Office responded and an autopsy for both the driver and the passenger is being scheduled.

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

Fatal crash under investigation

On April 18, at approximately 1:55 p.m., Lake County Sheriff Deputies responded to a traffic crash with injuries at Route 173 and Mill Creek Road, Wadsworth. Sheriff's deputies arrived and located passenger, seated behind the two vehicles with significant damage.

Preliminary information shows the driver of a 2018 Hyundai Elantra, a 45-yearold woman of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was traveling northbound on Mill Creek Road. The driver of the Hyundai failed to stop at the stop sign, as she approached Route 173. As the Hyundai entered the intersection, it was struck by an eastbound Volkswagen GTI, driven by a 39-year-old man of Lake Villa.

There were three passengers in the Hyundai. The front seat passenger, a 23-year-old woman of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was transported to Froedtert Pleasant Prairie Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. A back seat

driver, a 76-year-old mar of Mexico, was transported to Froedtert Pleasant Prairie with major injuries, and pronounced deceased shortly after arriving. The third passenger, an 18-year-old man of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, seated behind the from passenger, was transported to Froedtert Pleasant Prairie with non-life-threatening injuries. The driver of the Hyundai was transported to Froedtert Pleasant Prairie Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The driver of the Volkswagen was uninjured.

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

Beach Park, was cited for do-

Sandra L. Stensrud, 55,

Natalie Q. Martinez, 29,

Ashilyn M. Ramirez, 24,

Oscar J. Rodriguez-Lu-

na, 27, Milwaukee, WI, was

cited for a warrant obtained:

violation of an order of pro-

Gina R. Charles, 62, Zion,

Timothy J. Culotta, 44,

Zbigniew M. Myszowski,

Karlie A. Northcott, 28,

Victoria Harris, 45, Zion,

was cited for driving while li-

lawful possession of a fire-

62, Round Lake, was cited for

Barrington, was cited for driv-

ing while license suspended

Waukegan, was cited for driv-

ing while license suspended,

Mundelein, was cited for DUI

Long Grove, was cited for do-

mestic battery;

mestic battery.

and no insurance;

cense suspended;

no driver's license;

and no insurance;

March 29

March 30

March 26

– alcohol:

Sheriff's arrest bulletin Lake County

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.

March 16

Martin Basurto. Waukegan, was cited for a warrant arrest: robbery; March 17

Detrick D. Washington, 34, Antioch, was cited for fleeing and eluding, driving while license revoked and no insurance;

Logan A. Long, 25, Pleasant Prairie, WI, was cited for DUI – alcohol;

March 18

Enzo ni-Velazquez, Hoffman Estates, was cited for DUI -

Lindsey Parra, 24, Zion, was cited for a warrant arrest: DUI - alcohol;

Trenton D. Jones, 29, Kenosha, WI, was cited for DUI - alcohol, and open transportation of alcohol;

March 19

Shannon A. Hamilton, 32, River Grove, was cited for a warrant arrest: driving while license suspended (DuPage County).

0

March 20 Dorothy F. Seitz, 36, Mundelein, was cited for domestic battery:

Efarin Dejesus, 39, Round Lake, was cited for domestic

battery March 21

John O. Hancock, III, 39, Chicago, was cited for a warrant obtained: theft, forgery;

Jacqueline Alvarez, 27, Ingleside, was cited for a warrant arrest: retail theft;

March 22

Anthony V. Turpin, 55, Beach Park, was cited for 21, fleeing to elude, resisting arrest and no insurance;

> Walter Hargrove, Waukegan, was cited for driving while license revoked, and no insurance:

March 23

Joseph V Giordano 49 Indianapolis, IN, was cited for a warrant obtained: disorderly conduct:

Jose L. Castillo Pedraza, 28, North Chicago, was cited tection; Bernardi- for driving while license re- March 31 voked, and passing a loading school bus;

> Daniel J. Hunt, 30, Grayslake, was cited for a warrant arrest: aggravated DUI and Lake Villa, was cited for una new charge: obstructing a peace officer;

Alex Hernandez, Waukegan, was cited for driving while license suspended;

Rafael Lopez, 30, Waukegan, was cited for a warrant arrest: DUI;

March 24

Bradley K. Mynor, 41, Zion, was cited for criminal trespass to vehicle, resisting arrest, theft of mislaid property, and driving while license revoked;

Javier Romero Brizuele, Jr., 40, Round Lake Beach, was cited for driving while license revoked; March 25

26, Waukegan, was cited for

was cited for DUI - alcohol, and open transportation of alcohol: Jenna D. Hasssler, 26,

Whitewater, WI, was cited for DUI - alcohol and no insur-

April 1

Cody Wolf Washington, Garrett T. Walker, 51, unlawful possession of meth.

Community events, car washes, festivals, lemonade stands, school projects - people at work and at play. We are interested! 000000 This is your ▼ Show the community what Remember chance to your group has been doing! promote your organization to include **▼ NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!** the 5W's: or special ▼ Just shoot and e-mail! event Who, what ▼ We need you to ID everyone where, in the photo first and last names required when and ▼ Tell us what's happening in the photo Why! ▼ Please do NOT crop your photos.

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BY NOON ON FRIDAY

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ANTIOCH POLICE DEPARTMENT PHOTO Hi-Liter/MCN

Drugs and cash recoved from Kewan Hampton's vehicle during a search after a traffic stop on April 19.

Traffic stop leads to recovery of 8 lbs cannabis, large amount of cash

On April 19, around 1:30 a.m., an Antioch Police Officer conducted a traffic stop in the 1100 block of Main Street (Route 83). Upon a search of the vehicle, officers recovered a large amount of drugs and cash. The driver of the vehicle is now facing several felony charges.



Kewan Hampton

The driver, 24-year-old Kewan Hampton of Beach Park, was arrested for possessing roughly eight pounds of Cannabis and \$143,337 in cash. He also faces potential additional charges for possessing 20 unknown pills stamped with similar markings as Xanax. The pills have been sent to the crime lab for further analysis.

Hampton was charged with Unlawful Possession of Cannabis (Class 2 Felony) and Possession with the Intent to Distribute (Class 1 Felony). In addition, the currency and vehicle associated are pending asset forfeiture proceedings.

Chief Guttschow says the arrest will make a big impact on the safety of area residents.

'Any interruption we can make in the organized drug community is a win for Antioch and the greater Lake County area," said Guttschow. "Eight pounds of cannabis coupled with over \$143,000.00 in cash indicates this was part of a larger operation".

Chief Guttschow commends the proactive work of the Antioch Police Department's midnight shift.

"This arrest is the result of proactive police work done by dedicated officers to make our community safer," said Guttschow. "I commend the dedication and hard work of our officers.

Chief Guttschow is also thankful for assistance from the Lake County Sheriff's K9 Unit during the traffic stop.

McHenry County Sheriff's arrest bulletin-

in McHenry County were reported by the McHenry County Sheriff's Department. Suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. March 20

Charissa M. Sharp, 38, Milwaukee, was cited for retail theft - taking merchandise

from retail establishment with intent to deprive merchant without paying;

Patricia A. Monaghan, 41, Woodstock, was cited for A-1 domestic battery/bodily harm and A-2 domestic battery/ physical contact.;

March 21

Scott A. Weissert, 60, Lakemoor, was cited for 5 counts of residential burglary, resisting or obstructing a peace officer, and possession of a controlled substance;

March 22

Matthew D. Looper, 33,

The following arrests Crystal Lake, was cited for A-2 domestic battery/physical ley, was cited for criminal contact, aggravated assault use of a deadly weapon, unlawful use of a weapon, and interference with reporting domestic violence;

Malin J. Weatherspoon, 22, Chicago, was cited for resisting or obstructing a peace officer, fleeing or attempting to elude a peace officer, and AL 41.01 5/11-502.15(b) possession of adult use cannabis in motor vehicle outside of an approved container;

Elizabeth M. Donnelly, 24, Algonquin, was cited for possession of a controlled substance:

March 23

Stephanie T. Ransom, 34, McHenry, was cited for A-1 domestic battery/bodily harm, A-2 domestic battery/physical

damage to property, and resisting or obstructing a peace officer;

March 24

Glenn W. Haymes, 41, Huntley, was cited for aggravated battery - peace officer minor/no injury, no dangerous weapon;

Jason D. Algrim, 44, Spring Grove, was cited for driving while license to operate motor vehicle is revoked;

Ali R. Vann, 29, Norfolk, was cited for 2 counts of A-2 child pornography reproduce/ sell, 13 counts of child pornography/reproduce mov dptn, 2 counts of child porn/ film/tape/photo act, and 7 counts of child pornography sol child/photo;

March 27

Louis A. Nava, 50, Waucontact, and unlawful use of a conda, was cited for driving while license revoked.

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