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Danville, Ill. • Commercial-News.com

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Safe travels

Maintaining vehicle maintenance is vital for winter excursions

CHRISTY JANKOWSKI
CHRISTY.JANKOWSKI@DANCOMNEWS.COM

DANVILLE — Before shifting into gear to your holiday destination, it's important to do a quick check-up of your vehicle.

AAA is predicting 81.8 million people will hit the road or fly to their destination this Thanksgiving holiday travel period, which they count from Tuesday until Monday. And this year, they are predicting 1.6 million more people traveling than in 2024.

"Thanksgiving travel numbers are always impressive because this holiday has become synonymous with heading out of town to spend time with loved ones," said Stacey Barber, Vice President of AAA Travel, in a news release on their website. "People are willing to brave the crowds and make last-minute adjustments to their plans to make lifelong memories, whether it's visiting extended family or meeting up with friends."

And out of those traveling, AAA predicts at least 73 million people will do so by driving. There are 1.3 million more people on the road than in 2024.

Danville mechanic, Bob Watson, said there are a few vital things to check with your car before hitting the road, especially as temperatures drop.

Watson said before shifting into gear, drivers should "make sure at that time that they check



Danville mechanic Bob Watson of Bob Watson Tire and Automotive checks the coolant fluid in 2023 Toyota Corolla on Tuesday.

Chad Dare | Commercial-News

See **TRAVELS** on 4

Sands appeals removal from ballot

CHRISTY JANKOWSKI
CHRISTY.JANKOWSKI@DANCOMNEWS.COM

DANVILLE — Hugh Sands filed a miscellaneous remedy with the county clerk's office on Tuesday following his removal from the ballot for Vermilion County Sheriff.

Last week, Sands was removed from the March ballot following a challenge to his ballot requirements by county board member Jerry Hawker.

Sands' attorney has filed a summons for multiple elected officials: Hawker, Vermilion County State's Attorney Jaqueline Lacy, Melissa Quick, and Robyn Hefferen.



Hugh Sands

Sands says Hawker and others are correct in that he has not completed certain training.

"Their basis is I have never been through Illinois basic law enforcement training at the police academy," Sands said.

However, Sands claims he was granted waivers in previous times due to his experience.

"It was run differently," Sands said about the training requirements in the late 1990s. "How they did it was, there were certain weekends you had to show up."

Sands said some, including himself, were granted waivers based on their prior service and training.

"And here's what happened, they granted some people who worked in our county as part-time patrolmen a waiver," Sands said. "We're not going to require anything."

Sands said the waivers were not

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Avoiding hazardous holiday situations

CHRISTY JANKOWSKI
CHRISTY.JANKOWSKI@DANCOMNEWS.COM

Deep frying a turkey may be an American favorite way of serving up the bird on Thanksgiving, but there are many fire-safety risks to keep in mind to ensure a holiday free from a trip to the emergency room.

The National Fire Protection Association reports that approximately 1,446 fires occur during home cooking on Thanksgiving each year.

Between 2019 and 2024, the association stated that cooking was the cause of 80% of house fires on Thanksgiving. And overall, cooking fires are related to the cause of 52% of all house fires.

Will Georges, a captain with the Caitlin Fire Department, stressed the importance of keeping your bird dry to prevent a giant fire.

"Make sure the turkeys are completely thawed and dry," Georges stressed. "If the water mixes with

the oil, that's when it can explode. If it does, you will get a grease fire. Do not use water on a grease fire."

JC Fultz with the Illinois State Fire Marshall said cooks need to remember to only fry their turkey outside.

And, when doing so, make sure your oil is at the proper level.

"Make sure to not overfill oil in the fryer," wrote Fultz. "Fill the pot you plan to use to fry the turkey with water and place the turkey in it. This will help to determine how much oil is needed without causing oil to spill out when you are ready to fry, which could lead to a fire."

Fultz added to make sure to keep your hands and arms protected with cooking gloves when handling the pot to prevent burns.

Dr. Tinsley Anderson, a pediatric surgeon with OSF HealthCare Children's Hospital of Illinois, told the OSF Newsroom she would refrain from having any small kids near a hot fryer or a stove.

"If you're deep frying a turkey, I would not have my child anywhere near it; the splashing can get them. They're at a different level from the items," says Anderson. "So, things on the stove can get pulled down; we see a lot of scald burns on the face, chest, and abdomen from kids pulling stuff down on themselves."

If someone does experience a burn, Anderson said, there are multiple types of burns. Knowing the symptoms of each degree will help patients know how to treat it.

"There are three main degrees of burn, the first being like a light sunburn. The second degree can have some blistering and be a little deeper. Third degree, the most severe type of burn, can look white and be hard and firm. Because the skin and tissue underneath it are completely burnt," Dr. Anderson says.

George recommends keeping a

See **SITUATIONS** on 4



Associated Press

A football fan deep fries a turkey before a 2016 Thanksgiving day game between the Detroit Lions and the Minnesota Vikings. According to the National Fire Protection Association approximately 1,446 fires occur on Thanksgiving each year.



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WEATHER

Today: Very windy, colder.

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