

LAKE COUNTY

# NEWS-SUN

\$2.00 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025 NEWSSUNONLINE.COM

## Teachers union helps D116 with shortfall



Andrea Eiter, a teacher in Round Lake Area Schools District 116, pushed for the board to do more for teachers after the union overwhelmingly voted to support a salary raise reduction to help fix a budget shortfall..  
JOE STATES/PIONEER PRESS

### Round Lake Area School District falls into \$11 million hole due to fiscal error

By Joseph States

An \$11 million hole in Round Lake Area School District 116’s budget, blamed on the former chief financial officer, has been filled by cutting eight administrative positions and halving salary increases for all staffers for the next two fiscal years, with the approval of the teachers union. The fix was announced during a special board meeting Wednesday evening, which was primarily a question-and-answer session for community members, who raised various concerns about the district following the embarrassing financial shortfall announced last month.

The salary modification, which reportedly had an 88% approval rate by the Education Association of Round Lake — the area’s teachers union — requires the district to repay the money essentially

lent by the staff, “as future budget surpluses allow,” according to a news release, “ensuring that staff will ultimately be made whole.” But some raised criticisms about the fix, wondering why teachers and staff were on the hook because of an error made by the administration, and several, including a district teacher, warned about potential impacts on teacher retention. As Superintendent Donn Mendoza explained it, the initial error occurred during last year’s budgeting process, with two areas

Turn to D116, Page 2



The Rev. Manuel Dorantes walks the grounds of Borgo Laudato Si' on May 20 outside Rome. Dorantes moved from serving in Chicago to Italy after being appointed by Pope Francis as the administrative management director of the Laudato Si' Center for Higher Education in 2024.

## Waukegan priest leads project

Pope Leo launches Vatican’s groundbreaking ecology project, directed by Rev. Dorantes

By Angie Leventis Lourgos  
Chicago Tribune

VATICAN CITY— Gazing at the lavish Italian-style gardens and intricate topiaries of the pope’s vast summer estate just outside of Rome, a local priest who immigrated to Waukegan from Mexico as a child marveled that he’s been entrusted with their care. The grounds are home to the Vatican’s seminal ecological project, the Borgo Laudato Si’, a 135-acre experiment in sustainable farming and environmental education. It’s designed to serve as a model for intertwining the protection of both creation and often-vulnerable populations such as migrants, refugees and those in poverty, said the Rev. Manuel Dorantes, the initial-

ative’s managing director and a longtime Archdiocese of Chicago priest with deep ties to several area parishes. “We all need to come together to be able to promote environmental sustainability and uplift human dignity, especially of the most vulnerable,” Dorantes, 42, said. Chicago native Pope Leo XIV formally inaugurated the Borgo Laudato Si’ on Friday, declaring that “care for creation is truly a vocation for every human being.” During the dedication, the Holy Father reaffirmed his commitment to ecological preservation and education, carrying on the legacy of his predecessor Pope Francis, whose writings inspired the Borgo Laudato Si’.

Turn to Dorantes, Page 3



Ancient Roman ruins that have been collected on the site are displayed inside Borgo Laudato Si' on May 20 outside Rome. BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

### LAW & ORDER

## Lake Barrington man goes missing

By Clifford Ward  
Lake County News-Sun

Lake County authorities are seeking the public’s help in locating a missing Lake Barrington man. The Lake County Sheriff’s Office is asking anyone who has seen Andrew McAuliff to contact police. McAuliff, 30, was last seen about two weeks ago in the 400 block of White Oak Lane in Lake Barrington, leaving his home on foot. He did not have his phone or other electronic devices with him, the sheriff’s office said. The missing man was last seen wearing a gray T-shirt, black shorts and gray gym shoes. He is five-foot-11 and weighs about 145 pounds, with brown hair and brown eyes. The sheriff’s office has posted a photo of him on its Facebook page. Anyone with information is asked to call the sheriff’s office at 847-549-5200.

### Jet skis crash

Police said four people were injured on Labor Day when their jet skis collided on Gage’s Lake. Two Indiana men were driving the personal watercraft, with each carrying a female passenger, when the collision happened at about noon. The Lake County Sheriff’s Office said one of the jet skis cut in front of the second, and the lead craft’s “no wake mode” was activated, causing it to slow dramatically. The following craft was unable to slow down, and it ran into the other. A man and woman were brought to a hospital for treatment of what police said were non-life-threatening injuries. The other two people suffered minor injuries but declined to be transported, police said. The incident remains under investigation.

Turn to Ward, Page 2

## Trump: Chicago ‘about to find out why’ it’s ‘Department of WAR’

Social media post ‘not normal,’ Pritzker says

By Rick Pearson  
Chicago Tribune

President Donald Trump set the stage for a surge of immigration enforcement actions in Chicago with a social media post Saturday morning depicting military helicopters flying over the city’s lakefront using the title “Chipocalypse Now.” “I love the smell of deportations in the morning ...” Trump posted on his Truth Social account, altering a famous phrase from the 1979 Vietnam War movie “Apocalypse Now.” In the post, Trump is depicted in U.S. Army fatigues and

sunglasses and wearing a Stetson U.S. Cavalry hat like the lieutenant colonel portrayed in the movie by actor Robert Duvall. “Chicago is about to find out why it’s called the Department of WAR,” Trump wrote, a day after signing an executive order to rename the Department of Defense to its pre-1949 title. The posting was Trump’s latest signal that he may authorize the use of military assets, specifically the National Guard, as part of a stepped-up operation by federal agencies under the Department of Homeland Security, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement, anticipated to begin as soon as this weekend. But as of Saturday evening, there was no evidence of widespread ICE activity.

Trump had no public events scheduled for Saturday, leaving his social media post to speak of his agenda after vacillating for weeks on whether he would deploy the Guard in Chicago or other Democratic-led cities. Illinois Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker, a persistent Trump foe who has vowed to go to court to fight a presidential deployment of the Guard, responded on the social media platform X by stating: “The President of the United States is threatening to go to war with an American city.” “This is not a joke. This is not normal. Donald Trump isn’t a strongman, he’s a scared man. Illinois won’t be intimidated by a

Turn to Post, Page 2



Gov. JB Pritzker talks with reporters Wednesday after leaving a meeting with community violence intervention leaders at the Metropolitan Peace Academy in Chicago’s Pilsen neighborhood. President Donald Trump has said he’ll send in the National Guard. BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

