

Schneider holds town hall for seniors

Lawmaker's focus goes beyond Social Security

By Steve Sadin
FOR LAKE COUNTY NEWS-SUN

Meeting with a group of senior citizens, U.S. Rep. Brad Schneider, D-Highland Park, wanted to talk about the upcoming anniversary of Social Security, which was signed into law on Aug. 14, 1935. But his audience wanted to talk about current events.

"What are you going to do about the Democrats who are so extreme?" one town hall participant asked, referring to members of the Democratic Socialists of America

whose candidates have recently won several Democratic primary elections across the country.

"Why did (President Donald) Trump cut out Medicaid?" Dan Fagin, the president and CFO of CJE Senior Life, asked.

Schneider answered those questions and more, as well as talking about the future of Social Security during a senior town hall Thursday at the Weinberg Community for Senior Living in Deerfield, giving the crowd of more than 40 people insight into the state of the country.

Asked what Democrats will do if they gain control of the U.S. House of Representatives in the Nov. 3 midterm election, Schneider said he hopes the majority is large enough

that U.S. Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, D-New York, becomes speaker with the ability to get laws passed.

Just as current Speaker Mike Johnson, R-Louisiana, has people in his caucus who stymie legislation, Schneider does not want that to happen in a Democrat-controlled Congress. He said there are similarities between the extremes in both parties.

Both the Democratic Socialists and members of the Republican Freedom Caucus are isolationist and exclusive in their desire to push their values with little to no compromise, Schneider said. Then he distinguished them.



U.S. Rep. Brad Schneider, D-Highland Park, talks about Social Security and current events during a senior town hall Thursday in Deerfield. STEVE SADIN/FOR THE LAKE COUNTY NEWS-SUN

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A worker on the set of the movie "Line Cooks" watches as actor David Pasquesi shoots a scene on Aug. 26 in downtown Naperville. CAROLYN STEIN/NAPERVILLE SUN

Suburbs put guardrails on filmmaking activities

Towns trying to balance accessibility with accountability

By Steve Zalusky
DAILY HERALD

With filmmaking gaining a firm foothold in the state, suburbs like Naperville, Lisle and Long Grove have either put guardrails in place to protect their towns or are working toward that goal.

Filmmaking is big business in Illinois, with expenditures in the state reaching a record \$703 million in 2025, according to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Office of Film.

The state issued more than \$200 million in tax credits last year, said Peter Hawley, Illinois Film Office director.

"We're getting more and more feature films coming to Illinois," Hawley said. "They're not on soundstages. They're almost all on

locations."

Hawley said 90% of the production in the state is in the Chicago area. That activity is exhibiting suburban sprawl.

Long Grove has been one community reaping the benefits. Its rural charm has provided an attractive background for Christmas-themed romance.

Now the village is discussing amending the village's code to insert guidelines on commercial filming or photography. The proposed ordinance would establish fees of \$250

per day for small productions with 10 people or fewer, \$500 per day for medium productions with between 11 and 30 people, and \$1,000 per day for large productions with greater than 30 people.

"It would clarify what the fees and process would be to receive a permit to film in the downtown or Long Grove generally," Village Manager Chris Sparkman said.

He said the ordinance is intended to offset some of the village's costs.

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LAW & ORDER

New Lake associate judge elected

By Clifford Ward
FOR LAKE COUNTY NEWS-SUN

A partner at a Chicago law firm will be sworn in later this month as Lake County's new associate judge.

Sari W. Montgomery was elected to the bench by a vote of Lake County's Circuit Court judges. She will replace Judge Luis Berrones, who is retiring.

"Sari Montgomery is widely respected for her exceptional work in legal ethics and professional responsibility, having devoted nearly three decades to advancing the highest standards of the legal profession," Chief Judge Daniel Shanes said. "Her career reflects a career defined by excellence, fairness, and service. She will undoubtedly bring those same qualities to the bench."

Montgomery, who is a partner at the firm of Robinson, Stewart, Montgomery and Doppke, spent more than a decade as senior litigation counsel for the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission of the Illinois Supreme Court. The ARDC is the body that investigates and hears complaints against lawyers.

Since 2010, she has represented lawyers and judges in disciplinary proceedings, according to her firm's website.

"It is the honor of my career to be appointed as an associate judge for the 19th Judicial Circuit. I appreciate and am humbled by the confidence the circuit judges have placed in me and look forward to serving the Lake County community in this new role," Montgomery said.

She is a graduate of the University of Chicago and Loyola University's College of Law. Montgomery

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Federal changes could threaten Midwest wildlife



A newly hatched piping plover briefly ventures out on its own at Montrose Beach Dunes on June 16 in Chicago. JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Piping plovers, dragonflies may be hurt by alterations

By Finnegan Belleau
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

As temperatures hovered around 80 degrees and few clouds obscured a bright blue sky, many people took the opportunity to enjoy a summer day last week at Montrose Beach. Children dug holes in the sand. Families kicked around soccer balls. And some cautiously waded into water against crashing waves.

At a nearby stone pier, people participated in a different type of entertainment: bird-watching. Present in the area were the American herring gull, mallards and sander-

lings. But enthusiasts walking to the edge of a fenced-off sanctuary kept asking each other the same question: Had anyone seen a piping plover?

The tiny, sand-colored shorebirds — as well as North America's tallest bird and an unusual dragonfly — are among many animals in the Midwest that may be affected by recent changes weakening the Endangered Species Act, the primary law outlining conservation of at-risk wildlife in the U.S.

Alongside other alterations, the administration of President Donald Trump changed the definition of "harm" to no longer include significant modification of endangered species' habitats. Experts and advocates say this change will put these species at risk of extinction.

"If you take water away from a fish, you're going to harm that fish,"

Waukegan piping plover population grows. Page 3

said Ben Greuel, national wildlife campaign manager at the Sierra Club. "You're taking away the habitat it needs to survive. That was a common sense element of the Endangered Species Act."

EVEN LESS PROTECTION

Greuel identified the piping plover as one animal at significant risk due to the change in how harm is defined, saying the birds are an Endangered Species Act "success story."

The Great Lakes' piping plover population reached an all-time low of about 13 pairs in the 1980s after

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