

## Three Sheets in The Wind . . . by Mary

Can you believe we are standing at the door, or maybe you've already opened it, the door to 2026? I know this is a time to make resolutions and to look back at the last year, 2025. I have decided to try, as the famous Monty Python movie told us, to always "look on the brightside." So, that is what I shall try to do as I think back on 2025. It would be easy to point fingers, to talk about the mixed up, mad, sometimes crazy, dysfunctional and downright unbelievable things that have happened over this past year. Thankfully, I've witnessed and even been a part of some really happy things.

There were lunches. At least 10 times (we tried for once a month, but didn't always make it) I had lunch with some wonderful friends. At a different restaurant each time, we talked and laughed, gave advice and listened to each other's thoughts, problems, ordeals and good news. Which restaurant was best? Well, that would be the one where I was lucky enough to share an hour or more with these great people. The food might have mattered, but not nearly as much.

And more lunches. These were the noon time gatherings with the "family gals." Sometimes one of the guys might come along. Always welcome, but I'm not sure they always get it. I see them shake their head as if they wonder just what is so funny. These lunches are organized, if you can seriously call them organized, to celebrate whoever has a birthday close. Truthfully it is simply a reason, as if we need one, to get together.

I saw a few plays this past year, and one of the funniest, knee slapping plays I've seen in a while was "Clue." This was fun. It was ridiculous, but actually laugh out loud. I saw it at the Peoria Civic Center Theatre. I remember when that was being built. At the time, I thought this new project would eventually prove to be a mistake and probably a failure. As I understand from the news, the Center is actually one of the most successful in the nation. I'm glad I was wrong.

A few months back, I mentioned how hard it is to open screw on bottle caps. Trying to open a jar of grape jelly should be an Olympic event with a gold medal to anyone who is able to get to the jelly on the first try without using a hammer, an electric drill or driving over it with a 4 wheel drive Hummer.

Anyway, apparently in answer to my constant nagging about impossible lids, I received a visit from a kind reader who brought me a gadget perfect for opening jars. This was a really kind, appreciated and unexpected gesture. It was also not the first as I was also gifted a gizmo to take the "itch" out of mosquito bites.

Speaking of readers, I have received calls from a few people with some ideas of their own and with some nice words. Thoughtful gestures like these are such a wonderful treat, particularly when it comes from a friend who shares memories of the "old" days in Lacon. It just makes my day to have a visit with someone who

remembers the movie theater, the old Convent, the Saturday night "drawing" in the alley downtown and walking or riding a bicycle, back and forth wherever we needed or wanted to go, without a care.

In this past year, Lacon seems to have taken on a new attitude. The businesses are welcoming and are bringing new retail to our town. We have a busy, progressive and up to date library. This is a place for both kids and adults, readers and video renters, computer users and a place to get information. Cool off in the summer and warm up in the winter.

As I said, there are many things to be happy about like the pictures of a little girl hosting her first tea party with the new tiny porcelain tea set, the young boy with a new bicycle and the big sister surrounded by new books to read. A child's joy at Christmas is heartwarming for those who are lucky enough to have a glimpse of that joy.

As much as I've enjoyed reflecting on a few of the wonderful happenings of last year, there are some that were just awful. For that reason, it's a good idea to keep a room in your memory filled with good things, little ones, big ones and ones that amount to just a smile. Unfortunately the rooms in my memory have gone from a mansion the size of the Metropolitan Museum, to an efficiency apartment. Anyway, keep those memories at hand to remind yourself that in spite of what you hear, read in the news or see on T.V., it's not all bad.

## Court News

(From Toluca Front Page)  
Jen. Grantee: Kenneth A. Schmillen, Regina A. Schmillen. Section 7, Township 29N, Range 1E, Govt Lot --NE, Notes W 1/2, ex pt. Section 7, 29N, 1E, --NW, Notes N 1/2 Lt 1 & 2, Ex Pt. Warranty Deed.

Betty Heggemeier Co. Tr., Greg Simpson Co. Tr. Grantee: The Whitetail Group LLC. Section 11, Township 30N, Range 2W, Govt Lot --SE-NE. Section 11, 30N, 2W, --SE, Notes Ex Pt. Trust Deed.

Grantor: Peggy Ann Nelson. Grantee: Robert H. Baer. Section 31, Township 12W, Range 8E, Govt Lot --SW-SE, Notes Lt. 5, 6, 7, 8 and S 12.7' of Lot 4 of Assessors S/D, ex pt. Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Katherine Azbell, Troi Palm. Grantee: Scarlett Palm. Lacon (Original Town) Block 22, Lot 7. Quit Claim Deed.

## LACON CHIROPRACTIC

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Michael D. Girone, D.C.

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Adult Bible Class: 9:45 a.m.

Facebook:  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Lutheran Church

# New Laws In Illinois

(From Lacon Front Page)

It comes as Illinois, especially downstate, is targeted for carbon sequestration projects due to the state's favorable geology and the availability of federal tax credits.

Studies, including those conducted by researchers at the University of Illinois, have found minimal risk to water sources from sequestration activity.

But the legislation was a priority for central Illinois community activists, environmental advocates and a bipartisan cadre of local lawmakers with zero risk tolerance due to the lack of a clear alternative water source if the aquifer were tainted.

### Safer gear for firefighters

Illinois will take first steps towards requiring safer gear for firefighters.

Under House Bill 2409, manufacturers of firefighter turnout gear starting in 2026 must provide written notice if their products contain PFAS, also known as "forever chemicals."

Numerous scientific studies have linked exposure to PFAS to an increased risk of developing various forms of cancer.

Manufacturers will be banned from selling turnout gear and personal protective equipment containing PFAS altogether starting on Jan. 1, 2027.

### Lift-assist fees

House Bill 2336 allows municipalities or fire districts to charge assisted living facilities or nursing homes for calls to fire departments requesting help lifting a resident when it is not an emergency.

The bill was an initiative of the Illinois Municipal League, which argued the calls to fire departments for the nonemergency service are a burden on local governments and shift liabilities for injuries that happen during the process to fire departments rather than the facility.

### Stadium funding

Senate Bill 2772 adds women's professional sports to the types of facilities the Illinois Sports Facilities Authority can oversee. Current law only allows the ISFA to oversee sports facilities for baseball, football and auto racing.

The bill is not designed to move any team's stadium proposals forward, though the Chicago Stars women's soccer team has previously been reported to be interested in building a new stadium with help from state funding.

The bill was the only one related to sports stadium funding that advanced in Springfield in 2025. The Chicago Bears committed earlier this year to building a stadium in Arlington Heights but are still waiting for approval from the village and struggling to find support in Springfield for funding.

### Public official privacy

House Bill 576 allows state lawmakers, constitutional officers and state's attorneys, among others, to request that their personal information be redacted on public websites.

Public officials would be able to use their campaign funds to pay for personal security services and security upgrades to their home, including security systems, cameras, walls, fences and other physical improvements.

### Rewilding

House Bill 2726 allows the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to implement rewilding as a conservation strategy for the state.

This could entail the restoration of land to its natural state and the reintroduction of native species, especially apex predators and keystone species like bison and beavers.

Illinois is believed to be the first state to codify the strategy into law.

### Reservation app regulations

State lawmakers voted this year to crackdown on third-party restau-

rant reservation apps.

House Bill 2456 prohibits third-party reservation services from selling reservations without a restaurant's permission. Restaurants are still allowed to partner with the services.

### Paid time off to pump breast milk

Senate Bill 212 mandates employers to compensate mothers who take breaks at work to pump breast milk for up to a year after their child is born. The bill prohibits employers from requiring employees to use paid leave time for pumping.

### Naloxone in libraries

House Bill 1910 requires that libraries maintain a supply of opioid overdose medication, like naloxone. This drug is often administered through a nasal spray

like Narcan. The law also requires that at least one staff member be trained to identify overdoses and administer the drug.

### Police training on sexual assault

Senate Bill 1195, also known as Anna's Law, requires police officers in training to participate in trauma-informed programs, procedures and practices that are designed to reduce trauma for victims. The bill is named after Anna Williams, a suburban resident who brought the initiative to lawmakers following her own experience with a sexual assault investigation. The bill takes effect in January.

### Predatory towing

Senate Bill 2040 gives the Illinois Commerce Commission new powers to punish predatory towing companies which sometimes tow cars under false pretenses only to charge drivers afterwards. The ICC-backed law allows the agency to revoke towing licenses, impound tow trucks and more.

# New Gun Laws In Illinois

(From Lacon Front Page)

ward and over time, our communities and law enforcement will have built a trusting relationship, and I will have kept my promise to my childhood friends and Sonya's mother," Sen. Doris Turner, a Springfield Democrat who sponsored the bill and knows Massey's family, said at an August news conference.

### Gun permits for offenders

Senate Bill 1899 creates a path for first-time gun offenders to obtain a Firearm Owner's Identification Card and legally own a gun.

First-time offenders are allowed to apply for a FOID card after receiving a court order demonstrating they successfully completed the First Time Weapons Offense Diversion Program and are otherwise eligible to own a gun.

The opportunity narrowly applies to people charged with a Class 4 felony, which is the lowest level charge for illegally possessing a firearm. The bill received bipartisan support in the legislature, and proponents said it will mostly benefit young people.

### Human trafficking statute of limitations

The statute of limitations on cases of human trafficking of minors

is going away.

House Bill 2602 removes the 25-year window for victims of involuntary servitude, involuntary sexual servitude of a minor, or trafficking to pursue charges from crimes that happened while they were a minor. They will now be allowed to bring charges at any time.

Rep. Anne Stava, D-Naperville, said in April that the 25-year cap was protecting human traffickers who "really don't deserve peace of mind." The bill unanimously passed the General Assembly.

### Missing persons reports

Senate Bill 24 prohibits police departments from establishing waiting periods before they accept a missing persons report. The law requires police to immediately enter information about a person reported missing into the Law Enforcement Agencies Data System.

The law also requires police to keep missing persons cases open until the person is located.

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