

Toluca Man Arrested Following Domestic Dispute

On Monday, April 13, 2026 at approximately 4:30 p.m., the Marshall County Sheriff's Office was dispatched to the 200 block of N. Olive Street in Toluca following a 911 call reporting that a male subject was breaking windows on a residence and vehicle with a baseball bat. Deputies arrived and located Kendale Coleman, 41, of Toluca, actively damaging property. Coleman was taken into custody without incident, and further investigation led to his arrest on charges of Aggravated Domestic Battery and Criminal Damage to Property. At the time of this incident, Coleman was on pretrial release for prior matters. Coleman

was transported to the Marshall County Jail.

On April 15, 2026, Coleman appeared in Marshall County Court, where he was formally charged with two counts of Aggravated Domestic Battery (Class 2 Felony) and two counts of Criminal Damage to Property (\$500-\$10,000) (Class 4 Felony). Following his appearance, Coleman was denied pretrial release and ordered to be held in the Marshall County Jail until further order of the court.

This information is solely to provide accurate accounts of this case. As in all criminal cases, defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law

Will Illinois Approve A Cellphone Ban In Schools?

Illinois is one of only eight states with no statewide restrictions on cellphones in classrooms

by Sam Freeman and Medill Illinois News Bureau

After the Latin School of Chicago passed a cellphone ban, students, who typically would be glued to their phones on their way to class, looked up, interacted with their peers and were more immersed in school, officials said.

The Latin School of Chicago first restricted cellphone use for the 2024-25 school year, and a year later, revised it to a total ban during school hours. Since then, students recognize increased engagement, both during instructional time and breaks.

"I'm grateful for the phone ban. I'll take a more-connected community over the minor conveniences of a cellphone any day," Scarlet Gitelson, the editor-in-chief of the student-run paper The Fulcrum, said in an op-ed.

As the Illinois legislature once again considers a statewide cellphone ban in schools, it looks to success stories like the Latin School to propose a bill aimed at addressing mental health and enhancing student success.

A push to regulate in Illinois

Illinois is one of only eight states that have no statewide restrictions on the use of cellphones in public schools.

An amendment to Senate Bill 2427, which passed the Illinois House Education Committee unanimously on March 25, would require all Illinois public and charter schools to adopt policies restricting student use of cellphones, tablets and other devices during class time.

The bill still needs approval from the full House, where it's not subject to a Friday deadline for final action, because a previous version already passed the Senate 55-0 last year. Because it was amended in the House, however, the Senate will need to approve the amended version before it can head to Gov. JB Pritzker, who's been pushing for the measure for two years.

"There's real harm being done, and it's interfering with our ability to give children the most productive educational environment possible. It's time to get cellphones out of the classroom," Pritzker said in his February State of the State speech.

The line drew bipartisan applause.

Under the bill, elementary and

middle schools would be required to implement a bell-to-bell ban while high schools could allow their students to use their devices during lunch and breaks. The policy for high schools would vary according to school district.

Last year, the bill didn't receive a House vote due to concerns about

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Toluca Rotary Club Names March Fieldcrest 8th Grade Student of the Month



The Rotary Club of Toluca is happy to announce that Carley Sunken is the March Eighth Grade Student of the Month for Fieldcrest Middle School.

Carley was chosen by her teachers, who say that she consistently demonstrates outstanding character and has a strong moral compass in all that she does. She treats others with respect, integrity, and compassion, even in challenging situations, and serves as a positive example for those around her. Her honesty, reliability, and commitment to doing what is right make her highly deserving of this award.

Carley is an excellent example of someone who demonstrates the values of Service Above Self, which is the primary motto of Rotary International.

Illinois Has Most Government Units, But Consolidation Brings Challenges

By Jim Talamonti | The Center Square

A new report says Illinois is among the most fragmented states in the nation when it comes to local government, but consolidation is not always an effective cost-cutting option.

The Civic Federation report found that Illinois has 8,923 local government units, over 3,000 more than any other state in the nation.

The report author, Civic Federation Senior Policy and Research Associate Lily Padula, said Illinois statute makes it easy to create governments but difficult to consolidate or remove them.

"Many of these governments were created decades ago to meet specific needs and instead of replacing them, we just added new layers," Padula told The Center Square. Gov. J.B. Pritzker recognized the

issue when he spoke at the Illinois Local News Summit in Chicago.

"Let's face it, with more local units of government than any other state - this is a problem we should be covering - there's never a shortage of news in the land of Lincoln," Pritzker said.

Padula said consolidation has mainly been driven at the county, township and municipal level. She said the cost savings vary greatly.

"Some efficiencies like reducing administrative overlap can happen relatively quickly and have some cost savings with them. Others take time, and so the report emphasizes that the outcomes depend on how consolidation is designed and how it's implemented and then that can lead to some cost savings," Padula said.

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Illinois Valley Herb Guild To Hold Annual Garden Faire Saturday, May 9th In Peru



The Illinois Valley Herb Guild is holding their annual Garden Faire plant sale event at St. Bede Academy gymnasium in Peru, IL on Saturday May 9, 2026 from 9AM to 2PM. In addition to a wide selection of culinary and medicinal herbs, the event will feature various vendors, a bake sale, and a lunch counter. This year's event will also include live demonstrations on creating herb planters, preparation of a medicinal use of herbs, and a culinary herb demonstration.

The organization, celebrating their 35th year anniversary, was founded by Barbara Burch and Marge Stansell. These ladies had been attending the Peoria Herb Guild and had considered over a year starting a local guild. Then in September 1991, the Illinois Valley Herb Guild held their first meeting. Beginning with 45 charter members of which 2 charter members are still active today.

The plant sale began in 1998 as a fundraiser to support the educational programs and the organization's operating expenses and activities. The IVHG even published a cookbook in 2001 consisting of a compilation of Guild member recipes with over 400 pages of content.

Currently, the Illinois Valley Herb Guild meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 6PM at the Putnam County Senior Center in Standard, IL. Meetings feature an educational program given by guest speakers on a variety of topics ranging from gardening and herbs, nature related studies, and cooking demonstrations with some meeting programs conducted in a field trip setting. After the program, refreshments are served and a short business meeting follows.

For more information, please visit the Illinois Valley Herb Guild Facebook page or contact the IVHG at illvalleyherbguild@gmail.com.

Marshall County Court News

FINES LEVIED

Mitchell P. Hansen 3/12/26 by County Traffic "driving 15-20 mph above limit" 4/10/26 fine \$164.

James P. Rediger 3/17/26 by IL Sec of State Police "seat belt required/driver" 4/15/26 fine \$164.

LAND TRANSFER

Grantor: JICTB Inc. Grantee: Maria I. Cejudo. Section 27, Township 29N, Range 2W, Govt Lot --NE, Notes Lt 15 Co CLK

S/D, Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Denny Herron. Grantee: Allison Marie Oliver. Section 17, Township 29N, Range 1W, Govt Lot: --SW, Notes Pt. Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Beth A. May, Daniel L. Wudtke, Mark F. Wudtke. Grantee: Jared Connell. Section 4, Township 29N, 1E, Govt Lot: --SW, Notes Pt. Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Laurynne Hillenburg, Kevin M. Testin, Laurynne M. Testin. Grantee: Chelsea Hinthorn. Twists 1st Add., Block 4, Lot 6, Notes Pt. Twists 1st Add, Block 4, Lot 5, Notes Pt, S 1/2. Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Michael Mele. Grantee: Michael Kakara, Sarah Kakara. Lake Wildwood Development Lot (Continued On Page 6)

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