

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

A rundown of the summer's upcoming events
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WEDNESDAY EDITION

THE DAILY JOURNAL



Out & About

Recitals, fireworks and tractors converge on this week's page
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July 8, 2009
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(Item may not be exactly as pictured)

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Weather

Thursday
Warmer, humid

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A group of noted speakers gathered for a "Keep Jobs in Kankakee" town hall meeting Tuesday. From left to right are Phil Kerpen, Gary Baise, Ron Gidwitz and Bill Kristol. For more on their background, see page A3.

Citizen saviors?

Public input seen as way to reverse economic woes

By Lee Provost
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Energy act anti-business?
● A3

Bradley resident Tom Cameron nodded his head in agreement and loudly clapped his hands during several points of Tuesday's town hall meeting titled "Keep Jobs in Kankakee."

Although there were a few who complained afterward that the discussion was short on specifics about keeping existing jobs in Kankakee County, the majority of the crowd of more than 300 felt like Cameron — the evening was great.

"This was very, very informative," he said at the close of the event at the site of the former General Foods plant on Kankakee's north side.

"It's great to hear what the public thinks. This was fantastic. This is something we should do more often. The citizens can save this country," he said.

The event was sponsored by the Kankakee Regional Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the organization, Americans for Prosperity, who paid for the Washington D.C. panelists to

come in. The political and business panel assembled for the meeting said so much depends on what's next in Washington. Featured speaker and news analyst Bill Kristol said the ball is in the Democratic court now.

"There is a lot of party loyalty to be quite honest," he said. "It would be hard to vote against him (as a Democrat) on such a major issue" referring to voting against President Barack Obama on the American Clean Energy and Security Act.

"How fast does he use up his political capital?" Kristol asked.

Tom Ascher, 24, of Aroma Park, said he hopes it is sooner rather than later. A Republican, Ascher said people need to wake up before it's too late. The time to voice objections is before a vote.

"If some of these bills are passed, it will be difficult to undo them," he said. Marge Brooke of Peotone said people have to realize they are the people in control, not the representatives sent to Washington.

"We have the answers. As citizens we should have the answers. People should want to get their message out."

Ed Lee of Limestone said the country is moving toward socialism, a form of government where



Wayne Johnston, of Kankakee, asks why the government won't do more to control U.S. borders and stop the flow of illegal immigration during Tuesday's town hall meeting.

VIEW THE VIDEO
www.daily-journal.com

production and distribution are taken out of the private sector. "Why are we experimenting with socialism? It's never worked. We need more free enterprise."

Help sought in search for missing teenager

Martinton girl left home Friday

By Kristen Zambo
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It was a traditional rite of passage that Amanda Slaughter was looking forward to: Taking her daughter to buy a Sweet 16 dress next week.

Now Slaughter, of Martinton, is appealing for help to find her 15-year-old daughter, Samantha Bogdan. She last saw Sami, as friends and family members call her, at 11:30 p.m. Thursday when she went to bed.

Slaughter and her boyfriend awoke Friday morning to a letter from Sami informing them that she wasn't happy, she was leaving, and they were not to look for her.

Sami's friends, boyfriend and family haven't heard from her in six days. It is a mother's nightmare.

"I want to know she's safe,"

Slaughter told The Daily Journal Tuesday night. "I want to know she's not being hurt. I want to know she's not being held against her will."

All of Sami's clothes are gone. So is her mini laptop, two iPods, and her cell phone. Sami is 5 feet 4 inches tall, 119 pounds with brown-tinted hair. Anyone with information, should contact the Iroquois County Sheriff's Police at (815) 432-6992.

Messages were left Tuesday for Lt. Randy Eimen, but he was unavailable for comment.

Sami turns 16 on July 14. The family has been planning a birthday party for her on Saturday.

Slaughter said she hired a private investigator to help track Sami's cell phone calls and social-networking site activities. She said they learned that Sami was meeting men on the social-networking Web site Tagged.com.

"It's a site to meet someone and get attached," she said. "She's meeting guys on the Internet. She's talked to one guy from Alabama."

Out of 137 calls into and out of her daughter's phone, Slaughter said they've reached people at all but 24 numbers — which sheriff's police are investigating. These calls included family and friends. None said Sami was with them.

Regional search ongoing

Friends and relatives are distributing flyers throughout the region, covering ground from Indiana through northern Illinois, asking for information about Sami's disappearance. Slaughter said she has sent mass e-mails to relatives and friends throughout the country, asking them to pass the message along, and post flyers in their communities about Sami's disappearance. Posting them in truck stops is next.

"How do you walk away from your whole life without a backwards glance?" Slaughter asked. "She has made no contact with anyone. That's what scares me."

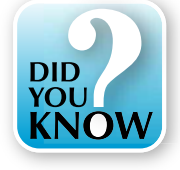
Iroquois County officials said Bogdan has been working at McDonald's in Watseka, and had a \$400 paycheck waiting to be picked up. It's clear she wasn't trying to amass a large sum of money for her trip.

Slaughter said her daughter has not used her bank card, either.

"Where did this come from? We just don't know what she was thinking. She didn't act like anything was wrong Thursday night," Slaughter said. "She said, 'Good night, Mom. See you in the morning.' I said, 'Good night, Sweetheart.' And Friday morning — gone. Just gone."

Briefs

On this date in 1981, **Sandra Day O'Connor** gained Senate approval and became the first woman in history to be appointed to the United States Supreme Court.
Source: www.brainyhistory.com



● IROQUOIS COUNTY Garrett indicted for murder

A Watseka man arrested last month in connection with the stabbing deaths of two Sheldon men has been indicted by an Iroquois County grand jury on murder charges, the state's attorney's office said Tuesday.

Brian Lee Garrett, 27, was indicted last week on four counts of first-degree murder in the stabbing deaths of Ralph Elsey, 62, and Robert Wood, 48, after he reportedly traveled to their Sheldon home on June 5. Iroquois County investigators have said that Garrett went to Elsey's home — where Wood was renting a room — looking for his girlfriend. They said a fight broke out and Garrett allegedly stabbed Elsey and Wood.



Garrett

Prosecutors are considering the death penalty in this case. According to the indictment, Garrett repeatedly stabbed Wood and Elsey.

Iroquois County Jail staff said Tuesday night that Garrett remains in jail, with bond set at \$1 million. Messages were left for Iroquois County State's Attorney Jim Devine, but he was unavailable for comment Tuesday.

A message also was left Tuesday for Garrett's defense attorney, Ronald Boyer, but he was unavailable for comment.

Court records show that Garrett's next hearing is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. July 30 at the Iroquois County Courthouse in Watseka.

Wood was discovered lying in a bush June 6 outside the home, located at 270 W. Depot Drive, leading officers to discover Elsey, as well.

Garrett was arrested June 7 in Indiana, outside Mentone, after his girlfriend — who also was renting a room from Elsey — turned him in. He was extradited from Indiana June 8.

- Kristen Zambo

● KANKAKEE Man shot; cops seek gunman

A 21-year-old Kankakee man was shot in the arm Monday night while standing behind Crestlane Apartments, 1075 N. Chicago Ave., Kankakee police said Tuesday.

Police are still searching for the gunman. A man was arrested at the scene on charges unrelated to the shooting.

At about 5:30 p.m. the victim was standing by building 210 when an unknown man started shooting at him, police reports said. He reportedly was shot in the upper left arm and taken to a local hospital for treatment.

While officers were speaking with people in the area, they arrested Martell D. Stanback, 19, of 309 N. Greenwood Ave. He was charged with obstructing police after allegedly telling police a fake name, police reports said. He also was wanted on a warrant for failure to register as a sex offender, Kankakee police said.

Messages were left Tuesday for Kankakee Police Chief Mike Kinkade, but he was unavailable for comment.

Anyone with information about the shooting is asked to call the investigations bureau at (815) 933-0426 or Crime Stoppers at (815) 93-CRIME.

- Kristen Zambo

● WATSEKA Unidentified man lottery winner

A man who frequently purchases lottery tickets at Scotchmon's East liquor store in Watseka is apparently a \$250,000 winner of the Mega Millions lottery game.

Scotchmon's East employees told The Daily Journal the Illinois State Lottery informed them recently they have a winner. But lottery officials could not confirm the winning amount or the name of the winner at press time.

"This is the biggest amount I am aware of since I have been working here," said Joe Caise, Scotchmon's store manager. "We like to see people having some luck. It's nice to see a local person win."

Caise said the winning ticket was sold on June 26 to an elderly man who frequently purchases the tickets. He was unaware of the man's name, but believes he is a resident of Watseka.

Illinois State Lottery official Mike Lang told The Daily Journal the agency is checking into the winning claim and name of the winner. The winning claim was not posted on the agency's Web site.

- Jon Krenke

Kankakee

Eye on energy

Opponents: New environmental policies would be detrimental

By Lee Provost

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Taking a page from the highly successful strategy of the Democratic Party, there was a town hall meeting Tuesday night to discuss the nation's economic direction.

By the end of the evening, the more than 300 attending left with more questions than answers, but many felt they had been educated, which was the point of the event.

The event was sponsored by the Kankakee Regional Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the organization Americans for Prosperity. The chamber brought the audience, and the national Americans for Prosperity brought — and paid for — the heavy-hitting headliners to discuss what is going on in Washington, D.C.

Highlighting the discussion was FOX News political analyst Bill Kristol, who said citizens need to push for change as opposed to waiting for politicians to take the lead.

"This is a time when citizens can get involved," Kristol said to the audience, gathered on the grounds of the shuttered former General Foods plant on Hobbie Avenue on Kankakee's north side. "You need to get involved. This is really an unusual moment. No one really knows what's going to happen."

The evening was billed as a nonpolitical, nonpartisan, something the chamber went to great pains to stress. Yet, the meeting was dominated by Republican Party views and the speakers implied that many of President Obama's initiatives could swing the United States from a free-market society to that of socialism.

Kristol said Republicans seem to be adopting the strategy that Democrats used to wrestle away the GOP's control of the White House and Congress.

"I give Obama a huge amount of credit. ... The Republican Party got too complacent and they are now not the party in control," Kristol said after the nearly two-hour program.



The Daily Journal/Lisa Pesavento

Bill Kristol, FOX News television commentator, speaks at the Kankakee Regional Chamber of Commerce rally Tuesday evening at the Space Center in Kankakee.

"I see events like this catching on," he said after the meeting.

The high cost of clean energy

A focus of the event was the opposition to the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009. The bill would make a number of changes in energy and environmental policies largely aimed at reducing emissions of gases that are said to contribute to global warming.

This bill recently squeaked out of the U.S. House of Representatives by a 219-212 vote. The U.S.

Senate is expected to cast a vote on its version sometime in October. Whether it will clear the Democrat-controlled Senate is unknown.

And what will be in the final version is also a question mark.

During the wide-ranging discussion, panelists gave a lot of statistics and information. But the members were markedly representing a particular point of view with no opposing viewpoints at the table.

Gary Baise, an attorney with the Washington, D.C.,-based law

and lobbying firm of Olsson Frank Weeda Terman Bode Matz, pulled no punches.

He said the bill will limit the freedoms of people and drive up the cost of living. And he claimed, it is a main aim of the bill to replace coal-fired energy with a greater reliance on natural gas, wind and solar power. Even though, he said, there are questions regarding how much power can be produced from wind and solar sources.

And, Baise said, there seems to be no indication the rest of the world will follow this strategy of cleaner energy.

Phil Kerpen, director of policy for Americans For Prosperity, said while the goal of stepping away from fossil fuels is to reduce global warming, the jury is still out as to the degree global warming exists.

At a meeting at The Daily Journal prior to the town hall event, Kerpen said the rest of the world "thinks we're loony when we are talking about global warming."

Kerpen said this act will make manufacturing and commercial business change operations to be in compliance with the new regulations. Kerpen estimated that such mandates could hit business so hard that 3 million jobs could be lost as a result.

"As a business sees its cost go up, they lay people off," he said. Baise said such pressure would only add to the problems in Kankakee County, which has 12 percent unemployment — one of the highest in the state.

Kerpen said homeowners won't escape this act either.

They will be required to update properties to meet these new standards and if they don't, the property will be labeled as nonenergy efficient. In effect, such a label would diminish a property's value.

David Hinderliter, executive director of the Kankakee Regional Chamber of Commerce, said people must know what Washington is proposing.

"This is about education and opportunity," Hinderliter said. "It's the time of the season to get information on this."

Police Blotter

Editor's note: The following is a roundup of area arrests for serious crimes. Unless otherwise stated, all of the people listed have been arrested but not yet charged. They are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Domestic battery — charges not filed

The Kankakee County State's Attorney's Office said staff have declined to file criminal charges against Mitchell Lee Thomas, 29, of 101 S. Bridge St., Aroma Park, who was arrested June 25 by Kankakee police and charged with domestic battery.

State's Attorney Jamie Boyd said prosecutors didn't have enough evidence to charge Thomas. Police were called at about 8:50 a.m. on June 25 by someone reporting that Thomas allegedly struck and choked a person in the 1000 block of South Curtis Avenue, according to the police report.

Unlawful use of weapon by a felon

Rex Martinez Delacruz, 32, of 1325 N. Arthur Burch Drive, Apt. A22, Bourbonnais, was arrested at about 9:05 p.m. Saturday in the 1300 block of North Arthur Burch Drive in unincorporated Bourbonnais and charged with unlawful possession of a weapon by a felon after police responded to a call of a woman shot in the leg, according to Kankakee County Sheriff's reports.

He reportedly told officers that they were cleaning a rifle but had forgotten to clear the chamber of rounds when it allegedly discharged and struck her in the left leg below the knee, sheriff's reports said.

Delacruz is a seven-time convicted felon for burglary, according to sheriff's reports, and shouldn't have had weapons in his possession. Police confiscated two .22-caliber rifles, a 12-gauge shotgun and shells and bullets, police reports said.

Aggravated assault

Wesley M. Jolgren, 51, of 1355 N. Arthur Burch Drive, Lot J3, Bourbonnais, was arrested at about 10:17 p.m. Saturday and charged with aggravated assault, aggravated battery and disorderly conduct after police were called to the 1300 block of north Arthur Burch Drive in unincorporated Bourbonnais, according to Kankakee County Sheriff's reports.

A man told police that Jolgren walked onto his property allegedly carrying a hatchet and shouting that the man's children had hurt a woman by shooting fireworks into her eye, sheriff's reports said. The man reportedly took the hatchet away before Jolgren hit the man with a lawn chair, sheriff's reports said.

Deceptive practices

A Kankakee woman reported at about 10:06 a.m. Monday that someone used her debit card on a \$495.88 purchase from Redbox DVD rental and to buy \$493.88 worth of merchandise from J. Crew, according to Kankakee County Sheriff's reports. Both charges were allegedly made on July 3, sheriff's reports said.

Burglary

The owner of Amberstone Storage, 7855 N. state Highway 50, in unincorporated Manteno, reported at about 1:03 p.m. Sunday that someone allegedly broke into storage units after the locks on 51 units were cut off, Kankakee County Sheriff's reports said. One lock had been cut but still was dangling from the door, sheriff's reports said. The incidents occurred between 7 p.m. Saturday and 1:03 p.m. Sunday.

A woman reported at about 12:37 p.m. Sunday that a World War II-era pistol, CD player and seven-inch touch-screen monitor were allegedly taken from a home in the 10000 block of east 4000N Road in unincorporated Mokena between 3 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. Sunday, according to Kankakee County Sheriff's reports.

Theft

Iroquois County Crime Stoppers is seeking information regarding two recent incidents involving the Donovan-Iroquois Summer League.

During the evening of June 26, the Donovan Village Park concession stand was allegedly burglarized. Unknown persons entered the concession stand and took an undetermined amount of food and beverage belonging to the Donovan-Iroquois Summer League.

On June 29, unknown persons allegedly stole a Honda four-wheeler belonging to the Donovan-Iroquois Summer League from a front yard of a Donovan residence.

If anyone has information regarding these crimes they are asked to call Crime Stoppers at (815) 43-CRIME or (815) 432-7463. Callers providing information leading to an arrest could receive a \$1,000 cash reward.

Kankakee Community College



MEET AND GREET

New Kankakee Community College president Dr. John Avendano greets a long line of well wishers at a reception Tuesday evening to introduce him to the community. Avendano, who served as the vice president for academic affairs and student development at Illinois Central College in East Peoria, assumed his new duties on July 1. He succeeds former KCC President Jerry Weber, who left to lead College of Lake County in Grayslake in April.

The Daily Journal/Mike Voss

Iroquois County

Residents indicted in drug bust

Part of 'Operation Stimulant Package'

By Kristen Zambo

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An Iroquois County grand jury handed up indictments against eight of a dozen people busted last week in a five-month undercover drug sting, the State's Attorney's Office said Tuesday.

Police began "Operation Stimulant Package" after receiving tips about specific people who were reportedly selling drugs in the region, Iroquois County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Derek Hagen has said. Indictments were handed up July 2 against the following:

- Stephen L. Carroll, 56, of rural Watseka, was indicted on one count of unlawful delivery of marijuana. He allegedly delivered between 10 grams and 30 grams of marijuana to a confidential informant during the undercover operation, the State's Attorney's Office said.

- Tammy L. Carroll, 45, also of rural Watseka, was indicted on one count of unlawful delivery of marijuana. She allegedly delivered between 10 grams and 30 grams of marijuana to a confidential informant, the State's Attorney's Office said.

- Jorge W. Dickenson, 27, of Onarga, was indicted on one count of unlawful possession of marijuana with intent to deliver. He allegedly had between 10 grams and 30 grams of marijuana, the State's Attorney's Office said.

- Lindsey E. Kernan, 18, of Watseka, was indicted on one count of unlawful possession of a controlled substance. She allegedly had 9.5 tablets of Alprazolam, which also is known as Xanax, the State's Attorney's Office said.

- Nicholas A. Nephew, 19, of Danforth, was indicted on one count of unlawful possession of marijuana. He allegedly possessed between 30 grams and 500 grams of marijuana, the State's Attorney's Office said.

- Bradley D. Rose, 26, of Crescent City, was indicted on one count of unlawful possession of a controlled substance. He allegedly possessed one Vicodin tablet, according to the State's Attorney's Office.

- Tompa R. Sears, 34, of Watseka, was indicted on one count of unlawful delivery of a look-alike substance. He allegedly delivered an undisclosed look-alike substance to a confidential source, the State's Attorney's Office said.

- Justin C. Smothers, 23, of Hoopston, was indicted on one count of unlawful delivery of marijuana. He allegedly delivered between 10 grams and 30 grams of marijuana to a confidential source, according to the State's Attorney's Office.

Messages were left Tuesday for Iroquois County State's Attorney Jim Devine, but he was unavailable for comment.

Messages also were left for Iroquois County Sheriff Eldon Sprau, Hagen, and Lt. Randy Eimen, but they were unavailable