

HOOPESTON RADIO, INC.

WHPO 101 COUNTRY

221 E BANK ST.

MILFORD, IL 60953

PUBLIC FILE INFORMATION FOR 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER 2022

AS STATION MANAGER, I CAN CERTIFY THAT HOOPESTON RADIO, INC. WHPO 101 COUNTRY RUNS DAILY NEWSCASTS AT 6 A.M., 7A.M. 8A.M. & 12P.M. MONDAY-FRIDAY AND 7 A.M. ON SATURDAY AND AIRS DAILY PSAS FROM AD COUNCIL AROUND THE CLOCK. ATTACHED IS A LIST OF ISSUES FROM NEWSCASTS AND LIVE INTERVIEWS FOR DIFFERENT EVENTS AND ISSUES AROUND THE COMMUNITY.

I CAN ATTEST THAT NEWSCAST AND PSAS RUN DAILY AND ISSUES ARE COVERED MONTHLY.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bakken". The signature is stylized with large, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

JAMIE LEE BAKKEN, GENERAL MANAGER

HOOPESTON RADIO, INC. WHPO 101 COUNTRY

## 4<sup>th</sup> quarter issues/news-WHPO RADIO 2022

1. 3 DIE IN A WEEKEND CRASH IN VERMILION COUNTY, The Vermilion County Coroner, Jane McFadden stated that a two vehicle accident that occurred early Sunday, October 2, 2022 on Catlin-Indianola Road in Indianola claimed the lives of Lee J. Hall, age 52, Felisha J. Hall, age 46, and their daughter, Madison G. Hall age 18 all of Oxford, Indiana. The Vermilion County Sheriff's Office, the Illinois State Police and the Vermilion County Coroner's office continue to investigate.

### 2. ILLINOIS STATE POLICE ANNOUNCE AN ADDITIONAL ARREST IN THE SHOOTING OF BRADLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS IN DECEMBER 2021

On October 5, 2022, the Illinois State Police (ISP) Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) Zone 3 officials arrested Xavier Harris, 22-year-old male of Bradley, IL for two counts of Obstructing Justice (Class 4 Felony), and two counts of Concealing or Aiding a Fugitive (Class 4 Felony). On December 29, 2021, at approximately 9:41 p.m., the Bradley Police Department responded to the Comfort Inn, 1500 north State Route 50, for reported dogs barking in an unattended vehicle which was parked in the parking lot. Sergeant Marlene Rittmanic was shot and killed. Officer Tyler Bailey was also shot and critically wounded. Darius Sullivan and Xandria Harris were subsequently arrested for First Degree Murder.

On October 7, 2022 Xavier Harris was issued a bond of \$75,000, 10% to apply. Harris is jailed at the Jerome Combs Detention Center in Kankakee, IL.

"Today's charges are the result of our collective commitment to ensure that every individual who aided and assisted in the events of December 29, 2021, are held accountable. I commend the Illinois State Police for never giving up and for continuing to bring all involved to justice. Including the four offenders charged by Indiana authorities, this Defendant is the 7th to be charged overall." – Kankakee County State's Attorney, Jim Rowe. ISP DCI Zone 3 is continuing to follow-up on all leads.

### 3. VERMILION COUNTY FARM BUREAU TO HOLD ANNUAL MEETING

Vermilion County Farm Bureau will hold its 104th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, November 29, 2022 at the Beef House Banquet Center in Covington, IN. Doors will open for registration at 5:30 pm (IL time), with dinner beginning at 6:00 pm.

During the registration period, members will have the opportunity to bid on items in the Vermilion County Farm Bureau Foundation's Silent Auction. The silent auction items are listing on the organization's website ([www.vcfb.info](http://www.vcfb.info))

Anyone not able to attend the meeting can submit a bid online. The auction proceeds help support the Ag in the Classroom program in Vermilion County.

The business portion of the evening will include recognition of the Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year, Farm Bureau Spokesperson of the Year, and the Farm Bureau Distinguished Service Award winner. The guest speaker for the evening will be Mark Gebhards, Illinois Farm Bureau's director of Governmental Affairs and Commodities. He'll talk about working with legislators, the upcoming Farm Bill and the importance of members being involved with our legislators. Tickets are required for the event, and are \$15 for farming "M" members, \$20 for A+ members, and \$25 for associate "A" members. They can be purchased at the Farm Bureau office, with a deadline to purchase tickets by Wednesday, November 23. The Farm Bureau office is located in the Vermilion County Center for Agriculture, 1905-C U.S. Route 150 at Henning Road, Danville.

### 4. HOOPESTON FIRE TAKES OUT ANOTHER BUILDING

The former Firestone in Hoopeston went up in flames this afternoon. Crews battled the fire for hours at the intersection of IL Route 1 and Penn St. The damage was so bad, they needed to tear the whole building down. Five other departments came to help out. "We came in for massive smoke and flames shooting out of the building," said Hoopeston Chief Joel Bird. "Once we arrived, we noticed the building was totally involved." Crews were able to put out the flames, but because of the structural integrity of the building, Bird says it wasn't safe for firefighters to go back inside when flames reignited. "As we're tearing it down it's adding oxygen to the fire and it's reigniting in the spots we needed to get, that's why it's being tore down," said Bird. Chief Bird says someone was renting out of the Old Firestone building.

"I was informed They were supposed to be evicting the people today," said Bird.

For hours the smoke was lingering when the demolition crews came. Flames sparked several times until they eventually knocked the main wall down.

"It's a little cold for us but we're getting the job done with a little bit of rain and snow," said Bird.

And while it is unclear what started the fire, The cause of the fire is still under investigation. Chief Bird says the next steps would hopefully be remediation from the building's owner.

#### 5. Toole resigned as VCHD Administrator

Vermilion County Health Department Director of Environmental Health Jana Messmore was named the new interim administrator for the department after VCHD Public Health Administrator Doug Toole resigned last week.

Vermilion County Board of Health president Brad Gross confirmed Toole's resignation. A hearing was last week, but board officials declined to discuss the personnel issue. The Board of Health, separate from the Vermilion County Board, named Messmore as interim public health administrator on Wednesday, Nov. 16. The board was to have a regular meeting on Nov. 15. "I'm not in the position to discuss personnel issues. All services are business as usual. The position will be posted soon," Messmore responded through email. The Vermilion County Board of Health oversees the health department and has its own board. Its website has no current meeting agenda or meeting minutes. No other information, including from board of health members, Vermilion County Risk Consultant Bill Donahue or the state's attorney's office, which Donahue says is the attorney for the board of health, has been released. Toole also could not be reached for comment. Toole has been public health administrator since 2016. He took over after Jenny Trimmell's retirement. Toole spent time with the Vermilion County Health Department's Environmental Health division as a college intern and started working at the health department full time after graduating from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in journalism. He became a licensed environmental health practitioner in December 1996 and acquired additional

education through Danville Area Community College prior to being promoted to the position of director of environmental health in June 2010.

6. 2 IN FORD COUNTY ARRESTED IN METH BUST, Megan C. Hawk, 29, and Louis R. Berg, 32, both of Paxton, were each arrested on a Class X felony charge of possession of methamphetamine, a Class 3 felony charge of possession of methamphetamine and a misdemeanor charge of unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia after Paxton police executed a search warrant at a residence at 616 N. American St. around 9:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 28, and found 522 grams of liquid methamphetamine and several items of drug paraphernalia in the home, including multiple baggies. Berg was charged additionally with obstructing justice, while Hawk was also arrested on two warrants — one out of Ford County and the other out of Vermilion County — for failure to appear in court. Berg allegedly tried to destroy evidence by shattering a pipe and throwing items in a garbage can as he fled out the back door before being apprehended by Ford County sheriff's deputies who were waiting behind the home. The total weight of the liquid methamphetamine found by police comprised not just the weight of the methamphetamine but also the weight of the water and the container. Both Berg and Hawk remained Wednesday, Nov. 30, at the Ford County Jail, where Berg was being held on a \$50,000 bond and Hawk on bonds totaling \$131,000.

#### 7. Barickman Announces Retirement from Senate

State Senator Jason Barickman (R-Bloomington) released the following statement announcing his retirement from the Illinois Senate.

“I have chosen to retire from the Illinois Senate, effective at the end of my current term, which expires on January 10, 2023.

“I have now served in the Illinois House and Senate for twelve years. My oldest son was born during the final days of my first legislative session, which quickly taught me about the sacrifices that would burden my family as I chose to serve. Those who know me are well aware of the priority I have continually attempted to place on my family. However, my other obligations have only increased, bringing further sacrifices. Throughout my time in the legislature, I have also had the honor to work as a full-time attorney, an adjunct college professor, and more recently as a

partner in a real estate company that has grown much faster than I could have hoped for.

“Kristin and I have been blessed with a growing family, and our children deserve more of my time, attention, and involvement. My children are at special ages when parental involvement is critical, and I owe them my best attempt to make them the priority they deserve to be. However, for too long, Kristin and our kids (Augie, 11; Wally, 9; and Lia, 5) have tolerated a father who has had more obligations than time. I want to now give them more of me and am looking forward to getting more of them. My mom, dad and brother have also supported me at every turn. Now is a chance for me to give them more of my time as well.

“At the same time, the wonderful people of the 53rd Senate District need a representative who can make them the priority they deserve to be. Representing central Illinois, first in the House and then in the Senate, has been an incredible honor and privilege which I have never taken for granted. During my time in office, I have had the opportunity to play a role in historic changes in our state. My passion has been to serve as an independent voice in favor of limited and responsible governance for our State. I’ve tried to demonstrate that there is space for independent and thoughtful representation, even in our increasingly polarized political climate. Solving problems legislatively, and just as importantly, working to address constituent issues, has given me an opportunity to prove that our government, as frustrating as it can be, can actually still work.

“Throughout my career in public service, Kristin and I have met countless individuals who have become and will remain our closest friends. I am especially grateful to my colleagues in the Senate, and to the incomparable staff on whom we all rely. Kristin and I will be forever blessed by the kindness and friendship shown by far too many people to name here.

“What's next for me includes more time with my kids - fishing, outdoor activities, traveling, participating in their activities, shuttling them around, and hopefully avoiding many of the phone calls, meetings and conflicts that have too often pulled me away from my family.

“I am announcing my retirement now to give the Republican Party leadership in my district time to fill this vacancy so that a new Senator can be seated at the inauguration of the new 103rd General Assembly in January 2023. I am very excited for this next chapter of my life to begin, and I wish nothing but success for the next Senator to represent the 53rd District. May God bless Illinois.”

8.

ISP TRAFFIC FATAL CRASH IN IROQUOIS COUNTY

WHAT: Four Vehicle Fatal Traffic Crash

WHERE: US Route 45 at 1190 N. Road, Iroquois County

WHEN: December 12, 2022 at approximately 5:12 p.m.

VEHICLES: Unit 1 – 2016 Black Mercedes Benz

Unit 2 – 2003 Black Jeep

Unit 3 – 2004 Green Ford F150

Unit 4 – 2016 White Toyota Camry

DRIVERS: Unit 1 – Krista A. Woltz-Hernandez, 44-year-old female from Buckley, IL – Deceased

Unit 2 – Julie L. McGowan, 65-year-old female from Rantoul, IL – Deceased

Unit 3 – Marco A. Perez Bernal, 36-year-old male from Onarga, IL – Transported to an area hospital with injuries.

Unit 4 – Cassandra L. Sosa, 21-year-old female from Rantoul, IL – Uninjured

PASSENGERS: Unit 4 – Juan M. Rodriguez, 21-year-old male from Paxton, IL – Uninjured

Unit 4 – Laura E. Rodriguez, 47-year-old female from Paxton, IL – Uninjured

PRELIMINARY: A preliminary investigation indicates the following occurred: Unit 1 was traveling southbound on US Route 45 near 1190 N. Road, while being pursued by the Paxton Police Department and the Ford County Sheriff's Department, when the driver lost control of the vehicle. Unit 1 crossed over the center line and struck Unit 2, which was traveling northbound, head on. This caused Unit 1 to spin out and crash into Unit 3 which was also traveling northbound. Unit 1 then went into a spinout and flipped multiple times coming to a rest on the west side of the road. Unit 4 drove over debris and sustained a flat

right rear tire. The drivers of Unit 1 and 2 were both pronounced deceased on scene. The driver of Unit 3 was transported to an area hospital with injuries.

The Illinois State Police (ISP) District 21 and ISP Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) Zone 3 is conducting the investigation. The investigation is open and ongoing and no further information is available at this time.

9. Single vehicle accident claimed the life of a 24-year-old Danville man.

The Vermilion County Coroner, Jane McFadden stated that a early morning single vehicle accident on Seminary Street in Danville claimed the life of a 24 year old Danville man. The victim has been identified as Johnathon C. Gilbert. The accident occurred on December 19, 2022 approximately 12:25 a.m.

Mr. Gilbert's family has been notified and an autopsy was scheduled for this morning.

The Danville Police Department and the Vermilion County Coroner's office continue to investigate.

10. 6 DEPARTMENTS FIGHT TWO HOUSE FIRES AT THE SAME TIME IN HOOPESTON OVERNIGHT

Fire Call

Time: 10:17pm

Location: 800 blk S 5th St

Details: HPD, HFD, Rankin/East Lynn, Rossville and Bismarck fire departments were dispatched

to the report of a structure fire. An investigation continues.

Time: 10:25pm

Location: 600 blk E Young Av

Details: HPD, HFD, Wellington and Milford fire departments were dispatched to the report of a

structure fire. An investigation continue

## 11. VERMILION COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY JACQUELINE LACY IN REGARD TO THE SAFE-T ACT RULING

In September, 2022, I filed a motion for declaratory judgement and injunctive relief in my official capacity as Vermilion County State's Attorney and on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois. The motion requested the Court to find that Public Act 102-1104 violates Article I, section 8.1(a)(9); Article I, section 9; Article II, section 1; and Article IV, section 8(d) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970 and declare the law null and void. All 64 counties that filed similar motions throughout Illinois were consolidated into Kankakee County, Illinois.

Yesterday, Circuit Judge Thomas Cunnington, Chief Judge of the 21st Judicial Circuit issued his ruling in the case of Rowe, et al. v. Pritzker, et al. Judge Cunnington ruled in favor of the Plaintiffs and held that the Pre-Trial Fairness Act, specifically the bail reform and pre-trial release provisions, is unconstitutional. The other provisions of the Safe-T Act where upheld.

The Plaintiffs in this lawsuit were collectively represented by a litigation team consisting of the State's Attorney and their Assistant State's Attorneys from Kankakee, Kendall, McHenry, Sangamon, Will, and Vermilion Counties. The Parties argued their positions before Judge Cunnington on December 20, 2022, and yesterday's ruling concludes the state court action. Any appeal, should the defendants (Governor JB Pritzker, Attorney General Kwame Raoul, Senate President Donald Harmon, and Speaker of the House Christopher Welch) choose to pursue one, must now be filed with the Illinois Supreme Court.

I firmly believe that this well decided ruling affirms that the sacred Constitutional Rights of all of the citizens of the State of Illinois are inalienable. The Pre-Trial Fairness Act alone denies crime victims their constitutional rights. Article 1, section 8.1 of the Illinois Constitution, codified in the Rights of Crime Victims and Witnesses Act, mandates that crime victims shall have the right to have the safety of the victim and the victim's family considered in denying or fixing bail the

amount of bail, determining whether to release the defendant, and setting conditions of release after arrest and conviction. Requiring an unwarranted additional presumption of no bail clearly contradicts previously established and superior law, places crime victims at a greater risk to be re-victimized, and unnecessarily subjects witnesses to threats and intimidation.

Judge Cunnington held in his 33 page opinion that “Public Acts 101- 652 and 102- 1104 as they relate only to the pretrial release provisions do violate this separation of powers principle underlying our system of governance by depriving the courts of their inherent authority to administer and control their courtrooms and to set bail.”

Honorable Jacqueline M. Lacy, Vermilion County State’s Attorney