

HOOPESTON RADIO, INC.

WHPO 101 COUNTRY

221 E BANK ST.

MILFORD, IL 60953

PUBLIC FILE INFORMATION FOR 3<sup>RD</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", with a large, stylized initial "J" and "B".

JAMIE LEE BAKKEN, GENERAL MANAGER

HOOPESTON RADIO, INC. WHPO 101 COUNTRY

WHPO 3rd quarter 2022 issues:

### 1. Early morning fire in downtown Watseka

Two businesses and seven people in three apartments were displaced by an early morning fire in downtown Watseka July 5.

Witseka Deputy Fire Chief Nick Peters said firefighters were dispatched at 5:33 a.m. The fire was at Fourth and Walnut.

"The first units on the scene found a second-floor apartment with fire showing out two of the windows," he said. "Initial reports were that the occupants had got out of all three apartments. It took some time to confirm that and we did confirm that everybody had been evacuated by themselves. There were seven people total who got displaced out of those three apartments.

"We have kept it to the main fire building," he said. The fire did not extend into the Edward Jones building, he said, though there was some smoke damage caused by the the fire department "just making sure no fire extended through the walls." Gary's Barber Shop and Travel Discoveries, which were in the building where the fire occurred, got heavy smoke and water damage.

Peters said the second floor has extensive damage. "The roof has come down in the middle part off this building, so the roof is compromised," he said. He could not say if the building would be considered a total loss as of prestige. Ameren was called to cut the power, he said. "We had to have Ameren cut the power due to the closeness that our tower ladders were operating to the high tension power lines here," he said. For most of the morning several businesses in the downtown area were closed because of that. In all, 17 fire departments responded, coming from as far away as Kankakee City, Aroma Park and Hoopeston. "Kankakee came with a tower ladder," he said. "We went to a third box alarm with our MABAS box alarms, so that brought in all the help we needed," he said. By mid-morning the fire was contained. Firefighters were able to help business owners get in to help them get crucial items out of their buildings. Crews were then upstairs checking for hotspots to make sure everything was under control, he said. Also by mid-morning fire departments were being released to go back to their home stations as the situation was contained.

### 2. Vermilion County Man will spend 25 years in the Illinois Department Corrections

On April 10, 2022, 35-year-old Gaurav "Gary" Kumar, formerly of Bismarck, Illinois plead guilty to one count of Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault. Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault is a Class X Felony for which the defendant must serve 85% of the sentence. The mandatory supervised release (i. e. parole) is decided by the Illinois Department of Correction and could be a range from three years to life.

After a sentencing hearing, today, Circuit Judge Charles C. Hall sentenced Kumar to 25 years in the Illinois Department Corrections. Kumar must register as a sex offender for life.

The Court heard evidence that Kumar met the victim's mother, and they got married, when the victim was 11. Almost immediately the Kumar began grooming, and then assaulting the victim, repeatedly. The victim kept the secret of these attacks for five years, due to Kumar's coercion and threats of violence.

The victim finally gained the courage to disclose the horrific acts to a teacher, who contacted the Department of Child and Family Services along with the Vermilion County Sheriffs Department. After a thorough investigation by the Vermilion County Sheriff's Office Kumar was charged and arrested in January of 2020. At the sentencing hearing the victim had the courage to detail for Judge Hall the effects the abuse has had on her, physical and emotional state. State's Attorney Jacqueline Lacy expressed her appreciativeness of the victim's courage in this case, and her willingness to remain steadfast for over two years to obtain justice. The State's Attorney also thanked the Vermilion County Sheriff Department, Survivor Resource Center and the Vermilion County State's Attorney Office advocates, and noted that their combined efforts and cooperation helped ensure that a sex offender will properly spend a significant period of time behind bars.

3.

Westville man dies after being hit by a car near the Vermilion County Courthouse-

The Vermilion County Coroner, Jane McFadden stated that a late afternoon traffic crash on East Main Street, between Hazel and Vermilion Streets in Danville, claimed the life of a pedestrian who was crossing in the middle of the block southbound when he was struck and killed. The accident occurred at approximately 2:50 p.m. Monday, July 25th. The pedestrian was identified as Jeffrey W. Gore, a 58-year-old Westville man. The Danville Police Department and the Vermilion County Coroner's office continue to investigate.

4. objection filed in a Vermilion County board race

Notice is hereby given that an objection has been filed in the Election Authority's office against the Vacancy in Nomination filing papers for Deonta Sentell Brooks on August 1, 2022 at 9:15a.m.

We hereby call upon the Electoral Board for a meeting in the ruling of said objection. The Electoral Board members including the County Clerk (chair), or an assistant designated by the County Clerk, the State's Attorney or an assistant designated by the States Attorney and the clerk of the Circuit Court or an assistant designated by the clerk of the Circuit Court. The board shall conduct a meeting in the ruling no less then 3 nor more than 5 days following the receipt of the objector's petition. A meeting shall be conducted on Thursday, August 04, 2022 at 1:00 pm in the County Board Conference Room located at 201 N. Vermilion St., on the second floor for such ruling. A notice of the ruling will be given within 5 days thereafter said meeting.

5. ILLINOIS STATE POLICE INVESTIGATION LEADS TO FELONY CHARGES IN THE WAKE OF A FATAL CRASH

The Illinois State Police (ISP) Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) - Zone 5 conducted an in-depth investigation into the events leading up to a fatal traffic crash in Champaign County on June 12, 2022. This investigation resulted in the arrest of Justin T. Shields, a 21-year-old male of Rantoul, IL for Leaving the Scene of an Accident Involving a Death (Class 1 felony) and Aggravated Street Racing (Class 4 felony).

On June 12, 2022, ISP District 10 Troopers handled a single vehicle crash on US Route 136 at Champaign County Road 2376E. As a result of the crash, Scott A. Boyne, a 34-year-old male of Rantoul, IL was pronounced deceased. ISP DCI Special Agents later received information there was a secondary vehicle involved in the events leading up to the crash. Agents determined Boyne and another vehicle had been drag racing on US Route 136 prior to the crash. During the drag race, the secondary vehicle contacted Boyne's vehicle causing Boyne's vehicle to leave the roadway. Shields was identified as the driver of the second vehicle. An arrest warrant for Shields was issued on August 2, 2022 by Champaign County State's Attorney's Office. ISP DCI Zone 5 Agents took Shields into custody on August 3, 2022. Shields is being held in the Champaign County Jail on a \$10,000, 10% to apply bond.

#### 6. Man arrested after allegedly pushing kids out of a moving vehicle

The Iroquois County Sheriff's Police arrested a man who was witnessed pushing a 4 and 6 year-old out of a moving vehicle. According to police, on August 3, sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the 100 block of E. Park St. in Gilman for a report that Jesse K. McGhee, 40 of Gilman was seen pushing children out of a moving vehicle. Police report one of the victims sustained injuries from the incident.

Officers say McGhee fled the scene before they arrived, but after further investigation he was located and taken into custody.

McGhee was charged with two counts of domestic battery, two counts of reckless conduct, two counts of endangering the life of a child and violation of an order of protection after being served.

McGhee was taken to the Iroquois County Jail where he posted the required bond and released.

#### 7. Paxton Police arrest 11 child predators in sting

The Paxton Police Department has now brought 11 suspected child predators out from behind their screens through a new operation. They're calling it an undercover sting.

So far, the Paxton Police Department has arrested 11 men. Nine are from Central Illinois:

Ruben Aguilera-Santoyo, 34, of Onarga

Kenneth Burklow Jr., 37, of New Lenox

Richard Durbin, 41, of Rantoul

Danny Dutton, 62, of Vandalia

Joshua Heisler, 30, of Paxton

Matthew Hickerson, 34, of Buckley

Andy Leppard, 42, of Milford

Roel Lopez, 41, of Arcola

Donald O'Toole, 37, of Danville

Robert Schaub, 25, of Gibson City

Cody Zoller, 34, of Urbana

Through the sting, an officer poses online as a teenager to lure the child predators to a Paxton motel.

Paxton Police said this is all ongoing, with more warrants to arrest three more expected soon. Coy Cornett, Paxton's Police Chief, said they also hope to add more technology to this project in the future. A cell phone and laptop computer could be used if they start to work closely with the FBI. If they do, the result of the operation may be charged in federal court instead of the state.

#### 8. Rankin man charged with attempted murder in McKinley Park shooting

A man was charged with attempted murder in a February shooting that wounded a woman in the McKinley Park neighborhood.

Adam Lujano, 39, is accused of opening fire on a woman who was driving black sedan on Feb. 15 in the 3500 block of South Ashland Avenue, police said.

The driver was grazed by gunfire and lost control of her car, striking a light post, police said.

She was taken to the University of Chicago Medical Center where she was listed in good condition. Another man who was in the car was not injured.

Lujano, of Rankin, Illinois, was arrested Wednesday in the 2600 block of South California Avenue, police said.

Court information for Lujano was not immediately available.

#### 9. 21 year old Vermilion county resident dies in car crash

The Vermilion County Coroner's Office has released the name of the victim in Monday's late morning crash, at State Route 1 and 980 North Road in Westville, which closed Route 1 for much of the day. The victim has been identified as Madison R. Baker, 21 of Georgetown.

This accident is still under investigation by the Illinois State Police and the Vermilion County Coroner's Office.

10.

#### MANHUNT IN IROQUOIS COUNTY ENDS WITH FUGITIVE ARRESTED

The Iroquois County Sheriff's Office announced late Thursday evening that the search for a fugitive in Gilman is over.

Sergeant Eric Starkey said Joel Smith was arrested just after 11 p.m. on Thursday, ending a search that lasted 36 hours and involved over 75 members of law enforcement.

The search started at 11 a.m. on Wednesday when law enforcement was informed of a sexual assault that happened aboard an Amtrak train that was stopped at Gilman's train station. Authorities learned the victim was a juvenile girl and identified Smith as the suspect. He had run away from the station by the time they arrived and the authorities launched a manhunt in the area.

After being on the run for almost a day, Smith was seen by two employees at K&H Truck Plaza when he walked into the store and bought a drink. Starkey said surveillance footage confirmed Smith was indeed there, but the employees lost sight of him after he left.

As law enforcement renewed and increased their efforts to find Smith following this sighting, a warrant for his arrest was issued and he was formally charged with criminal sexual assault.

Upon his arrest late Thursday evening, Smith was taken to the Iroquois County Jail. His bond was set at \$2 million.

The search for Smith involved Sheriff's deputies from Iroquois, Vermilion and Kankakee Counties, Illinois State Troopers, and members of the U.S. Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force. Starkey thanked several companies that aided in the search, including Eastern Illini Electric Co-op, Gilman Fertilizer, Nutrien Ag and FS, as well as the businesses and people who provided law enforcement food and water throughout the search.

#### 11. Vermilion County State's Attorney, Lacy files motion against Illinois "Safety Act"

As the Chief Legal Officer in Vermilion County, I am compelled to inform those that I have sworn to protect that the proposals set forth in House Bill 3653, now Public Act 101-652 pose a serious threat to public safety, specifically, to victims of and witnesses to violent crimes in our community.

On January 10, 2021, Senator Sims affixed a 604-page amendment to HB 3653 that, in addition to sweeping changes to law enforcement operations, conduct, and use of force, also included the bulk of the bail modification provisions. At 3:00 a.m. on January 13, 2021, HB 3653 was amended again by Senator Sims, becoming 764 pages in length. During the debate in the Senate at approximately 4:30 a.m.

At 5:00 a.m., having had a little more than an hour to read the Bill, HB 3653 was called for a vote in the

Senate by the Democratic super-majority and passed. That same morning, HB 3653 was sent to the House, its chief House sponsor was changed to Rep. Slaughter, and assigned to the Rules Committee. It immediately passed out of the Rules Committee and received exactly the 60 votes needed to pass in the House, again, after less than an hour of debate HB 3653 was sent to Governor Pritzker on February 4, 2021, and he signed it on February 22, 2021.

The radical increase in the number of pages from the originally introduced bill to what is now Public Act 101-652 was not the only arresting difference. As evidenced by the synopsis of Senate Floor Amendment Number 2 to the bill, the range of issues covered by Amendment No.2 of HB 3643, also increased from the narrow issue of voter registration for incarcerated individuals to a wide range of issues, including, but not limited to: creation or modifications of at least seventeen (17) acts, task forces, criminal laws, and boards.

In short, this poorly drafted Bill containing ill-conceived directives is an effort to systematically dismantle law enforcement, which in turn would affect the integrity of every investigation, prosecution, and the safety of every citizen of our community. We must stand with the men and women of law enforcement who consistently stand up for us.

Therefore, I have 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. As set forth in the attached complaint for Declaratory Judgment I am requesting the Court to find that HB 3653, now Public Act 101-652, violates Article I, section 8. I(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. I am also requesting a preliminary injunction to prevent the enforcement of any bail provisions in the Public Act 101-652 until the case can be fully litigated.

Honorable Jacqueline M Lacy, Vermilion County State 's Attorney