

Humor Drives the Message Home

Let's set the scene: an 8:00 am driver's education class... 40 or so barely awake teenagers... a golf cart... some funny looking glasses... a contraption slightly resembling a carnival ride... and two Illinois State Troopers.

Is an arrest imminent? Hardly. This scenario is repeated nearly every weekday throughout the school year at high schools all across Illinois. ISP's Public Relations Officers are simply carrying out their mission - educating new drivers about safety on the road.

This particular day, Sgt. Jason Wilson, looking and sounding a bit like a drill sergeant, walks back and forth in front of students at Metamora High School. He holds up a pair of goggles specially designed to simulate the effects of alcohol on the wearer's eyes and brain. "We're going to give you these goggles and we're going to let you drive this golf cart..." he begins. Hoping to make a point, he shifts humorously into 'dad mode,' continuing with "...whatever you do, please do not tell the uniformed police officer standing in front of you or sitting beside you in the golf cart that 'this isn't what it looks like when I'm drunk.'" The students snicker as he finishes his thought, "We don't need to know that."

Trooper Jayme Bufford then takes over, splitting the large class into two groups. To one half of the class, she distributes simulator goggles and demonstrates how to do "walk and turns," a type of Field Sobriety Test, while wearing them. She takes another pair of the goggles, hands it to a student, and invites them to drive the golf cart through an obstacle course laid out on the gymnasium floor.



One by one, all the students get a chance to drive the golf cart using the simulator goggles. Not a single driver makes it all the way through the obstacle course without hitting at least one of the markers. From the passenger seat, Trooper Bufford gently guides and instructs the drivers to get back on course and discusses how difficult it is to maintain proper lane usage when driving impaired.

Meanwhile outside, Sgt. Wilson has the other half of the class



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**ILLINOIS
STATE POLICE**

Brendan F. Kelly—Director

Humor Drives the Message Home, continued

standing around a device called a Seat Belt Convincer. Sgt. Wilson tells students of devastating injuries he has witnessed over his time as a Trooper. He talks about broken bones caused by airbag deployments, what happens to the human body when it is thrown around or out of a moving vehicle, and explains why passengers should never put their feet on the dashboard, “no matter how much you want to show off your pedicure.”



After telling several cautionary tales, Sgt. Wilson invites the students to experience the Seat Belt Convincer for themselves. The Convincer simulates a crash at only 7 mph, which Wilson states “is the speed you'd be going in a parking lot, not driving down the highway.” A majority of the students eventually strap themselves into the Convincer to experience the simulated crash. And nearly all come away with the realization that a crash at a much higher speed would be devastating to themselves and their passengers and that the seatbelt protected them from being thrown out of their seat.

What might look like fun and games to an outside observer is really just a very effective way to reinforce the safety messages Driver Education teachers try to impart. ISP's Safety Education unit may never know how many lives it saves, but if one deadly accident is prevented because a driver remembers Trooper Bufford and Sgt. Wilson's lessons, the effort is worth it.

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Troop 10 Enjoyed BBQ Lunch

Thank you, **Freedom Towing & Recovery, LLC**, for treating Troop 10 to a delicious BBQ lunch last Friday! Your generosity made our day extra special.



This Retiree Edition of 10-43 is produced by the Public Information Office of the Illinois State Police.

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ISP.PIO.1043@illinois.gov



Volunteers Sought for Community Events in Rochester, IL

ILLINOIS MASONIC FAMILY IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM – Every year in the U.S., thousands of children become lost. A few are victims of abduction. The Illinois Masonic Family Identification Program (IMFID) aims to prevent this situation and assist families that have lost children or aging adults.

ISP and the Illinois Masonic Family Identification Program have a similar mission - to protect the public. The IMFID works with ISP Amber Alert to assist families who have lost children or aging adults.

The Freemasons of Illinois holds and funds the entire cost of the identification workshops for families all around the State. These Illinois Masonic Family Identification Program events are sponsored by local Masonic Lodges and held at neighborhood functions or at community schools. They put together everything parents or other family members need to help the authorities find their lost child or older adults. It's the most comprehensive program of its kind and is FREE OF CHARGE to parents or family members.

At an Illinois Masonic Family Identification event, participants get:

- **COLOR PHOTO:** Receive a photo including height notation that is digitized on a convenient USB drive.
- **RECORDED INTERVIEW:** Capture the appearance, speech patterns, personal characteristics, and mannerisms for easy media distribution.
- **A DNA SAMPLE:** Take a saliva cheek swab, the latest tool in the scientific arsenal to make a positive ID of lost children.
- **FINGERPRINTS:** The oldest form of positive identification as they are unique to every person.

ZERO information or samples collected during the event are maintained by the Freemasons or any other organization, including ISP. All video, audio, and information recorded are returned to the family on a flash drive, and DNA samples are immediately handed off to the family as part of their packet.

All costs, supplies, and materials are provided by the Freemasons Grand Lodge, at the Lodge's expense. Volunteers are being sought to help staff the event, particularly the fingerprinting and DNA collection portions. Volunteers do not need to be trained in these processes, though experience is welcome.



The Illinois Masonic Family Identification Program will be providing services in Rochester at the **Rochester Fall Festival on October 18, 2025**, and at **Rochester Sparks in the Park, to be held in June 2026**.

For more information on IMFID, go to: <https://ilmason.org/il-mfid>
Kudos to John R. Thompson with ISP DoIT for his and the Freemasons of Illinois' support of this important work. Feel free to reach out to John if you have questions, need more information, or would like to help staff an event.

Contact: john.r.thompson@illinois.gov or 217-622-3328.

Guns 'N Hoses 2025 Shirt Deadline is October 6

We are officially kicking off the 2024 Guns 'N Hoses Annual tee shirt fundraising campaign! We have been getting calls and people are excited to see the new design for 2025!

We are celebrating the 38th anniversary of Guns 'N Hoses with this year's theme "It's Go Time!" There are 3 long sleeved shirt color options in addition to a Hoodie! We also have 3 new hat colors this year.

While this is a fun and exciting event, it is our mission to continue to help support the families of the fallen. With your participation last year, we raised another \$20,000 for Backstoppers with our shirt sales!

Contact MSgt. Daron Barge (Troop 8), daron.barge@illinois.gov. to obtain an order form.

Please don't forget to purchase your tickets on either Ticketmaster or stlgunshoses.com/ticket. Let's make it another sell out year!



**19th Annual
Guns 'N Hoses
Apparel Fundraiser**
Proceeds Benefit BackStoppers



Amy Perry Lamia
314-952-2564
amylamia0912@gmail.com
&
Jerry Perry
314-277-3471
jerryperrypromo@yahoo.com



Commemorative ISP Ring Available for Purchase

The American Legion Illinois State Police Post 1922 has teamed with Jostens on a project to re-release the Illinois State Police ring that was offered years ago. In this effort we were able to research and now provide the exact same ring that was previously released with options available to personalize your purchase. The attached Jostens ring order form allows you to select your ring. Place your

order directly and include your payment to Jostens. Then receive your ring directly from Jostens.

With every ring purchased a \$25.00 donation will be made to the American Legion Illinois State Police Post 1922 from Jostens.

Questions should be directed to retired M/Sgt. Michael Widger, mwidger257@yahoo.com

ILLINOIS STATE POLICE

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State Zip _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Design: 100Z Cust#3313716



Select One	<input type="checkbox"/> Amethyst	<input type="checkbox"/> Aquamarine	<input type="checkbox"/> Black Sapphire
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Topaz	<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Sapphire	<input type="checkbox"/> Garnet	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby (pink)
<input type="checkbox"/> Hyacinth	<input type="checkbox"/> Golden Sapphire	<input type="checkbox"/> Emerald	<input type="checkbox"/> White Sapphire

Ring Size: _____
 Free Inside Engraving:

 (30 CHARACTER LIMIT EACH LINE)

Base Price	\$ _____
Shipping & Handling:	\$ 14.95
Your local Sales Tax	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____
Credit Card #	_____
Expiration Date:	_____ Security Code: _____
Signature:	_____ Date: _____

Please allow up to 15 weeks for processing.

White Lustrum®/Silver Alloy (non-precious)
 \$289.00

Suncast®/Yellow Alloy (non-precious)
 \$289.00

Sterling Silver
 \$419.00

Solaris Elite®/6k Gold Alloy
 \$949.00

10k ___ yellow gold ___ white gold
 \$1,499.00

14k ___ yellow gold ___ white gold
 \$2,529.00

Mail or email to:
 Karen Gallea
 3223 S Relic Ridge Drive
 St George UT 84790
karen.gallea@jostens.com
 Ofc: (507) 455-6533



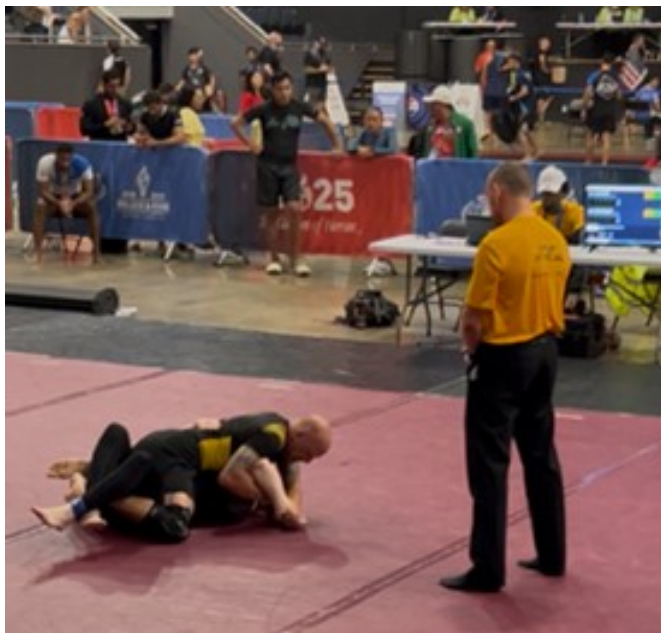
Anderton Wins, Becomes 2x World Champion at Police & Fire Games

Troop 10's M/Sgt. Joe Anderton (#4896) recently competed in the 2025 World Police and Fire Games in Birmingham, Alabama on June 27 – July 6, 2025. The World Police and Fire Games are held every two years in a host country. Over 72 countries were represented by over 8500 athletes. There are approximately 100 different events ranging from track and field to fire fighter competitions to police K9/handler competitions. The Police and Fire Games are considered the Olympics for first responders. The games are held Olympic style with elaborate opening ceremonies, a parade of athletes, and a closing ceremony. An athlete's village is also on site with food, games, refreshments, vendors, and patch and challenge coin trading areas.

One day, M/Sgt. Anderton's daughter said she was thinking about giving up on wrestling. To encourage his daughter to stay with it, he jokingly stated, "Do you want dad to compete again so you can see that hard work is a good thing?" She

called his bluff and said "Yes." What initially started out as a joke, turned into a lesson in dedication and hard work. Anderton had not competed in over 4 years. He began a last minute, 3-week training camp that consisted of morning Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and evening Freestyle/Greco Roman wrestling training. Anderton cut 33lbs to make his weight class. There were no competitors in his age division so at 49 years old he was dropped to the adult division (18–29-year-olds). M/Sgt Anderton won his division and became a two-time World Champion. He previously won gold at the 2017 World Police and Fire Games in Los Angeles and the 2015 US Police and Fire Games in San Diego.

The 2027 World Games will be held in Perth, Australia on March 12-21, 2027. Anderton plans to attend this event as he is an Ambassador for the World Police and Fire Games. If anyone has questions regarding competing in the games and representing the Department, please contact him at gary.joe.anderton@illinois.gov.



Texas Roadhouse Tip a Cop Raises \$2K+

On Monday, August 25, 2025, ISP Troop 6 members joined by Quincy PD Auxiliary and other ISP volunteers to participate in the Annual Texas Roadhouse Tip A Cop event in Quincy, IL. We had LETR merchandise available and collected donations. The store also donated 10% of the night's sales. Overall, a total of \$2,059 raised. Way to go!



ISP Educates Medical Professionals about Human Trafficking

ISP is committed to combating human trafficking. On August 29, 2025, ISP Sgt. Jason Wilson presented effective strategies for addressing human trafficking at OSF Life Flight's Annual TEDCON in Peoria.

TEDCON brings together experts from across the state to share insights on trauma care, emergency medical services, disaster readiness, and public health, enhancing expertise for high-stakes situations and promoting better patient outcomes.

ISP will continue to bring this crime to light, perpetrators to justice, and healing to those who have been trafficked.



ISP Pipes and Drums Seeks Musicians

The Illinois State Police (ISP) Honor Guard is exploring opportunities to expand the ISP Pipes and Drums, and we are seeking sworn and civilian personnel who may be interested in joining this distinguished tradition.

If you have prior training or experience with Pipes and Drums instruments (bagpipes, bass drum, snare drum, or trumpet), or if you are simply interested in learning, we encourage you to reach out and get involved. Participation in this unit offers a unique opportunity to honor our fallen, represent the Department at ceremonial events, and help preserve an important tradition within law enforcement.



For more information regarding the selection process and training or to express your interest, please complete the survey at this link ([Pipe and Drum Interest Survey](#)) and/or contact:

Master Sergeant Josh Allotey #6119
ISP Honor Guard Coordinator
Joshua.F.Allotey@illinois.gov

MADD Hero Awards Honor Seven Troopers

On Saturday, September 6, 2025, Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) held the annual MADD Hero Awards Ceremony at the Crown Plaza in Springfield. The ISP had an excellent representation for the event. All officers were recognized at the ceremony for their outstanding efforts in impaired driving enforcement for 2024.

The following officers from the ISP were recognized by receiving the MADD Hero Award:

Trooper Kevin Bradley #6932 (Troop 3)
Trooper Brett Irwin #7414 (Troop 6)
Trooper James Knaperek #6588 (Troop 3)
Trooper Micah Ransom #7389 (Troop 1)
Trooper Sterling Ross #7173 (Troop 3)
Trooper Christopher Wittemann #6991 (Troop 7)

In addition to the MADD Hero Awards, MADD has several Specialty Awards that recognize officers for their exemplary efforts in impaired driver enforcement. Sgt. Brett Nelson #6538 (Troop 3) was awarded with the Trooper Brian McMillen Integrity Award. Sgt. Nelson was given this award by

representatives of MADD and Trooper McMillen's parents, Terry and Jane McMillen.

The combined efforts of these officers resulted in 549 intoxicated driving arrest in 2024.

Great work, gentlemen!



Sgt. Mueller Receives Community Award in Macomb

Sgt. Michael Mueller was awarded a McDonough County Quality of Life Award on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, in Macomb, Illinois. The award recognizes exceptional volunteer efforts within McDonough County.

Lt. Bryan Clauson presented the award to Mueller. He read the following remarks:

Sergeant Michael Mueller is a lifelong resident of Macomb, whose commitment to service extends far beyond his official duties with the Illinois State Police. A proud graduate of Western Illinois University, Sergeant Mueller has made it his mission to give back to the community in meaningful and lasting ways.



He is a passionate supporter of the Law Enforcement Torch Run, volunteering countless hours to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics Illinois. Among his many contributions, he actively participates in the annual "Torch Run, Cop on a Rooftop, and Polar Plunge" events, helping to support athletes with intellectual disabilities.

In addition to his work with the Special Olympics, Sergeant Mueller played a key role in establishing the Macomb Police Explorers program, which introduces local youth to careers in law enforcement. Even after joining the State Police, he remained dedicated to the program by volunteering as a mentor, guiding and inspiring the next generation of public servants.

Sergeant Mueller is also a regular participant in the "Shop with a Cop" program, bringing holiday joy to children and families in need throughout the Macomb area. Sergeant

Sergeant Mueller has also stepped up to be the statewide St. Jude Run coordinator. Sergeant Mueller spends countless hours coordinating escorts for multiple legs of the run, ensuring their safe arrival in Peoria.

Through his tireless volunteerism and deep-rooted community involvement, Sergeant Mueller exemplifies the values of leadership, service, and compassion. His ongoing efforts continue to make a lasting impact on Macomb and beyond.

Let's congratulate and recognize Sergeant Michael Mueller for his exceptional volunteer efforts in improving the quality of life as a First Responder in McDonough County.

Public Information/Safety Education Celebrates Retirements and Promotions, Welcomes New Staff

Within a few short weeks, ISP's Public Information Office - Safety Education Unit has undergone significant changes.

Public Information Office Deputy Chief Lt. Mike Link and Safety Education Unit Assistant Deputy Chief A/M/Sgt. Mike Kindhart both retired effective July 31, 2025. Public Relations Officer Trooper Rodger Goines followed with his retirement effective August 31, 2025.

Lt. Mike Link graduated with Cadet Class 100. Initially assigned to District 8 Patrol, Lt. Link transitioned to DAT, then back to District 11 where he served as patrol

Trooper and Sergeant, Evidence Custodian, and Safety Education Officer. Beginning in 2015, he became the Southern Deputy Chief Public Information Officer and Safety Education Unit Supervisor. In 2021, he became the Primary State Emergency Operations Center Liaison and wrote ISP's first Con-

tinuity of Operations Plan. In November 2023 Lt. Link returned to PIO as Deputy Chief. Lt. Link held certifications in EEEE (Education, Evade, Escape, Engage), Rapid Deployment, At Scene Traffic Crash Investigation, Defensive Driving Course Instructor, Child Safety Seat Technician, Photo Van Operator, First Responder Instructor, Instructor Development School, and CAT Instructor. He received ISP Achievement Medals for Operation Blue Needle and Civil Unrest and COVID (SEOC) during the pandemic, Department Service Ribbons for work during the 2024 Democratic National Convention, Civil Unrest operations in 2020, and the NATO Summit in 2021, a Department Commendation for operations during the 2023 dust storm, and a Certificate of Recognition for 2016 CALEA contributions.

A/M/Sgt. Mike Kindhart was a member of Cadet Class 102 and was assigned to District 20 Patrol

after graduation. In 2007, he assumed the duties of D20 Safety Education Officer. For 13 years, Kindhart was instrumental in shaping the Safety Education program and in 2020 was appointed acting Master Sergeant of the Safety Education Unit. He received a Department Service Ribbon for civil unrest in 2020 and an Achievement medal for work with Operation Blue Needle. He has also served on the Board of Directors for the Uniformed Officers Safety Education Workshop for several years, and from 2024-June 2025, was the president of this multi-state organization.

Trooper Goines, a member of Cadet Class 112, was

assigned to Patrol in Districts 5 and 22, served a temporary duty assignment with Recruitment, and transferred to PIO/SEU in 2022. In 2018, Goines was District 22 Officer of the Year. He was honored with a 2019 citation for apprehending a Pope County fugitive in 2016. In 2020, he received a Department Service Ribbon for contributions as a

member of the ISP Civil Unrest Operations Detail and in 2022 received an ISP Campaign Ribbon for assisting with the violent crime expressway initiative in District Chicago.

A joint celebration for all three men was held at CHQ on July 30. They were each gifted a commemorative plaque with their badge number and a photo collage picturing each in various stages of their career. We will miss them, but wish them well in their next chapter.

Joining the PIO team are A/Lt. Darcy Gunty (PIO Deputy Chief), and Trooper Ryan Wagand (Public Relations Officer).

In addition, Public Relations Officer Jason Wilson was promoted to Sergeant, M/Sgt. Calvin Dye assumed the role of Safety Education Unit Assistant Deputy Chief, and A/M/Sgt. Melissa Albert-Lopez serves as Public Information Office Assistant Deputy Chief.



Troop 10 Celebrates Upcoming Retirements

August 27, 2025, ISP Troop 10 celebrated Master Sergeant William Parks and Trooper Courtney Mazur on their upcoming retirements! Thank you for your dedication and service to Illinois. Wishing you both a fulfilling retirement!



Master Sgt. William Parks
21+ years

Tpr. Courtney Mazur
26+ years



ISP Lt. Col. Dan Likens Chosen For New Post



On Tuesday, September 2, 2025, Lt. Col. Dan Likens, who will officially retire from the Illinois State Police on October 31, 2025, was selected as the new police chief of St. Charles, Illinois.

Chief Likens appointment will be effective on November 3; a swearing in ceremony will be held on November 15, 2025.

LTC Likens' ISP career spanned 28 years, culminating as the Assistant Deputy Director of the Division of Criminal Investigation.

Read the full story here: <https://www.shawlocal.com/kane-county-chronicle/2025/09/04/cant-wait-to-get-to-work-new-st-charles-police-chief-formally-appointed-starts-sept-15/>

ISP Seeks Public's Assistance in Macon Co. Homicide Investigation

DECATUR – The Illinois State Police (ISP) Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) Zone 5 requests the public's assistance with the death investigation of 51-year-old James E. Taylor of Decatur, IL.

On May 19, 2023, Taylor was found deceased in a rural area near his home. He was reported missing on May 12, 2023, to the Decatur Police Department and was last seen alive on May 10, 2023, at approximately 6 p.m. ISP Special Agents are investigating the death as a homicide.

"ISP is committed to justice and continues to review and pursue cold cases," said ISP Lieutenant Chad Dumonceaux. "We encourage individuals who previously thought information they had was not relevant, or who may have been hesitant to come forward, to reach out to law enforcement. Small pieces of information can sometimes turn into big leads."

Decatur Crime Stoppers is offering up to \$2,500 for information regarding Taylor's death.

Please contact Crime Stoppers at (217) 423-8477 or visit their website at <https://www.maconcountycrimestoppers.com/>. You may also provide tips directly to ISP at <https://isptips.illinois.gov/>, contact ISP DCI Zone 5 through the tip line at (217) 278-5004, or by email at ISP.Zone.5.Investigations@Illinois.gov. Witnesses can remain anonymous.

ISP Investigates Officer Involved Shooting in O'Fallon

O'FALLON – On August 29, 2025, the O'Fallon Police Department requested the Illinois State Police (ISP) Zone 6 to investigate an officer involved shooting.

At approximately 7:43 p.m. on August, 29, 2025, O'Fallon Police Department officers responded to a call in the 600 block of W. Madison St. in O'Fallon, IL for a report of a disturbance and a man armed with a knife. Upon arrival, officers saw two people covered with blood running from a man armed with a knife outside the residence. Officers engaged with the man, who refused to drop the knife, and an officer fired their firearm, striking the man. Officers rendered aid, but the man was pronounced deceased on scene. The two victims were transported to the hospital with non-life threatening cuts and stab wounds. The officer was not injured.

After a thorough investigation, ISP will turn all reports over to the St. Clair County State's Attorney's Office. The investigation is active and ongoing. No additional information is available at this time.

ISP Squad Car Struck on I-55

ISP Experiences 10th Move Over Law-Related Crash of 2025

DWIGHT – Illinois State Police (ISP) officers investigated a traffic crash that occurred on I-55 southbound at milepost 217 in Livingston County involving an ISP Trooper. The Trooper was handling a previous crash when their squad car was struck by a driver who failed to move over.

On September 2, 2025, at approximately 2:45 a.m., an ISP Trooper was parked in the right lane of I-55 behind a disabled vehicle involved in a previous crash; the squad car had its

emergency lights activated. A Chevrolet Express van failed to move over and struck the rear driver side of the Trooper's squad car.

The Trooper was inside of the squad car at the time of the crash but reported no injuries. The Trooper's squad car was towed from the scene due to disabling damage sustained from the crash. The driver of the Chevrolet, 59-year-old Samuel Gomez of Omaha, NE, was charged with Driving Too Fast for Conditions,

Operating an Uninsured Motor Vehicle, and a Scott's Law/Move Over Law violation.

In 2025, ISP has already suffered ten Move Over Law-related crashes. In 2024, ISP suffered 27 Move Over Law-related crashes with 12 Troopers injured and one death. In 2023, ISP had 21 Move Over Law-related

crashes with seven Troopers injured. ISP reminds the public the Move Over Law, also known as "Scott's Law" in Illinois, requires all drivers to move over when approaching

an emergency vehicle or any vehicle with its emergency or hazard lights activated.

A person who violates the Move Over Law faces a fine of no less than \$250 and no more than \$10,000 for a first offense. If the violation results in injury to another person, the violator's driver's license will be suspended for a mandatory period of anywhere between six months and two years.



ISP Arrests Man on Charges of Threatening a Department of Human Services Provider

CREST HILL – The Illinois State Police (ISP) Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 1 arrested 25-year-old Jacob Baker of Crest Hill, IL for Threatening a Department of Human Services Provider (Class 3 Felony) and Telephone Harassment (Class B misdemeanor).

On May 21, 2025, ISP Special Agents were notified of an alleged threat made to an Illinois Depart-

ment of Human Services employee. ISP agents conducted a thorough investigation, and on September 4, 2025, ISP Special Agents took Brady into custody without incident.

The Will County State's Attorney's charged Baker with the above charges. Baker is being held at the Will County Adult Detention Center. No further information is available.

ISP Reminds Drivers and Farmers About Safely Sharing the Roads This Harvest Season

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois State Police (ISP) is reminding motorists and farmers about traffic safety on Illinois roadways this fall. Agriculture is one of the leading industries in Illinois and farmers across the state will be moving equipment along roadways throughout the upcoming months. As farmers travel between fields, ISP reminds motorists and farmers alike to share the road to help reduce crashes involving tractors and other farm equipment.

ISP encourages motorists to follow these safe driving tips this harvest season.

- Share the road and be patient. Allow for extra travel time.
- Increase following distance to improve sight lines when driving behind wide, slow-moving vehicles.
- Reduce speed when encountering farm equipment on public roads.
- Flashing amber lights mean ‘caution’ and orange and red reflective triangles warn motorists that farm equipment travels at slower speeds.
- It is illegal to pass in a no passing lane or within 100 feet of an intersection, railroad



crossing, or bridge. Improper passing, including around farm equipment, can be deadly. Be cautious when pulling back into the lane of traffic.

- Watch for the farmer’s indication of a turn. Newer equipment may have turn signals, but older equipment may not, so watch for the farmer’s hand signals.
- Be prepared to yield to wide equipment.

ISP also encourages farmers to do their part by following these safe driving tips.

- Avoid rush hours and busier roadways when possible.
- Avoid driving tractors on roadways during bad weather, low-visibility and when dark.
- Use reflective marking tape and reflectors at the extremities of equipment.
- Take time to wipe off reflectors, flashing lights, and any other warning devices on equipment before entering the roadway. Equipment covered with dust/mud/debris from the field can make warning devices difficult to see.
- Pay attention for traffic backing up while traveling between fields and look for opportunities to ease them. If road and shoulder conditions are safe, pull over to the right to temporarily allow traffic to pass giving back-ups time to clear.

By sharing the road and making safety a priority, motorists and farmers can work together to keep Illinois roadways safe this fall.

ISP Arrests DuPage County Man for Possession and Dissemination of Child Sexual Abuse Materials

NAPERVILLE – Illinois State Police (ISP) Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 1 Special Agents arrested 36-year-old Julian M. Zborowski of Naperville, IL for three counts of Possession of Child Pornography (Class 2 Felony) and three counts of Dissemination of Child Pornography (Class X Felony).

On June 2, 2025, ISP Special Agents began an investigation into the sharing of child sex abuse material and identified Zborowski as a suspect. On July 17, 2025, ISP Special Agents executed a residential search warrant at Zborowski's residence in the 1000 block of Heritage Drive in Naperville, IL. Evidence was seized and extensive forensic examination was required.

On September 4, 2025, The DuPage County State's Attorney's Office approved an arrest warrant for the above-mentioned charges. On September 5, 2025, ISP Special Agents arrested Zborowski and he is being held at the DuPage County Jail, pending a detention hearing. The Illinois Attorney General's Office Digital Forensic Unit also assisted with this investigation.



ISP Arrests Eldorado Man for First Degree Murder

ELDORADO – The Illinois State Police arrested 25-year-old Jesse W. Trout of Eldorado, IL, for First-Degree Murder (Class M Felony) following a homicide investigation conducted at the request of the Eldorado Police Department.

On Sunday, September 7, 2025, shortly after 5:00 a.m., Eldorado Police Department Officers responded to a 9-1-1 call in reference to an individual shot near the corner of Benton Street and First Street in Eldorado. Upon arrival, Eldorado Police Department located a 44-year-old male, identified as Michael J. Wiseman of Eldorado, suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. Wiseman was transported to an area hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.



Following a thorough investigation, Jesse W. Trout was arrested. On September 8, 2025, the Saline County State's Attorney's Office formally charged Trout with First Degree Murder. Following a detention hearing on September 8, 2025, the defendant was detained in the Saline County Jail pending trial.

ISP Blackhawk Area Task Force Makes Arrests in Narcotics Investigations

STERLING – The Illinois State Police Blackhawk Area Task Force (BATF), after a collaborative investigation with the Lee County Sheriff’s Office and the Dixon Police Department, made two narcotics arrests related to different BATF ongoing investigations. On September 5, 2025, with assistance from the Lee County Sheriff’s Office, BATF agents arrested 47-year-old Ricky C. Griffin Jr. of Dixon, IL, for Delivery of Cocaine (Class X Felony) and Delivery of a Controlled Substance (Class 1 Felony), and 30-year-old Allison R. Dunne of Amboy, IL, for Delivery of Methamphetamine (Class X Felony).

The Blackhawk Area Task Force is comprised of personnel from ISP and law enforcement agencies covering Carroll, Henry, Lee, Stark, and Whiteside counties in Illinois, and Clinton County in Iowa. BATF agents are focused on combatting drug trafficking through inter-agency investigations.

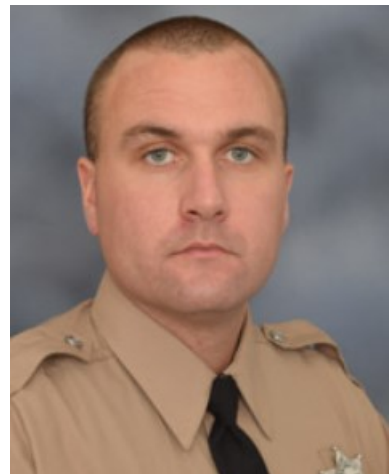
The investigation remains open and ongoing.

Thank a Trooper: Ben Stringer #6732

My friend and I, both 22, ran out of gas in the middle of a lane on the highway. It was just past a rounding part of the road that was covered by trees, and we were fearful someone would speed directly into us.

Officer Stringer pulled up and immediately reassured us he would call someone to come help us get gas and get back on the road. He reversed on the road a bit to make sure people rounding could see we were in the lane and stood with us while we were out of the car to make sure we felt safe.

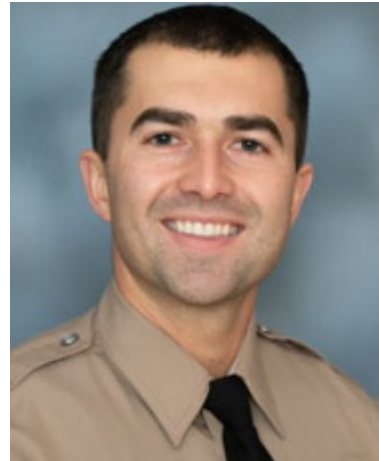
I want to give him a huge thank you for basically saving us in that moment. We were panicking that it would be impossible to get someone to bring gas due to our position, and because of him we got home safely. He was super friendly and reassuring, and a pleasure to talk to. Please ensure he is commended for this act.



Thank a Trooper: Alexander Leaf #7322

A Galesburg driver describes his recent traffic stop:

This morning, I was stopped by Trooper Leaf. First of all, I had an amazing interaction with Trooper Leaf and I want that acknowledged. He was very professional and extremely understanding. Trooper Leaf checked my license and insurance, and I just want everyone to know how amazing and lucky ISP is to have him. Please recognize Trooper Leaf and commend him for an amazing job. This interaction really made my day better, honestly. Thank you so much.



Thank a Trooper: Sgt. Chad Martinez #5162

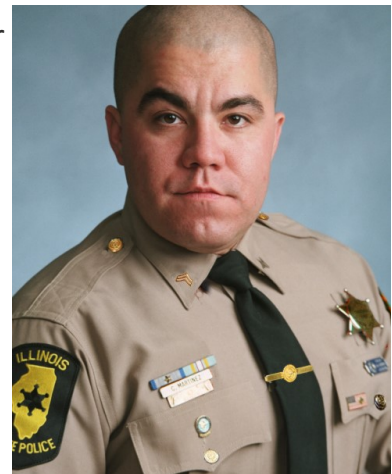
A driver whose car caught fire during morning rush hour on I-88 is thankful for Sgt. Martinez and K9 Lambo:

"I had been waiting for help on I-88 after my car caught fire.

He was so kind, and friendly, which was a relief.

So, thank you Trooper Martinez and K9 Lambo for your kindness.

(Go Green Bay!)"





**IN MEMORY OF OUR
FALLEN TROOPER**

Trooper
George Fredrickson

End of Watch
September 1, 1947



**IN MEMORY OF OUR
FALLEN TROOPER**

Trooper
Albert Hasson

End of Watch
September 7, 1924



**IN MEMORY OF OUR
FALLEN TROOPER**

Trooper
Rocco Gragido

End of Watch
September 11, 1940



**IN MEMORY OF OUR
FALLEN TROOPER**

Trooper
Frank Schwartz

End of Watch
September 11, 1930