

LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
www.lee-county-il.com

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Lee County Sheriff's Office

Public Safety and Court Services Committee

August 13, 2024

In the month of July, the Lee County Sheriff's Office logged 877 calls for service.

As far as notable calls for the month, the following incidents occurred...

On June 30th, a month-long methamphetamine trafficking investigation culminated in the arrest of James L. Ballard, age 46, and Lisa R. Johnson, age 42, of 320 Canal Street in Woodland Shores Subdivision. During the investigation, controlled purchases of methamphetamine were made at the residence which subsequently led to the execution of a search warrant. The search of the residence revealed approximately 185 grams (6.5 ounces) of methamphetamine.

James Ballard and Lisa Johnson were both charged with the following offenses:

- Possession of Methamphetamine (100 - 400 grams) w/ Intent to Deliver (Class X Felony)
- Delivery of Methamphetamine (15 - 100 grams) – (Class X Felony)
- Delivery of Methamphetamine (5 - 15 grams) – (Class 1 Felony)
- Possession of Methamphetamine (15 - 100 grams) – (Class 1 Felony)



James L. Ballard



Lisa R. Johnson

CORRECTIONS/WARRANTS

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Both James Ballard and Lisa Johnson were detained on the charges in Lee County Case Numbers of 24CF165 and 24CF166, respectively.

The Dixon Petunia Festival took place from July 3rd through July 7th. The Lee County Sheriff's Office assisted with patrolling the venues over the event and provided foot patrol during the evening of July 7th for the fireworks.

On Wednesday evening, July 10th, Lee County Deputies were dispatched to the area of US Route 30 and Walton Road in rural Dixon, for a Burglary in progress. Two individuals wearing masks were observed running from a residence and into a black GMC Sierra pickup. The vehicle then left the residence and was seen traveling north towards the City of Dixon. A witness observed a passenger exit the vehicle just south of Dixon on Pump Factory Road. Dixon Police Officers were in the area and located the black GMC Sierra. A traffic stop was conducted near Rock Island Road and Atkinson Road, and the driver, identified as Michael E. Miller, was detained. A short time later, Lee County Deputies located an individual walking west on Interstate 88 just outside of Dixon that matched the description of the passenger. As a result of the investigation, deputies arrested the two individuals on the following charges:

Michael E. Miller, 42-years of age, from Monmouth, Illinois was charged with:

- Residential Burglary (Class 1 Felony)
- Theft (Class 3 Felony)
- Driving While License Suspended (Class A Misdemeanor)
- Criminal Trespass to Real Property (Class B Misdemeanor)
- Operating a Motor Vehicle with Registration Suspended (Business Offense)

Michael E. Miller is currently on felony probation from Whiteside County. He was charged on January 10, 2024, with the offenses of Burglary (Class 2 Felony) and Retail Theft Greater than \$300 (Class 3 Felony) in Whiteside County Case Number 24CF31. On June 12, 2024, Miller pleaded guilty to felony Retail Theft and was placed on 24 months of probation.

Julian J. Belmonte, 30-years of age, from Monmouth, Illinois was charged with:

- Residential Burglary (Class 1 Felony)

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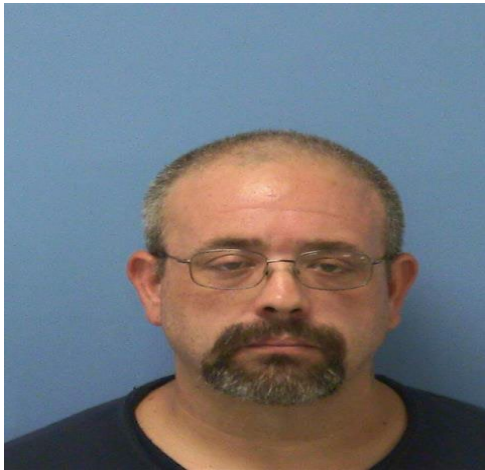
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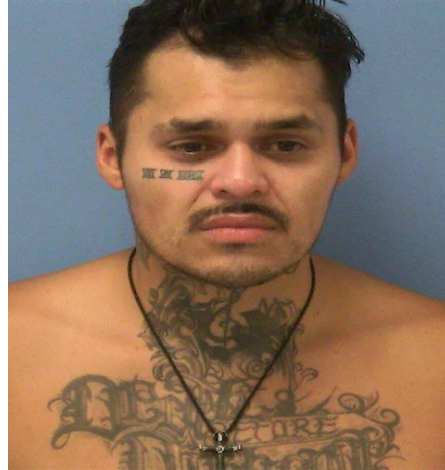
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- Theft (Class 3 Felony)
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (Class A Misdemeanor)
- Criminal Trespass to Real Property (Class B Misdemeanor)

Julian J. Belmonte is currently on pretrial release conditions out of Warren County on charges of Child Pornography (Class 3 Felony). The charges were filed on February 16, 2024, in Warren County Case Number 24CF23. Additionally, Belmonte has pending charges of Retail Theft (Class A Misdemeanor) that were filed on February 15, 2024, in Whiteside County Case Number 24CM44.



Michael E. Miller



Julian J. Belmonte

In accordance with provisions of Illinois SAFE-T Act, Michael Miller and Julian Belmonte were again released the following day on July 11th with pretrial conditions in Lee County Case Numbers of 24CF181 and 24CF182, respectively.

Michael Miller and Julian Belmonte both failed to appear at their court date on July 24th. Arrest warrants were issued for them, and Michael Miller was apprehended by the Sterling Police Department on July 29th. There is still an active arrest warrant for Julian Belmonte.

On July 14th the "No Wake" ordinance was put into effect due to the amount of rain received the previous evening in northern Illinois. The Lee County Sheriff's Office was in contact with the Ogle County Sheriff's Office and the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office to coordinate its institution in their respective counties. The ordinance can be put into effect when flooding or other adverse weather

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conditions on the Rock River necessitate it for safety purposes. The ordinance states, "No person shall operate a motorboat at a speed exceeding five (5) miles per hour while traveling in a 'no wake' area." On July 24th, the "No Wake" was lifted due to the receding river level.

The Lee County 4-H Fair took place from July 25th through the 28th. Deputies periodically monitored the event and conducted traffic control during the peak volume times.

Staffing Update

From the Corrections Division, two correctional deputies are still attending training at the Macon County Law Enforcement Training Center in Decatur. They will graduate on August 9th.

From the Patrol Division, two other deputies are still attending the Basic Law Enforcement Officer Academy at the Sauk Valley Community College – Law Enforcement Academy. Both of those deputies are slated to graduate from the academy on August 22nd. Sergeant Matt McGrail is still away from the Department and on active military orders until the beginning of October. The Department was recently notified that another deputy will be called to active-duty service sometime in September. This deputy will likely be deployed for somewhere around one year. On a positive note, the injured deputy from last month's report has been released back to full and unrestricted duty.

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