

**LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
www.leeountyil.com

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Lee County Sheriff's Office

Public Safety and Court Services Committee

September 10, 2024

In the month of August, the Lee County Sheriff's Office logged 909 calls for service.

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

On August 3<sup>rd</sup> at approximately 4:30 a.m., Lee County Deputies were called to the American Auto Wash, located at 331 E. Wasson Road in Amboy, for a report of a suspicious person. Lee County Deputies made contact with a white male who was initially unable to be identified. Throughout the course of the investigation, Lee County Deputies learned that the door leading into the building was damaged. Ultimately, the male was identified as 23-year-old Jakob G. Dowling from Chicago, Illinois was charged with the following offenses:

- Burglary, a Class 2 Felony
- Possession of Burglary Tools, a Class 4 Felony
- Criminal Damage to Property, a Class 4 Felony
- Obstructing Justice, a Class 4 Felony

Dowling also had valid arrest warrants out of Cook County for Burglary, Lake County for Failure to Appear - Retail Theft, Kenosha County, Wisconsin for Felony Retail Theft, and Des Moines County, Iowa for Possession of a Controlled Substance.

On August 8<sup>th</sup>, Dixon Police Officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle in which Jeremiah Heald was a passenger. Heald fled on foot from the scene of the traffic stop and was apprehended after a short chase. Heald was discovered to have a large amount of cocaine, psilocybin (mushrooms), cannabis, and oxycodone. Heald was charged with numerous charges pertaining to the possession of those drugs. In the weeks prior to his arrest, the Lee County Sheriff's Office had conducted two controlled buys of cocaine from Jeremiah Heald. The determination was made to charge Heald with the cocaine deliveries in an effort to have him detained. Heald was additionally charged with two counts of Delivery of a Controlled Substance and two counts of Possession of a Controlled Substance. He was detained on the

**CORRECTIONS/WARRANTS**

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Dixon Police Department arrest in 24 CF 198 and the Lee County Sheriff's Office case in 24 CF 199. Heald also has other pending charges in Whiteside County Case Number 23 CF 88 for multiple drug charges and Unlawful Possession of a Firearm as well as a pending Aggravated Domestic Battery in 22 CF 115.

On August 11<sup>th</sup> at approximately 7:07 p.m., Lee County Deputies were dispatched to the area of Bloody Gulch Road near College Avenue for a "road rage" incident involving a firearm. Due to the nature of the call, officers from the Dixon Police Department also responded to the area. During the investigation, Deputies learned that a vehicle driven by 27-year-old Gary J. Patterson Jr. of Dixon had passed two vehicles on Pump Factory Road just north of Bloody Gulch Road. Patterson's vehicle was then observed pulling into a residence in the 700 block of Bloody Gulch Road. During a confrontation about Patterson's driving, it was alleged that Patterson pushed the victim and also brandished a firearm and pointed it at the victim. As a result, Gary Patterson Jr. was charged with Aggravated Assault and Battery. Both of the offenses are Class A Misdemeanors that have a potential sentence of incarceration up to one year.

On August 16<sup>th</sup> at approximately 6:21 p.m., the Lee County Sheriff's Office received a call of two vehicles involved in a head-on collision in the area of Illinois Route 2 and Sink Hollow Road just outside of Dixon. Investigating deputies learned that a 2017 BMW driven by Nicole M. Hitchcock, age 53, of Winnebago, Illinois was traveling eastbound on Illinois Route 2 away from Dixon. Edith A. Canales-Kobbeman, age 48, of Rock Falls, Illinois was traveling westbound on Illinois Route 2 towards Dixon in her 2013 Ford Expedition when the two vehicles collided. Both drivers had to be extricated from their vehicles. Bystanders removed the driver of the Ford Expedition as it was on fire after the crash. Fire personnel extricated the driver of the BMW. Both individuals were subsequently transported to KSB Hospital for their injuries. The driver of the Ford was later airlifted to OSF St. Anthony Medical Center in Rockford for further treatment. The cause of the collision was determined to be speed and weather related. A severe thunderstorm was going through the area at the time of the accident. The Lee County Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Dixon Police Department, the Dixon Rural Fire Department, the Dixon City Fire Department, and Advance EMS Ambulance Services.

The Sheriff's Office assisted the City of Amboy with their Depot Days celebration from August 22<sup>nd</sup> through August 24<sup>th</sup>. There were no major incidents during the festival.

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**Staffing Update**

From the Corrections Division, two correctional deputies graduated on August 9<sup>th</sup> from the Macon County Law Enforcement Training Center in Decatur. They are currently going through the field training process.

From the Patrol Division, two other deputies graduated on August 22<sup>nd</sup> from the Basic Law Enforcement Officer Academy at the Sauk Valley Community College – Law Enforcement Academy. They are also in the process of working through the field training programs.

Sergeant Matt McGrail is still away from the Department and on active military orders until mid-October. Deputy Joe Presley is off on vacation time prior to his active-duty service beginning on September 19<sup>th</sup>. His deployment will likely be over one year.

Unfortunately, we have lost two deputies over the past month to other ventures. Patrol Deputy Kyle Ranken has resigned, and he is leaving the sheriff's office for work in the private sector. Correctional Deputy Zach Hagemann has also tendered his resignation, and he is leaving for an opportunity in the private sector as well. We will be looking to fill those two positions as soon as possible.

A correctional deputy has also been off on extended medical leave as his wife was involved in a very serious personal injury accident.

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