ILLINOIS STATE POLICE
NEWS RELEASE

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Illinois State Police Arrests Highland Man for Reckless Homicide After Two Killed in Hamel Crash

HAMEL – Illinois State Police (ISP) Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 6 Special Agents arrested 30-year-old Garret C. Miller of Highland, IL, following a crash in Madison County that killed two people.

On October 25, 2026, at approximately 5:43 p.m., ISP Troopers responded to a crash on IL-140 west of Hoxey Road in Hamel. Miller was driving a GMC truck eastbound on IL-140 and for an unknown reason crossed the center lane markings entering the westbound lanes. The truck struck a Dodge sedan head-on. The driver of the sedan, 65-year-old Justina L. Tennikait of Bethalto, was pronounced deceased on scene. The passenger of the sedan, 84-year-old Sharon C. Powell also of Bethalto, was transported to a regional hospital and later pronounced deceased. Miller was also transported to a hospital with injuries.

On October 27, 2026, ISP presented the case to the Madison County State's Attorney's Office, which approved two counts of Aggravated DUI Resulting in Death (Class 2 Felony) and two counts of Reckless Homicide (Class 3 Felony). Miller remains in custody at the Madison County Jail pending his first court appearance.



Garret C. Miller (M/30)

The charges are not evidence against the defendant, and the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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