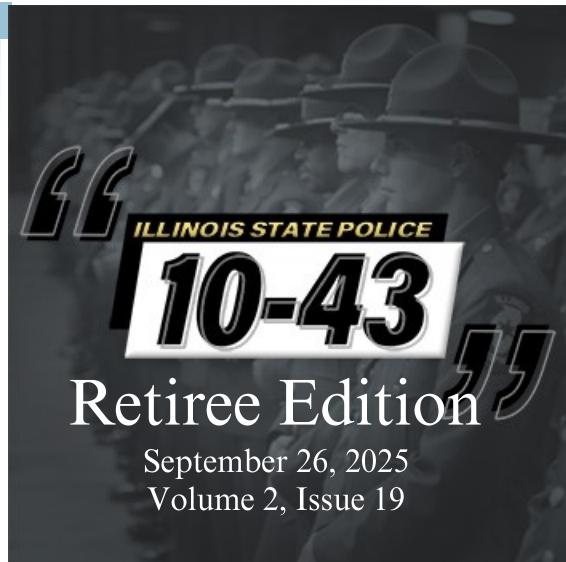


ISP Seeks Public Assistance with 2007 Burger King Double-Homicide Cold Case

MOMENCE – September is recognized as National Cold Case Month and the Illinois State Police is committed to bringing justice and resolution for victims and families impacted by violent crimes. The Illinois State Police Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 1 requests the public's assistance with the death investigation of Pam Branka and Paul Jones.

On January 13, 2007, in the early morning, police received a 911 call from the Burger King attached to the Circle K gas station, located at 3 Gladiolus Street in Momence. A female was heard screaming but unable to speak to the dispatcher. Momence Police Department arrived approximately one minute later and found both Burger King employees, Pamela Branka and Paul Jones deceased at the restaurant.

If you have any information that may be related to the investigation, please visit the Illinois State Police Investigative Tips website at <https://isptips.illinois.gov/> or email tips to ISP.CRIMETIPS@illinois.gov. Any information leading to the arrest of a suspect may be eligible to receive a cash reward.



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**ILLINOIS
STATE POLICE**
Brendan F. Kelly—Director

DuQuoin Communications Center Undergoes Upgrade

On Thursday, July 10, 2025, the DuQuoin Communications Center (DCC), housed at the Troop 10 (formerly District 13) Headquarters, began a long-overdue facelift. The center, originally designed and built in 2004 to house three (3) radio consoles, was re-engineered in the summer of 2012 to accommodate eight (8) consoles in response to the consolidation of communications for Districts 12 (Effingham), 13 (DuQuoin), 19 (Carmi), and 22 (Ullin).

Over the course of several weeks in July 2012, the console furniture, radios, and CAD equipment from Effingham, Carmi, and Ullin were dismantled and reassembled by Radio Network Services Bureau (RNSB), phone company staff, and electrical personnel in the DuQuoin center—all while patrol and dispatch operations continued uninterrupted.

The process of replacing console furniture began late in 2024, with the selection of the new console furniture design and carpeting. Technical specifications were established, and electrical needs were identified, requested, and planned by CMS personnel at the facility. Some electrical work was completed in advance, with the remainder carried out during the teardown and rebuild.

Deconstruction began with RNSB personnel removing the radios and CAD equipment. Watson Furniture Co. staff then dismantled and removed the old furniture, after which carpet contractors installed new flooring. Once complete, the process was reversed to rebuild the center.

DCC manages communications for Troops 9 and 10, which requires a minimum of four (4) operational consoles at all times, with six (6) needed for a CVEO detail the week of July 21. RNSB staff, along with outside contractors (carpet, furniture,

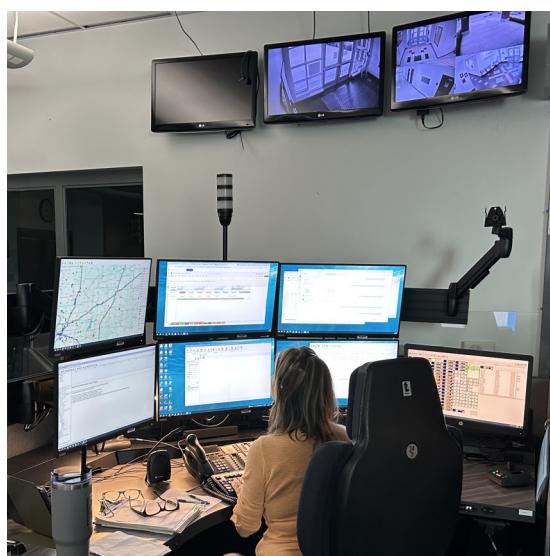
and electrical), carefully coordinated their work to keep the center fully operational. Progress remained steady, and the final installation of furniture was completed ahead of the August 1 deadline. RNSB personnel continued working over the following two weeks to finish installing ISP equipment (radios and CAD/MACH).

The Telecommunications Services Bureau (TSB) extends its sincere appreciation to the following individuals for their efforts in completing this project:

RNSB – Chris Coss, Mike Frangello, Dennis Karnes, Jefry Campbell

CMS – Ray Kramer (Southern Region Facilities Manager), Josh Walter (Assistant Chief Stationary Engineer)

Last but not least, special thanks go to the TCs and Supervisors at DCC. Their patience, cooperation, and adaptability were vital to the project's success.



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

Direct article submissions and questions to:

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ISP Special Agent Zachary French Awarded Certificate of Merit from IDNR

Illinois State Police Special Agent Zachary French has been awarded the Certificate of Merit for his outstanding contributions to the long-term investigation known as *Trucking for Trophies*. The five-year case, conducted while French was serving as a Conservation Police Officer with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), targeted a group of Mississippi individuals who conspired to illegally hunt and transport trophy white-tailed deer from Illinois in violation of state and federal wildlife laws.

From 2018 to 2022, investigators uncovered that multiple trophy bucks were spotlighted, killed with rifles during closed seasons, and transported across state lines in violation of the Lacey Act. The investigation led to five defendants pleading guilty. The court ordered them to pay \$119,500 in fines and restitution, imposed a five-year worldwide hunting ban, and seized more than 60 mounted deer as evidence. This remains one of the largest deer poaching prosecutions in IDNR history.

Special Agent French played a pivotal role in the case by gathering actionable intelligence, conducting key witness interviews, and analyzing extensive records obtained through search warrants. His professionalism, attention to detail, and coordination with federal partners such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were essential to the successful prosecution.

"The success of this investigation is a direct reflection of the hard work and dedication of these officers," said Sgt. Heath Tepovich. "Their efforts not only brought poachers to justice but also protected Illinois's natural resources for future generations."

Special Agent French's recognition highlights his continued commitment to law enforcement and public service. After his distinguished tenure as a Conservation Police Officer, he now serves with the Illinois State Police Zone 6 as part of the PSEG unit.

Pictured with CPO Colin Vaughan and CPO Steve Vasicek who assisted with the investigation.



Safety at the Racetrack

It takes a village... or in this case, a detail...

In early September, Troopers from Troop 8, Troop 6, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Bureau, Fatal 4 Team, Zone 6 Investigations, Office of the Director, Air Operations, Human Resources Bureau, and the ISP Academy

joined forces or the NASCAR Race Detail during the Enjoy Illinois 300 event at World Wide Technology Raceway in Madison, Illinois.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this detail to keep the event safe and fun for all!



The Illinois State Police Podcast, Ep. 5: Drug Poisonings and Drug-Induced Homicide Prosecution

New episode of the Illinois State Police Podcast narrated by Bill Kurtis is out now!

It's an all-too-common story. Your child decides to try a party drug they hear kids talking about all the time. However, this drug is laced with something so poisonous it can kill a person with only a couple grams, and the result is fatal. Step behind closed doors and pull up a chair with host Brendan Kelly, Illinois State Police Director as he and special guests talk about these cases and how law enforcement investigate them to combat drug trafficking.



Listen now on Spotify and other apps you search for a great listen! <https://lnk.bio/illinoissstatepolicepodcast>

Happy Anniversary to Three Cadet Classes



Cadet Class 125

September 14, 2014
- March 13, 2015

Cadet Class 120

September 16, 2012
- March 8, 2013



Cadet Class 118

September 26, 2010
- March 18, 2011

Thank a Trooper: Drew Weaver #7086

Motorist Melissa was grateful for assistance after experiencing the danger our Troopers face every day:

I want to give a huge shoutout to Trooper Drew Weaver. He answered a call to assist to divert traffic on I-57 while my student and I tended to her stalled vehicle. My student and I were attempting to pour gas in the tank, but we could not because it was on the driver's side, and the interstate traffic was not moving over. Whatever happened to Scotts Law?

Once Trooper Weaver arrived, with his lights on, motorists finally moved over. Well, most of them. After that, Trooper Weaver continued to be helpful and very kind. He ended up pouring the gas in the tank, having to use his own gas can after a while when ours was not working properly, and got us out of that dangerous situation. Had it not been for him, it could have been disastrous. THANK YOU VERY MUCH, TROOPER WEAVER.

Thank a Trooper: Jacob Gilbert #7506

I would like to give a shout out to Trooper J. Gilbert of Troop 7.

I had a very pleasant visit with Trooper Gilbert during a traffic stop on I 72 west of Decatur on the evening of June 26, 2025.

Trooper Gilbert was very professional and gave a clear and

precise explanation of why I was stopped, which was failing to properly signal a lane change at the required distance behind a vehicle I was passing.

He was very respectful and handled himself well, asking good questions regarding the company vehicle I was driving and the company I work for. My wife and young daughter

were also in the vehicle with me and this interaction was a great example for my 14-year-old to observe how a traffic stop should be handled from both the driver and Trooper standpoint.

I thought this note might be a reminder that we appreciate everything you do because I know sometimes you all don't get the credit you deserve.

Thank an ISP Employee: Sean Glenn

An agency in need of assistance with sex offender records was thankful for our Criminal Intelligence Analyst Specialist, Sean Glenn's, assistance.

My agency was needing assistance with Sex Offender Records and specifically, LEADS Sex Offenders citation modification. Mr. Glenn reached out to me very quickly and set up a Webex meeting. Mr. Glenn was extremely knowledgeable on the subject and assisted

me with records that I had questions about. He also gave me training documents he had made along with very helpful tips on how to cut down the time it takes our operators to go over queries. Mr. Glenn offered his continued support for our agency in the future. Thank you ISP!

Thank you, Sean Glenn for always going the extra mile. Your kindness will not be forgotten.

In Memoriam: K-9 Kiloh

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Illinois State Police (ISP) Canine Kiloh. Kiloh was a graduate of Canine Class 75 in 2017 along with his handler, A/Lt. Eli Adams #6117.

Canine Kiloh passed away on September 10, 2025, after a short battle with cancer, at the age of 9. He faithfully served the people of Illinois for 8 years alongside A/Lt. Eli Adams until his passing. Together, A/Lt. Eli Adams and Kiloh exemplified exceptional dedication to duty and forged an extraordinary partnership.

Kiloh completed the 10-week Basic Canine Training Course and began his career in the spring of 2017 in Troop 6 (formerly District 9). He quickly became an integral part of the District 9 SET team and Statewide CRIMPAT Team. Canine Kiloh finished his career with the Special Operations Group - Central Highway Interdiction Team. Kiloh served as a full-service canine, proficient in narcotics detection, tracking, article searches, and criminal apprehension.

A/Lt. Eli Adams and Kiloh also engaged with the community through demonstrations at schools and civic events, showcasing the ca-

pabilities of a well-trained K9 unit. Their efforts extended to drug searches, school searches, and building searches—positively impacting multiple facets of public safety.

Throughout their career, A/Lt. Eli Adams and Kiloh worked collaboratively with numerous state, county, local, and federal agencies. They focused on attacking the vulnerabilities of drug networks through coordinated interdiction efforts at every point along transportation routes in Illinois, disrupting individuals and criminal organizations trafficking illicit narcotics and currency through the state.

Canine Kiloh's career highlights include assisting in the seizure of approximately 2,678 pounds of cannabis, 20 kilograms of cocaine,

108 kilograms of heroin, 610 kilograms of methamphetamine, and \$3,328,904 in illicit U.S. currency.

K9 Kiloh was a proven asset to the Illinois State Police, and his contributions will be deeply missed. The dedication and hard work of A/Lt. Eli Adams and Kiloh have left a lasting impression on the ISP Canine Section and set a high standard for K9 teams everywhere.



**IN MEMORY OF OUR
FALLEN TROOPER**

Trooper
Warren Allen

End of Watch
September 21, 1967



**IN MEMORY OF OUR
FALLEN TROOPER**

Trooper
Leo Burakowski

End of Watch
September 24, 1958



**IN MEMORY OF OUR
FALLEN TROOPER**

Trooper
Donald Blickensderfer

End of Watch
September 26, 1970

