

The Real Murders on Elm Street

Halloween meets True Crime

Investigation Discovery, in conjunction with HBO, produced a two-season, 11-episode series entitled “The Real Murders on Elm Street.”

With the title reminiscent of the horror movie series, this is a true crime investigative look at murders all across the United States that just happened to take place on Elm Street.

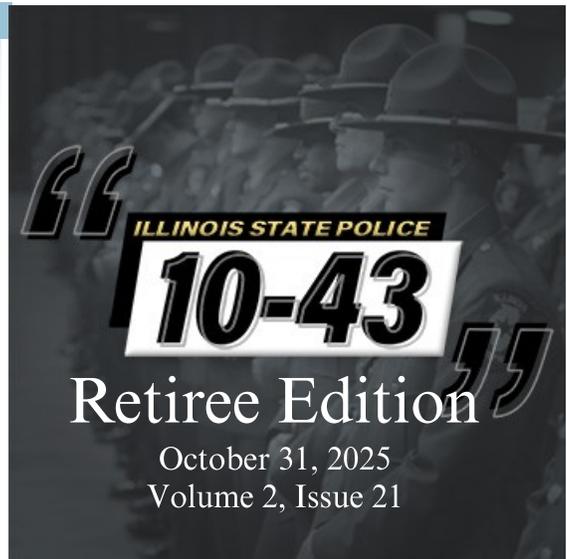
ISP and current Director (and former St. Clair County States Attorney) Brendan F. Kelly, is highlighted Season 2, Episode 4 - Laced With White Powder. A preview of the episode was posted to Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1AxStuGz9d/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

The promotional text states “a haircut turns into horror when friends discover something unthinkable.”

Check out the episode - or the entire series - on Investigation Discovery <https://www.investigationdiscovery.com/show/the-real-murders-on-elm-street-investigation-discovery-atve-us> or HBO <https://www.hbomax.com/shows/real-murders-on-elm-street/eb02d3fe-549c-463c-9bd4-ee5cada44216>



You may need to link your TV provider account to view the full episode.



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**ILLINOIS
STATE POLICE**

Brendan F. Kelly—Director

White Oaks Mall's Mall-o-ween Recruits Tiny Troopers

SPRINGFIELD—At the end of her first full week with the Public Information Office, ISP's newest Public Relations Officer, Trooper Krystal Holdman, represented ISP on Saturday, October 25 at a safe trick-or-treating event at White Oaks Mall.

Reporting over 300 in attendance, Trooper Holdman noted “The hats were a hit! We turned every costume into a trooper by the end of the night!”



Trooper Caramelli in Christopher Columbus Day Parade, Chicago

On Monday, October 13, 2025, Trooper Steve “Stefano” Caramelli from Troop 3 participated in the annual Christopher Columbus Day Parade on State Street in Downtown Chicago. Illinois State Police was proudly represented and partnered up with the Italian American Police Association, along with several other local police departments. There was a beautiful turnout with so many spectators showing love for law enforcement.



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

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Emergency Medical Simulation Held in Decatur

On Tuesday, October 14, 2025, the Illinois State Police EMS Section hosted a Simulation Day for agency EMT and EMR Instructors. The training took place at the ICAT facility in Decatur and featured a variety of realistic simulated environments. Participants engaged in five scenarios: chest pain, a hypoglycemic episode, a fall from an overpass, a postpartum hemorrhage with neonatal resuscitation, and a mass casualty incident. Both live role players and high-fidelity manikins were utilized to create authentic patient presentations, allowing attendees to perform medical assessments and provide appropriate treatments.

In addition to the scenarios, the event included four skill stations, tourniquet exercises, and a demonstration of the LUCAS device, which is an automated chest compression system.

Participants included: S/A Olivia Hughes, Sgt Chris Lempke, Tpr William Donald, Sgt Wayne Hocking, Tpr Dan Gutierrez, Tpr Tarek Aldroubi, and Sgt Joe Dattoli.

Evaluators included: M/Sgt Nate Lunt, Tpr Tyler Randels, M/Sgt Scott Wobbe, Johnna Lietz (Hillsboro Ambulance), Sgt Paulchenie Maravilla, and Amy Jeffers.



ISP Teaches Driver Safety to 1,000 Teenagers

In October, ISP participated in the Collinsville-Maryville-Caseyville Rotary Foundation’s annual Metro East Teen Driver Safety Days promoting safe teen driving. Approximately 1,000 area students from eight local high schools participated in this year’s three-day event. Students learned about distracted driving, seatbelt safety, work zone safety, motorcycle safety, and more.



STIC Chili Cookoff Trophy Goes to Namesake

On October 28th, Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center (STIC) staff held their annual chili cook-off.

Nine employees submitted entries this year and Criminal Intelligence Analyst Mike Locke was reigned the champion for 2025.

The cook-off was named after Locke several years ago after he continued to bring the best chili to the work unit competition year after year.

He was proud to be named the champ again!



Four ISP Awarded by Sons of the American Revolution

On Constitution Day in late September, four ISP officers were recognized by General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution in Bloomington, IL. Their mission is to promote patriotism and to reaffirm those values on which our country was established.

A/MSgt. Ben Reichard of S.O.G. HIT East and M/Sgt Billy Quinn of the Commercial Motor Vehicle Bureau were awarded the Medal for Heroism in recognition of outstanding bravery and self-sacrifice in the face of imminent danger while engaging an armed offender on February 6, 2025 in Lexington, IL. A/MSgt. Reichard and M/Sgt. Quinn exchanged gunfire with the suspect ultimately taking him into custody and rendering lifesaving measures.

Trooper Joseph Stewart and Trooper Logan Wunder of Troop 4 were each awarded the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal in recognition of outstanding achievement and dedication to the maintenance of law and order due to their exemplary efforts in promoting traffic safety and criminal enforcement.



Recruitment Hosts Greenville University Students



On October 23, 2025, the Illinois State Police (ISP) Recruitment Section hosted Greenville University basketball team for an academy tour at ISP Academy. During the tour, the athletes were introduced to Cadet life, ISP culture, and had the opportunity to hear from Troopers who shared their journey which led them to become ISP Troopers.

The athletes were greeted in the parking lot by T.A.C. officers and experienced a small taste of the manufactured stress Cadets encounter which teaches them to get use to "being comfortable with being uncomfortable." T.A.C. officers provided a tour around the academy to show the athletes the dormitories and further described the expectations set for Cadets and Recruits at ISPA.

Academy Administrative Commander Rick Morris provided the team with a presentation focused on leadership and Sgt. Jeremiah Mitchell shared his personal journey of how he found his "home" with ISP after his professional basketball career ended.

The athletes were further im-

mersed into Academy life by eating lunch in the cafeteria, participating in a MILO demonstration, and completing the PFIT.

The ISPA tour is one way the Recruitment Section engages with collegiate athletes and criminal justice programs to introduce people from diverse backgrounds to the ISP with a goal of having them return when they are eligible as ISP Cadets!

If you have a connection with a collegiate athletic or criminal justice program who may be interested in an ISPA tour, please contact Master Sergeant Elizabeth Clausing (elizabeth.clausing@illinois.gov).



Honor Guard Presents Colors at Bears Game

The ISP Honor Guard (North Team) had the honor of presenting the colors at the Chicago Bears vs. New Orleans Saints football game at Soldier Field on October 19, 2025. This event was especially historic, marking the first time an all-female ISP Honor Guard team presented the colors at a professional sporting event.

The team performed exceptionally, demonstrating the highest standards of professionalism, precision, and pride in representing the Illinois State Police.

Team Members: Tpr. Zena Trimuel – Detail Leader, Tpr. Emma Fox, Tpr. Elizabeth Enciso, S/A Yesenia Contreras



The Department commends the team for their outstanding performance and for continuing to set a strong example of excellence and representation.

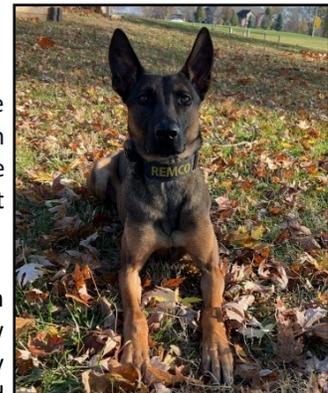


K9 Remco to Get Body Armor Donation

PITTSFIELD – Illinois State Police K9 Remco will receive a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Remco's vest was sponsored by Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. and will be embroidered with the sentiment "This gift of protection provided by Vested Interest in K9s, Inc." Delivery is expected within ten weeks.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., established in 2009, is a 501(c)(3) charity whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. This potentially lifesaving body armor for four-legged K9 officers is U.S. made, custom fitted, and National Institute of Justice (NIJ) certified. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. has provided over 6,225 vests valued at \$6.9 million to K9s in all 50 states, made possible by both private and corporate donations.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. accepts tax-deductible contributions in any amount, while a single donation of \$1,050 will sponsor one vest. Each vest has a value of \$1800.00, weighs an average of 4-5 lbs., and comes with a five-year warranty. For more information, or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call (508) 824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts donations at www.vik9s.org, or you may mail your contribution to P.O. Box 9, East Taunton, MA 02718.



ISP Leads Human Trafficking Demand Suppression Operation in Marion

MARION – Illinois State Police (ISP) Division of Criminal Investigation Trafficking Enforcement Group arrested eight individuals during a two-day human trafficking demand suppression operation in the Marion area of Williamson County on October 14 - 15, 2025. The operation focused on identifying individuals seeking to engage in commercial sex acts.

As a result of the operation, the following individuals were arrested and charged:

Nicholas A. Love (44) of Marion, IL – Traveling to Meet a Minor (Class 3), Indecent Solicitation of a Minor (Class 3), Solicitation to Meet a Child (Class 4).

Michael L. Beltz (66) of Herrin, IL – Traveling to Meet a Minor (Class 3), Indecent Solicitation of a Minor (Class 3), Solicitation to Meet a Child (Class 4).

Jason R. Fox (51) of Alto Pass, IL – Traveling to Meet a Minor (Class 3), Indecent Solicitation of a Minor (Class 3), Solicitation to Meet a Child (Class 4).

Willie A. Huddson (50) of Colp, IL – Traveling to Meet a Minor (Class 3), Indecent Solicitation of a Minor (Class 3), Solicitation to Meet a Child (Class 4).

Isiah J. Rogers (24) of Somerset, IL – Traveling to Meet a Minor (Class 3), Indecent Solicitation of a Minor (Class 3), Solicitation to Meet a Child (Class 4).

Douglas R. Charles (50) of Union, IL – Traveling to Meet a Minor (Class 3), Indecent Solicitation of a Minor (Class 3), Solicitation to Meet a Child (Class 4).

Cory T. Stewart (43) of Waverly, IL – Traveling to Meet a Minor (Class 3), Indecent Solicitation of a Minor (Class 3), Solicitation to Meet a Child (Class 4).

Harley D. Angel (22) of Carrollton, IL – Sex Offender Registration - Duty to Register (Class 3).

This operation was part of a multifaceted approach by ISP aimed at stopping human trafficking in Illinois. The Illinois Trafficking Enforcement Group, Southern Illinois Enforcement Group, Southern Illinois Drug Task Force, ISP SWAT, Intelligence Support Unit, ISP Division of Patrol Troop 10, Homeland Security Investigations, and the Marion Police Department partnered for the operation. The Williamson County State's Attorney's Office also provided support for the operation.

[Human trafficking](#) is the use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel a person into commercial sex acts, labor, or services against their will. ISP continues its multifaceted approach toward protecting those most vulnerable with its ongoing statewide human trafficking enforcement operations. The signs of human trafficking can be subtle; to learn more, please visit [Recognizing the Signs | National Human Trafficking Hotline](#).

If you suspect human trafficking, contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text *233733. For more information visit www.humantraffickinghotline.org. You can also email ISP.CrimeTips@illinois.gov.

ISP Identifies Effingham Man as Suspect in Serious Hit-and-Run Traffic Crash

EFFINGHAM – On September 29, 2025, Illinois State Police (ISP) Zone 7 Investigations was contacted by the Effingham Police Department to investigate an alleged hit-and-run traffic crash that occurred on September 28, 2025, at approximately 11:19 p.m. The incident took place at the intersection of Holiday Drive and North Maple Street in Effingham, IL.

During the investigation, it was determined that a female victim was struck by a golf cart while riding her scooter. The victim sustained serious injuries and was transported to a local hospital for treatment. During the course of the investigation, ISP Special Agents identified 39-year-old Dustin Brown as the suspect.

On October 17, 2025, the following charges were filed against Dustin Brown by the Cumberland County State’s Attorney, who is serving as the Special Prosecutor in this case:

- Failure to Report a Crash Involving Injury or Death – Class 2 Felony (625 ILCS 5/11-401)
- Failure to Report a Crash Involving Injury – Class 4 Felony (625 ILCS 5/11-403)

ISP Arrests Man Charged with Aggravated DUI and Reckless Homicide

WESTFIELD – The Illinois State Police (ISP) arrested 34-year-old Edwin O. Pacheco-Meza of Indianapolis, IN after a fatal crash in Westfield, IL Friday evening. Today, the Clark County State’s Attorney’s Office filed two counts of Aggravated Driving Under the Influence and one count of Reckless Homicide against Meza.

Around 7 p.m. on Friday, October 24, 2025, ISP responded to a two vehicle crash on West Lincoln Street near South Division Street in Westfield. Preliminary information shows a Chevrolet Express van driven by Pacheco-Meza was traveling eastbound when it crossed the center line and hit a Ford F150 truck traveling westbound head-on. Two passengers in the F150 truck, 71-year-old Michael Clayton and 66-year-old Gail Clayton, both of Charleston, IL, were pronounced deceased on scene, and the driver and an additional passenger in the truck, 72-year-old man and a 66-year-old woman, both of Charleston, were transported to a hospital with life-threatening injuries. The passenger of the van, 18-year-old Juan L. Morales Martinez of Lawrence, IN was uninjured and the driver, Pacheco-Meza, was treated for minor injuries.

Following the crash, Pacheco-Meza was detained in the Clark County Jail. On October 27, 2025, a detention hearing was conducted and Pacheco-Meza remains in custody pending court proceedings. The investigation is ongoing and no additional information is available at this time.

ISP Announces Results of Violent Crime Suppression Detail in the Metro East Area

EAST ST. LOUIS – Illinois State Police (ISP) conducted a violent crime suppression detail on October 20 - 22, 2025, in St. Clair and Madison counties, focusing its efforts on East St. Louis and neighboring Metro East communities. The operation utilized intelligence and technology to focus enforcement efforts on known high crime areas, violent offenders, and structured criminal groups in the communities of the Metro East. There were several notable events and arrests during the detail:

Detail Results	
Arrests	29
Felony Charges	31
Criminal Charges	53
Firearm Related Charges	15
Firearms Seized	6

On October 21, 2025, Troopers conducted a traffic stop for an Illinois Vehicle Code (IVC) violation near the intersection of 25th Street and Bellevue Drive. A probable cause search was conducted and a firearm, controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, and suspected cannabis were recovered. The driver and passenger were taken into custody and charges are pending.

On October 21, 2025, Troopers conducted a traffic stop for an IVC violation on St. Louis Avenue near 12th Street. A probable cause search revealed a large amount of suspected cannabis. The driver was interviewed, and charges are pending.

On October 22, 2025, Troopers conducted a traffic stop for an IVC violation at the intersection of St. Paul Drive and St. Williams Drive in Cahokia Heights. A probable cause search revealed a handgun. The driver was taken into custody and charges are pending.

ISP officers from around the state, including patrol Troops 3, 7 and 8, Fatal 4 South, Zone 6 Firearms Investigations Unit (FIU), Public Safety Enforcement Group (PSEG), Crime Scene Services, and ISP Air Operations, assisted ISP Statewide Anti-Violence Enforcement (SAVE) South with this multi-day operation. The Metropolitan Enforcement Group of Southern Illinois also provided additional support.

ISP will continue to use all available resources, including air operations, technology, forensic services, investigators, increase patrols, and information sharing to combat violent crime.

In Memoriam: ret. Sgt. Kenneth Gary Otey

Kenneth Gary Otey, age 80, of Marion passed away on Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 5:08 p.m. in Memorial Hospital, Carbondale, IL.

He was born on October 30, 1944 in Pittsburg, IL, the only child to Kenneth Hale and Elnora A. (Anderson) Otey.

Gary was a graduate of Marion High School Class of 1962. He continued his education at Southern Illinois University—Carbondale and after retiring from his first career with the Illinois State Police, he returned to SIU, earning his Bachelor's degree.

He proudly served his country by enlisting in the United States Army. After his period of faithful service, he was honorably discharged.

On May 28, 1966, Gary was united in marriage to Janet Eairheart at the First United Methodist Church in Marion and together they have shared over fifty-nine years of marriage.

Gary dedicated his life to serving others, beginning a distinguished 27-year career with the Illinois State Police, where he retired as a Crime Scene Investigator and attained the rank of sergeant. During his time with the Illinois State Police, he also served as a police sketch artist assisting in criminal investigations. His commitment to public service continued for another 19 years as part of the federal courthouse security team in Benton, IL.

Outside of his career, Gary found great joy in the game of golf. He was a long-time member of Crab Orchard Golf Club, where he spent countless hours doing what he loved, often in the company of good friends.

Above all, Gary was a man devoted to faith and family. He attended Purpose House Church of Energy, IL. His love for his family was the cornerstone of his life. Whether they

were all gathered around the dinner table or simply enjoying time together, his heart was always with those he loved most.

Gary's life was a reflection of kindness, integrity, and unwavering devotion—to his faith, his family, and his community. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him and forever remembered for the love he gave so freely.

He is survived by his loving wife, Jan Otey of Marion; son, David Lowell Otey of Belleville, IL; grandchildren, Keira Otey, Kylie Otey and Gavin Scott; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Vicki and Thomas Mann of Johnston City, IL; nieces and nephews, Trisha Butler, Brain Eairheart, Sarah (Greg) Behm, Richelle (Joseph) Ghibaudy, Ashley Mann and Russell (Lisa) Mann; and several great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, other extended family members and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Robert Lowell and Karen Eairheart.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home, 900 North Court Street, Marion, IL.

For those who prefer, the family suggests memorial contributions be made to the "American Heart Association" or the "American Cancer Society." Envelopes will be available at the funeral home or may be mailed c/o Wilson-McReynolds Funeral Home, 900 North Court Street, Marion, IL 62959.

For additional information call the funeral home at 618-993-2131.



In Memoriam: ret. Trooper Bill Gene Absher #1441



Trooper Billy (Bill) Gene Absher #1441, 88 of Murphysboro, IL, passed away peacefully at Parkway Manor, in Marion, IL at 5:15 AM on October 21, 2025.

Bill was born in Thompsonville, IL on May 29, 1937. After graduating H.S. he went to work in the Copper mines of Montana with his uncle. About a year later he returned, married his high school sweetheart Phyllis (Smith) Wells and moved to St. Louis, MO, where he worked for McDonald Douglas Aircraft.

In November 1967, Bill got his life's dream job as an Illinois State Trooper and the family moved back to Illinois. He served the first couple of years in the DeKalb area but eventually requested a transfer to Southern Illinois. Several years later he married Doris and lived the remainder of his life in Murphysboro. He served Illinois proud as a Trooper for 30 years before retiring in 1997.

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

<https://www.crainsonline.com/obituaries/billy-bill-absher/#!/Obituary>

In Memoriam: ret. Sgt. Brad Sterling

It is with deep sadness the Division of Statewide 9-1-1 Vehicle Services Bureau, in conjunction with the Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 4, announces the passing of retired Sergeant Brad Sterling on Sunday, October 26, 2025. Throughout his career, Sergeant Sterling served in several assignments, including patrol in District Chicago and later Zone 4 Investigations. As an investigator, he was recognized for his involvement with numerous high-profile cases such as the investigation of the homicide death of Master Sergeant Stanley Talbot, a homicide investigation in Meredosia, and the Beason Homicide Task Force. Sergeant Sterling finished out his career working in the Fleet Services Bureau before officially retiring on July 31, 2024. Please keep the family and friends of Sergeant Sterling in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.



<https://www.staabfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Brad-Edward-Sterling?obId=46234620>



**IN MEMORY OF OUR
FALLEN TROOPER**

Trooper
Corey Thompsen

End of Watch
October 18, 2024



**IN MEMORY OF OUR
FALLEN TROOPER**

Trooper
Joseph Elliott

End of Watch
October 20, 1933



**IN MEMORY OF OUR
FALLEN TROOPER**

Trooper
Harry Bradley

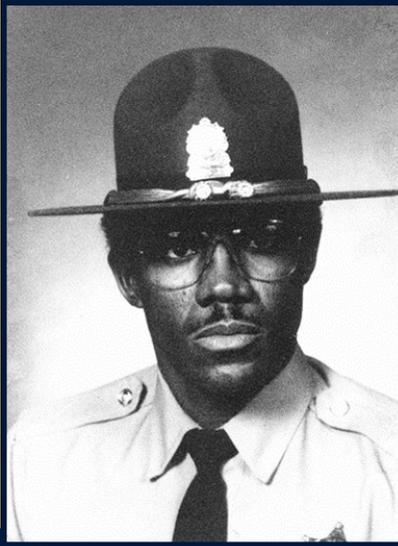
End of Watch
October 24, 1957



**IN MEMORY OF OUR
FALLEN TROOPER**

Trooper
Ben Seaton

End of Watch
October 24, 1949



**IN MEMORY OF OUR
FALLEN TROOPER**

Sergeant
Anthony Millison

End of Watch
October 27, 1997



**IN MEMORY OF OUR
FALLEN TROOPER**

Trooper
Forrest Spencer

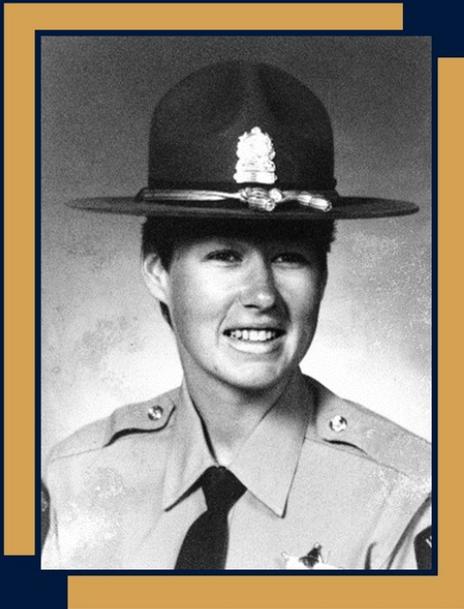
End of Watch
October 27, 1946



**IN MEMORY OF OUR
FALLEN TROOPER**

Trooper
Brian McMillen

End of Watch
October 28, 2007



**IN MEMORY OF OUR
FALLEN TROOPER**

Trooper
Erin Hehl

End of Watch
October 30, 1997