

LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
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Lee County Sheriff's Office

Public Safety and Court Services Committee

February 9, 2024

In the month of January, the Lee County Sheriff's Office logged 814 calls for service. As far as notable calls for the month of January, there were several weather events along with the following incidents that occurred...

During the early morning hours of January 9th, the Sauk Valley area received the first big snowfall of the winter. The area received between 4.5" and 6.5" of heavy, wet snow that made for slippery travel. Most schools and public buildings to include the Lee County Courthouses, were closed due to the weather. Over the two days of January 9th and 10th, deputies responded to 48 weather related calls for traffic crashes and stranded motorists.

On January 12th, the Sauk Valley area received a second round of harsh winter weather. The area received between 8" and 12.5" of lighter, blowing snow that was followed up with frigid well-below zero temperatures that made for dangerous and treacherous travel. Wind chills for the 13th, 14th and 15th of January were in the -20 to -40 degree range. Schools and public buildings were again closed due to the conditions. Over the five-day stretch of the storm from January 12th through the 15th, deputies responded to 172 weather related calls for traffic crashes and stranded motorists. (51 on the 12th, 54 on the 13th, 35 on the 14th, 20 on the 15th, and 12 on the 16th) During this time frame, plow operators and tow truck drivers were spread very thin for this weather incident.

On January 15th at approximately 3:05 p.m., the Lee County Sheriff's Office was notified that a train from Union Pacific Railroad had struck a tractor-trailer that was blocking the railway on Willow Road at Track Road just east of Franklin Grove. Responding deputies were informed that the driver of the tractor-trailer had possibly jumped out of the cab of the semi prior to being struck by the train. Upon arrival, deputies met with the driver of the semi, who was identified as Carlos Rivera Rodriguez, age 35, of Mexico. Mr. Rodriguez is a driver for Olvera Freight, and he recently left Crest Foods with a load of Hamburger Helper products. The tractor-trailer was heading south on Willow Road when it apparently became hung up at the crossing and was struck by the eastbound train. The snowy weather conditions appeared to be a factor as to how the tractor-trailer was stuck. Mr. Rodriguez was transported to KSB Hospital by Franklin Grove Ambulance for evaluation of minor injuries. Dabney Services was

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contacted for removal of the tractor-trailer and the product that was spread out across the scene. It took several hours for personnel to clear the scene.



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On January 22nd and 23rd, the Sauk Valley area received a third round of winter weather in the form of freezing rain. Schools and public buildings delayed opening due to the icy road conditions. Over the two-day stretch, deputies responded to 24 weather related calls for traffic crashes and stranded motorists.

On January 26th at approximately 12:20 a.m., deputies from the Lee County Sheriff's Office conducted a traffic stop on Pump Factory Road near Walker Road outside of Dixon. The registration on the vehicle had been expired for four years. During the traffic stop, it was determined that there were several motor vehicle violations. Through the deputy's investigation of the driver, Lucas W. Underhile, age 26, of Tampico was arrested and charged with the following:

- Possession of a Firearm Without Requisite FOID Card – Suspended, a Class 3 Felony
- Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon (3 counts), a Class 4 Felony
- Unlawful Use of a Weapon, a Class A Misdemeanor
- Possession of a Firearm Ammunition Without Requisite FOID Card, a Class A Misdemeanor
- No Valid Registration, a petty offense
- Operating an Uninsured Motor Vehicle, a petty offense
- Operating a Motor Vehicle with Expired Registration, a petty offense
- No Front Registration Plate, a petty offense

The case is pending in Lee County Case Number 24 CF 17, and he was released from custody on pretrial release provisions.

On February 2nd, the Lee County Sheriff's Office and the Lee County State's Attorney's Office announce the following charges that stem from the investigation of a fatal hit-and-run traffic accident that occurred near the intersection of Sterling Road and Walton Road at approximately 9:29 p.m. on December 4th. Kristin Kisich, age 42, of Custer Park, Illinois was charged with the following offenses:

- Failure to Report and Leaving the Scene of a Motor Vehicle Accident Involving Death, a Class 1 Felony
- Leaving the Scene of a Motor Vehicle Accident Involving Death, a Class 4 Felony

From the investigation, 40-year-old Patrick J. Yocum from Rock Falls was walking near the area and was struck by a vehicle. Yocum was located by a passerby in the middle of the roadway. He was

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transported to KSB Hospital by the Amboy Fire Department and was later pronounced deceased. Evidence left at the scene revealed that the offending vehicle had significant front-end damage to the grill, hood, and windshield of the vehicle. The offending vehicle was identified as a Jeep Cherokee with the model years being from 2014 to 2018. A media release with the offending vehicle information was disseminated the following day on December 5th. Over the afternoon of December 5th, Ms. Kisich contacted the Lee County Sheriff's Office and reported that she may be responsible for the incident. Her vehicle, a 2014 Jeep Cherokee, was located at a residence in Dixon. It was subsequently impounded as part of the investigation. Detectives interviewed Ms. Kisich and obtained a statement. Further investigation was conducted that culminated in the charges listed. The case is pending in Lee County Case Number 24 CF 26, and she was released from custody on pretrial release provisions.

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