

Suburban police form task force to target video gambling smash-and-grabs



Keeshan & Sarkauskas
COPS & CRIME

Amid a rash of smash-and-grab burglaries targeting video gambling machines in restaurants, bars and other businesses, suburban law enforcement agencies are teaming up to fight back.

More than 50 detectives from police departments and sheriff's offices in Cook, Lake, DuPage, Kane, Kendall and Will counties recently met as a newly formed task force to share intelligence and coordinate their efforts to locate and arrest the criminals responsible.

"The detectives and law enforcement personnel involved have been putting significant time and resources into these investigations, working across jurisdictional lines to connect cases, share information, and develop leads,"

Lake County sheriff's Chief Christopher Covelli said Thursday.

Rarely does a day go by that police in one suburb or another aren't responding to a burglary involving thieves bashing their way into video gambling terminals.

Over the last week, crews have hit a restaurant and a gambling cafe in Schaumburg, gas stations in Wheeling and Green Oaks, a bar in New Lenox and a truck stop in Peotone.

An employee of Frato's Kitchen & Gaming in Schaumburg, which

was broken into early Tuesday morning, said the business had to close for two days while workers cleaned up shattered glass and other damage. The restaurant side of the operation was set to reopen Thursday night, but its gambling terminals were destroyed and aren't likely to be replaced until next week.

Besides several days of lost revenue, the business now faces additional costs to beef up its security.

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A group of masked men robbed a Green Oaks gas station and smashed open several gambling terminals early Wednesday.

LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

REMEMBERING 9/11



An American flag flies with the lower Manhattan skyline in background on Sept. 9 in Jersey City, New Jersey. **ADAM GRAY/AP**

Passage of time helps to soften pain

Viewpoints diverge, but anguish lingers 25 years after attacks

By **Deepti Hajela**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — When the planes crashed and the buildings fell on that sunny September morning 25 years ago, the shock waves of dismay and grief went far past downtown New York City, rural western Pennsylvania and just outside Washington, D.C.

They radiated through every part of the United States in communities large and small, tearing at Americans' sense of safety and their place in the world. Hearts were broken across the nation, not just of those who lost their loved ones but among strangers who mourned for them, the Sept. 11 attacks leaving no one unaffected in an unwanted moment of horrifying togetherness.

A quarter of a century later, the effects linger.

We all live in a post-9/11 world, with its security strictures and surveillance. But here's the thing: Americans don't all live in the same post-9/11 world. What the attacks and their aftermath have come to mean isn't a single viewpoint shared by everyone, for reasons chronological, political and personal.

It's a tapestry of meaning and grief as varied as the nation in which 9/11 took place.

It's somewhat inevitable. After all, the passage of time means tens of millions of young Americans have been born since then. For them, 9/11 is something to learn about in history lessons.

But people's views of 9/11 and its aftermath have also been shaped by human factors like policies and actions taken by those in power. And the America that was attacked was already a nation with its own history and tensions, with stress points of dispute and disagreement put under additional strain by the catastrophic event.

"The same event, whether

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Teaching 9/11

How teachers' experiences inform lessons on a historic tragedy 25 years later

By **Madhu Krishnamurthy** | DAILY HERALD

Walt Gola and Samantha Kochanski were both in the classroom that fateful Tuesday morning when terrorists flew planes into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City 25 years ago.

Gola was teaching social studies on Sept. 11, 2001, and Kochanski was in third grade, both in Elgin Area School District U-46. Their experiences that day helped shape their future careers as history teachers at South Elgin High School.

"I remember when the first plane hit," said Gola, 49, who teaches civics and Advanced Placement U.S. government and politics.

Many classrooms had live feeds on small, grainy television sets so students and staff members witnessed the horrors of the attacks and aftermath in real time, he said.

"There's not many days in our lives where you wake up and you're like, 'This is going to be in history books,' and you see it all kind of unfold before your eyes," Gola said. "You can talk about foreign policy and the impact of everything, but the one thing that you really can't teach kids is the emotions that we all had that day,

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Walt Gola, Advanced Placement U.S. government and politics/civics teacher, and Samantha Kochanski, who teaches AP U.S. history, pose for a picture Sept. 3 at South Elgin High School. **BRIAN HILL/DAILY HERALD**

Police: Des Plaines man fatally shot by officer was wielding hedge trimmer

By **Russell Lissau**
DAILY HERALD

The father of a Des Plaines man who was fatally shot by police Wednesday said his son had bipolar disorder and was experiencing a mental health episode so severe that his mother called 911 for help.

An officer responding to that call shot 21-year-old Ayham Babidi as the young man advanced toward him with an electric hedge trimmer,

police disclosed Thursday.

An autopsy performed Thursday by the Cook County medical examiner's office revealed Babidi died from multiple gunshot wounds.

Des Plaines police went to the Babidi house on the 2000 block of East Touhy Avenue about 2:30 p.m. Wednesday. They'd been told someone was acting violently and breaking windows, according to a news release issued Thursday.

The first officer who arrived

stopped in the roadway near the house and encountered Babidi in the front yard with the hedge trimmer, police said. Babidi held the trimmer "in a threatening manner" while approaching the officer and refused commands to drop the tool, police said.

As Babidi continued toward the officer and backed him into oncoming traffic, the officer fired three



Babidi

times, police said. The officer provided medical aid until other officers and paramedics arrived, police said.

A police spokesperson wouldn't say if the trimmer was running as Babidi approached.

Babidi was taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge and pronounced dead at 3:05 p.m.

Wednesday, according to the medical examiner's office.

The Major Case Assistance Team is investigating. Police said they have video of the shooting from the camera in the officer's vehicle and residential security cameras, but they won't release it now to avoid compromising the investigation.

The officer was not able to activate his body-worn camera because

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