

Teen charged in Waukegan killing

3 other juveniles also in custody after shooting of Zion man followed by hourlong police chase

By Clifford Ward
FOR THE LAKE COUNTY NEWS-SUN

Four juveniles were taken into custody following a fatal shooting in Waukegan that prompted an hourlong police chase through Lake County on Monday night, according to city police.

The victim is a 29-year-old Zion man. His identity has not yet been released.

Waukegan police said they were called at about 7 p.m. about shots fired in the 700 block of Lincoln Avenue.

Arriving officers said there were numerous shell casings at the scene and witnesses reported a white Nissan had fled the area. The victim was taken to a hospital with multiple gunshot wounds, and he was later pronounced dead, police said.

Officers spotted the Nissan and attempted

to stop it, but the vehicle fled, leading officers on a chase that lasted about an hour. Suspects leapt from the vehicle at various points during the chase, authorities said.

Police from North Chicago, the Lake County Sheriff's Office, and the Illinois State Police joined Waukegan police in attempting to stop the vehicle.

Eventually, ISP officers were able to halt the vehicle at a Waukegan location, police said.

Officers collected evidence at several points along the route of the chase, including two firearms.

So far, charges have been levied against one of the people allegedly involved.

Daveion Gordon, 17, appeared in Lake County Court on Wednesday, where authorities said he has been charged with first-degree murder in the case.

Lake County prosecutors have filed to have him detained until trial, and Judge Michael Nerheim set a Friday date to hear that motion. In the meantime, Gordon will remain in the custody of juvenile authorities at the Hulse Detention Center.

Waukegan police are continuing to investigate the shooting.



Buffalo Grove Deputy Fire Chief Shawn Collins shows off new equipment during a tour of the village's new Fire Station 25 during its grand opening on Sept. 16. The old station was torn down. STEVE ZALUSKY/DAILY HERALD PHOTOS

New fire station ‘much more than a building’



The new fire station has a hose that extracts vehicle exhaust and vents it outside the station.

Buffalo Grove celebrates opening of state-of-the-art facility

By Steve Zalusky
DAILY HERALD

This isn't your father's or your grandfather's fire station.

Buffalo Grove's Fire Station 25 at 505 W. Dundee Road had its grand opening on Sept. 16, and one thing stood out: the village's commitment to the health and safety of its firefighters. The result, officials said, promises to also benefit the residents.

Buffalo Grove leaders, village staff members and residents gathered to celebrate the opening of the station and tour the state-of-the-art facility.

The station was designed by FGM Architects and Frederick Quinn Corp. managed construction of the project, which came in slightly under its \$10.1 million budget, officials said.

It replaces a half-century-old station that was torn down.

"It was limping along," project manager Adam Slotkus said. "It had multiple repairs throughout the years. At some point, 50 years catches up with you."

Village President Eric Smith said the new station gives firefighters the modern space, equipment and resources they need to work at the highest level.

"Today is about much more than a building," he said. "It's about our shared commitment to public safety, preparedness and the people who answer the call when we or our neighbors need help the most."

Fire Chief Larry Kane and Deputy Chief Shawn Collins touted upgrades, including high-speed overhead doors that improve response time and save on energy costs during the winter by keeping

the cold air out.

The building also is environmentally friendly, with red and green LED lights by the doors, indicating whether they are open or shut. Elsewhere, lighting is controlled by occupancy sensors to save on electricity.

Exhaust fumes from fire vehicles are kept out of the station by hoses that hook onto the fire truck's tailpipe. It is an important improvement given concerns about cancer affecting firefighters, officials say.

Individual bunk rooms have climate controls and programmable alerts that reduce unnecessary sleep interruptions.

"Studies show that for firefighters, repeated interruptions cause stress on your heart, cause cardiovascular issues, but sleep disruption

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MUNDELEIN

Coach is accused of recording student

48-year-old on leave; he's also a teacher at nearby middle school

By Mick Zawislak
DAILY HERALD

A Mundelein middle school teacher who also serves as the girls' junior varsity volleyball coach at Mundelein High School was arrested Tuesday on allegations that he unlawfully video-recorded a female student, police said.

Dagoberto Diaz, 48, of Mundelein, is charged with one felony count of unauthorized video recording of a juvenile, stemming from an investigation launched Aug. 18 when school officials reported the accusation to police, authorities said.

"While we are deeply troubled by this situation, we are also incredibly proud of the students who demonstrated courage to speak up when something did not feel right," Superintendent Corey Tafoya wrote in a message Tuesday sent to families and staff at Mundelein High and Carl Sandburg Middle School.

Tafoya heads up both Mundelein Elementary District 75 and Mundelein High School District 120.

According to police, a student reported that a coach had brought her into a room to perform stretching and jumping exercises. She reported that she observed the coach holding a cellphone and saw a flash from the phone, leading her to believe he was photographing her.

The student immediately reported the incident to school staff, police said, and detectives identified Diaz as the coach. Diaz's cellphone was seized by detectives, and a forensic analysis conducted via search warrant revealed several images and videos that corroborated the student's account, police said.

Diaz was placed on leave immediately after the student reported his behavior, and he has not been permitted to interact with students or be on either school's property, Tafoya said.

The district will take "all the necessary steps" to fire him, he added.

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This is what Lake County voters should really be worried about



Charles Selle

A double witching hour took place this week. We moved into the fall equinox on Tuesday, while early in-person balloting begins Thursday for the midterm election.

Decide which is more important: indulging in pumpkin spice food and drink or voting for candidates on the Nov. 3 ballot. Tough decision.

Especially considering that for many voters in Lake County, there are few choices to make when they trudge to the polls in less than six weeks or take part in early voting. Sixteen local candidates, all of them incumbent Democrats, are unopposed and will waltz into office without being challenged.

Early voting will be held in the lobby of the Lake County Building in downtown Waukegan from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Oct. 16. Countywide in-person early voting opens Oct. 19 at selected locations, while voter registration takes place up to Nov. 2 at various

sites.

Those electing for early voting will find a sparse lineup of candidates. Land of Lincoln Republicans finally cobbled a slate of no-name candidates — except for gubernatorial long shot Darren Bailey making his second try to unseat Gov. JB Pritzker — to oppose entrenched statewide Democrats.

The same is true in Lake County as Dems on the County Board hold a supermajority, like their legislative counterparts in Springfield. County GOPsters rustled up a few candidates, but more Republican blank spaces are

listed on the local fall ballot than challengers.

Five Democratic legislative candidates are unopposed. The last two Republican state lawmakers in Lake County face Democratic challengers.

Other unopposed races include two for trustee on the North Shore Water Reclamation District board; two countywide posts, Clerk Anthony Vega and Regional Schools Superintendent Michael Karner; and seven County Board Dems. There are Republican challengers in six County Board contests.

It's a sorry state of affairs

for a political party that once controlled Lake County and a few years ago at least made an attempt to be the loyal opposition. Statewide and locally, Republicans have lost their message to persuade voters to choose them.

They may find themselves further in the hole after Nov. 3, although it can't get much worse for the GOP. Illinoisans, like their fellow Americans, are suffering from record-high fuel prices, rising prices at the grocery store, and soaring costs from energy to clothing.

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