

The Beverly REVIEW



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**Crusaders
earn OT
win with
Hagan.**

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Beverly native killed in crash with DUI driver

by Kyle Garmes

A man with local roots was killed in a crash in which his vehicle was struck by a driver who police allege was under the influence.

Bill Kappel, 32, died in an accident in Charleston, S.C., that took place at about 2:17 a.m. on Jan. 27, according to media reports.

Kappel was living in Oak Lawn, reports said; he was a member of the parish of St. Barnabas Roman Catholic Church and a graduate of PLAID Academy.

According to reports, Kappel was a passenger in a 2016 Mazda sedan that witnesses said was struck by a 2004 Ford pickup truck that disregarded a traffic signal and entered an intersection during a red light. After colliding with the truck, the Mazda struck a building.

The other three passengers in the Mazda were hospitalized, reports said; the driver suffered internal injuries and was in serious condition, and the others had non-life-threatening injuries.

The two occupants of the truck were also taken to the hospital, and the driver, Thomas Garriss, 30, of North Charleston, S.C., was determined to be impaired when police officers visited the hospital.

Garriss was charged with driving under the influence resulting in death and driving under the influence resulting in great bodily injury, as well as reckless homicide.

He appeared in court on Jan. 27; bond was set at \$450,000.

Kappel's obituary and service information were unavailable at press time.



Holistic Riding Equestrian Therapy (HRET), a Lemont-based program led by Executive Director Marlene Karman (second from right) that supports people with special needs and military veterans, has many local volunteers. Kathy Sanders (from left), Chandra Murray, Jean O'Ryan, Mary Lenzini, Linda Temple, Edris Hoover and Emma Bunda often visit the 42-acre farm, where participants ride therapy horses and take care of other farm animals. HRET will host two upcoming training sessions for volunteers, including one on Saturday, Feb. 2. (Review photo)

HRET riding high with volunteers

by Kyle Garmes

It started five years ago with two ponies and a child with special needs.

Today, it is a thriving facility with 10 horses and other animals that provide emotional support to young children and military veterans—thanks to the efforts of local volunteers.

Holistic Riding Equestrian Therapy (HRET), which was originally located in Mt. Greenwood and is now at Kopping Farm in suburban Lemont, enables people with special needs to grow emotionally and socially, and to prepare to compete in Special

Olympics events. Dozens of riders utilize the farm, often venturing onto surrounding trails on horseback to take in the great outdoors.

Edris Hoover, of Beverly, is among the local residents who volunteer with HRET. She once owned horses around the state, and she relishes the opportunity to pursue that passion again.

"This brings me back to working with people and horses," Hoover said. "It's a great opportunity to touch that part of my life."

HRET originally operated at the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences

(CHSAS) before executive director and instructor Marlene Karman relocated the program to Kopping Farm, a 42-acre site at 12300 W. 115th St., because of its location next to hundreds of acres owned by the Forest Preserves of Cook County. It features two indoor arenas and one outdoor arena.

Karman and her husband, Art, originally assisted a child with cerebral palsy, and in 2017, after becoming a 501(c)(3) organization, HRET served over 30 riders a week and conducted over 200 classes.

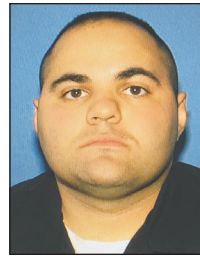
In 2018, HRET served over 50 riders a week, hosted over

(See HRET page 19)

Off-duty deputy killed in crash; woman charged

by Kyle Garmes

A woman from south suburban Markham has been charged with three felonies after a head-on two-vehicle accident in Mt. Greenwood that left an off-duty Cook County sheriff's deputy from Oak Lawn dead.



Theofanopoulos

Monzerat Perez, 21, was charged with aggravated DUI for an accident that resulted in a death; reckless homicide with a motor vehicle; and escaping from a peace officer after twice trying to escape her hospital room.

According to police, the accident happened on the 10300 block of South Kedzie Avenue at about 8:56 p.m. on Jan. 21.

Nick Theofanopoulos, 39, of the 9400 block of South Mobile Avenue, was killed in the collision.

Video footage in media reports shows Perez' vehicle drifting into the wrong lane just south of 103rd Street. One vehicle drives onto a curb to avoid being struck by Perez before she collides with Theofanopoulos' vehicle.

Police said a Jeep driven by Perez pulled out of a driveway westbound and was turning south when she collided with Theofanopoulos, who was driving a Nissan Altima northbound.

Theofanopoulos was pronounced dead at 9:37 p.m. at

(See Charges page 21)

Dewar promotes blue-collar roots in 19th Ward race

by Kyle Garmes

As a candidate for 19th Ward alderman against incumbent Matt O'Shea in the Feb. 26 municipal election, David Dewar said he is a blue-collar independent who has solutions for the pension crisis in Chicago and for supporting Chicago Police Department officers while holding them accountable.

Dewar, of Mt. Greenwood, is the owner of Tax Free Retirement Solutions, a business in

(See Dewar page 17)



Dewar

Online threats lead to charges

by Kyle Garmes

A man from Ashburn has been charged with three counts of making online threats, including to people in Mt. Greenwood, during the trial last year of Chicago police officer Jason Van Dyke, who was found guilty of second-degree murder in the shooting death of teenager Laquan McDonald.

Matthew Ross, 32, of the 8000 block of South Sawyer Avenue, according to reports, faces punishment ranging from a fine to five years in prison for each charge.

According to the Chicago Police Department (CPD), Ross was arrested on the 2600 block of South California Avenue on Oct. 4 and charged with electronic harassment for threatening at least two people, as well as for disorderly conduct—breach of peace.

He was released on a \$1,500 I-bond on Oct. 5.

According to reports, an indictment made public by the U.S. District Court stated that Ross made several threats in 2018, when Van Dyke's trial was in progress.

According to reports, the

indictment said that Ross posted threats on social media on Aug. 7.

"So, if I got a hit squad together to shoot 70

family members of CPD officers this weekend ... they'll be no suspects Monday morning?"

Later that month, he posted that family members of CPD

(See Ross page 20)



Ross

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