

December 15, 2025

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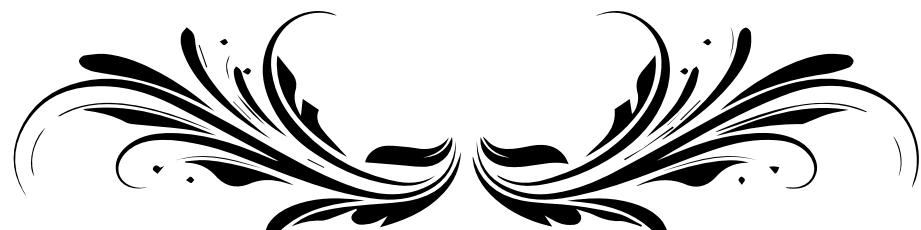
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Deacon Lester Stokes

(219) 931-1301

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Friday 7:30 p.m.

Greater Works Outreach Prayer and Deliverance Ministry

4822 Kennedy Ave. East Chicago, IN 46312

Apostle Jose Ruiz (219) 852-0677

Sunday 11:30 a.m.

www.greaterwksmin.com

Hammond Christian Reformed Church

1910 167th St, Hammond, IN

Pastor Josh Christoffels

(219) 844-3331

Sunday School 9:50 a.m.

Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Break Tuesday 9:00 a.m.

Ladies Bible Study Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

www.hammondcrc.org

Mt. Zion Baptist Church

1047 Kenwood St., Hammond, IN

(219) 931-4337

Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Prayer 6:00 p.m.

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

1117 Merrill St., Hammond, IN

Reverend Herman A. Polk, Sr.

(219) 932-5955

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday 8:30 a.m., 1:30 & 7:00 p.m.

Testimony C.O.G.I.C. of Hammond

1022 Cleveland St, Hammond, IN

Elder Patrick Williams

(219) 937-4676

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship 11:30 a.m.

Friday 7:30 p.m.

New Zion Temple Church

926 Morris Street, Hammond, IN

Bishop Brandon A. Jacobs

(219) 931-ZION (9466)

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday Prayer 6:30 p.m.

Wed Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

www.newziontemple.org

Northgate Church

2820 165th St Hammond, IN

Senior Pastors Joey & Sunshine Miranda

Sunday Worship (bilingual) 10:00am

Tues. Bible Studies: Spanish, Men, Women & Young Adults, Monday YOUTH Bible Study

Email: wearengc@gmail.com

Saint Joseph Roman Catholic Church

5310 Hohman Avenue

Hammond, IN 46320

Rev. Jeffrey Burton, Pastor

(219) 932-0702

Sunday: 9:00 am Mass in Church

Monday, Wednesday &

Friday: 9:00 am Mass in Chapel

saintjosephhammond@comcast.net

The Word Made Flesh Ministries

700 Sibley St. Hammond, IN 46320

Pastor Apostle James E. Ford

Contact: Michelle Ford 708-415-3027

Email: Wordmadeforhim@gmail.com

Trinity Lutheran Church

7227 Hohman Ave, Hammond, IN

(219) 932-4660

Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

On FACEBOOK

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

www.trinityhammond.com

Woodmar United Methodist Church

7320 Nortcote Ave, Hammond, IN

(219) 844-3030

Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.

www.woodmarumc.org

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~ Dieter F. Uchtdorf

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*information submitted subject to editing for clarity and space allotted



City of Hammond Announces Police Department Leadership Changes

The City of Hammond, Mayor Thomas M. McDermott Jr., and the Hammond Police Department proudly announce significant leadership transitions, including promotions and retirements that mark an important moment in the department's history.

After 38 years of distinguished service, Chief William "Andy" Short has announced his retirement. He will continue serving as Chief Emeritus until his departure date in early April. Because of Chief Short's impending retirement, Assistant Chief Jeffery Long will assume command as Chief, effective January 1, 2026.

Chief Short began his career with the Hammond Police Department on September 26, 1988, after graduating from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. His career has been marked by dedication, exemplary leadership, and several historic milestones. Rising through the ranks—1st Class Patrolman, 2nd Class Patrolman, Corporal, Sergeant, and Lieutenant—he made history in 2016 as the department's first African American Assistant Chief.

Chief Short served in numerous divisions, including Patrol as a Patrol Officer, K-9 Handler, Bike Patrol member, and SWAT Officer. In the Special Deployment Division, he worked in the Gang/Narcotics Unit and served on the DEA HIDTA Task Force in Lake County. He also spent five years in Internal Affairs before being appointed Assistant Chief.

Andy continued breaking barriers throughout his exemplary career. On January 8, 2021, he became the first African American Chief of Police in Hammond's history.

A lifelong Hammond resident, Chief Short has led with integrity, professionalism, and a deep commitment to community connection—especially to the city's youth. He has been a frequent presence at community events, school programs, and neighborhood gatherings, ensuring young residents always felt valued and protected.

Chief Short leaves behind a legacy of leadership, service, and positive impact. As he shifts his focus toward family and his beloved grandchildren, the City of Hammond extends its gratitude for Andy's decades of dedication.

In a symbolic and meaningful moment, Chief Short will celebrate his retirement by pinning the Chief's badge on his friend and partner of 38 years—newly appointed Chief of Police, Jeffery Long.

Jeffery Long began his service with the Hammond Police Department on December 18, 1989, following his graduation from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. Throughout his more than 35 years of dedicated service, Jeff has demonstrated unwavering commitment, professionalism, and leadership.

His extensive experience includes assignments as Patrol Sergeant, Shift Lieutenant, Field Training Officer, K-9 Handler, SWAT Officer, and a five-year tenure with Internal Affairs. He has risen through every rank—1st Class Patrolman, 2nd Class Patrolman, Corporal, Sergeant, and Lieutenant—and previously served as Uniform Division Captain for 12 years. Long has also served as Assistant Chief, bringing nine years of executive leadership experience to his new role. A U.S. Army veteran and lifelong Hammond resident,

Long is deeply invested in the safety and success of the community he proudly serves. His comprehensive background has prepared him to lead the department into its next chapter.

Also retiring is Captain Ezequiel Hinojosa, who began his career with the department on November 4, 1978, following his graduation from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy.

Captain Hinojosa spent his first 10 years in Patrol, including two years as an Evidence Technician, before transitioning into what would become a 38-year career within the Criminal Investigations Division (CID). Over the decades, he worked in nearly every investigative area, including Auto Detail, Sex Crimes, Burglary, Violent Crimes, Arson, and Homicide.

For the past 15 years, he has served as Captain of CID, supervising complex investigations, developing new detectives, coordinating interagency cooperation, and upholding the highest standards of investigative excellence. His leadership, institutional knowledge, and commitment to justice have left a lasting impact on the department and community. He will be missed by the department greatly.

Lastly, The City also congratulates Christopher Gootee, who was promoted to Captain of CID on November 24, 2025.

Captain Gootee joined the Hammond Police Department on July 21, 2005, and has since served in multiple specialized assignments, including the Uniform Patrol Division, Evidence Technician role, Gang Suppression Unit, Special Deployment Unit, and the FBI's Gang Response Investigative



Hammond Chief of Police William Short

Team (GRIT) Task Force. He has risen steadily through the ranks—Corporal (2013), Sergeant (2015), and Lieutenant (2023)—and is a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff & Command.

Captain Gootee has been recognized with numerous honors and awards throughout his career. As a lifelong Hammond resident, he continues to serve the community where he and his wife are raising their two daughters.

Mayor Thomas M. McDermott Jr. and the City of Hammond commend Chief Short, Captain Hinojosa, Assistant Chief Long, and Captain Gootee for their decades of service, leadership, and commitment to the safety and well-being of the Hammond community. These changes represent both the end of remarkable careers and the beginning of new opportunities for continued excellence within the department. For questions or comments please reach out to the Hammond Police Department Chief's office at 219-852-2917.

Source: City of Hammond

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Sitting Bull killed by Indian police

After many years of successfully resisting white efforts to destroy him and the Sioux people, the Sioux leader and holy man Sitting Bull is killed by Indian police at the Standing Rock reservation in South Dakota.

One of the most famous Native Americans of the 19th century, Sitting Bull (Tatanka Iyotake) was a fierce enemy of Anglo-Americans from a young age. Deeply devoted to the traditional ways, Sitting Bull believed that contact with non-Indians undermined the strength and identity of the Sioux and would lead to their ultimate decline.

However, Sitting Bull's tactics were generally more defensive than aggressive, especially as he grew older and became a Sioux leader. Fundamentally, Sitting Bull and those associated with his tribe wished only to be left alone to pursue their traditional ways, but the Anglo settlers' growing interest in the land and the resulting confinement of Native Americans to government-controlled reservations inevitably led to conflicts. Sitting Bull's refusal to follow an 1875 order to bring his people to the Sioux reservation directly led to the famous Battle of the Little Bighorn, during which the Sioux and Cheyenne wiped out five troops of Custer's 7th Cavalry.

After the Battle of the Little Bighorn, Sitting Bull and his followers fled to Canada for four years. Faced with mass starvation among his people, Sitting Bull finally returned to the United States and

surrendered in 1883. Sitting Bull was assigned to the Standing Rock reservation in present-day South Dakota, where he maintained considerable power despite the best efforts of the Indian bureau agents to undermine his influence. When the apocalyptic spiritual revival movement known as the Ghost Dance began to grow in popularity among the Sioux in 1890, Indian agents feared it might lead to a Native American uprising. Wrongly believing that Sitting Bull was the driving force behind the Ghost Dance, agent James McLaughlin sent Indian police to arrest the chief at his small cabin on the Grand River.

The police rousted Sitting Bull from his bed at 6:00 in the morning, hoping to spirit him away before his guards and neighbors knew what had happened. When the fifty-nine-year-old chief refused to go quietly, a crowd gathered and a few young men threatened the Indian police. Someone fired a shot that hit one of the Indian police; they retaliated by shooting Sitting Bull in the chest and head, killing him instantly. Before the ensuing gunfight ended, twelve other Native Americans were dead and three were wounded.

Sitting Bull was buried in a far corner of the post cemetery at Fort Yates. Two weeks later, the army brutally suppressed the Ghost Dance movement with the massacre of a band of Sioux at Wounded Knee.

Source: History.com Staff

PNW students turn summer internships into a competitive edge

"Internships are integral to the college experience at PNW," says Joelynn Stephen, director of Career Services at Purdue University Northwest (PNW). "Regardless of major, internships help students develop essential professional skills that can't be fully replicated in a classroom setting, including communication, problem-solving and time management. Employers increasingly expect candidates to have hands-on experience and an internship demonstrates initiative, work readiness and industry knowledge. It also gives PNW students a competitive edge in the job market."

In addition to developing practical skills and

gaining industry insight, internships allow students to explore potential career paths. Through firsthand experience, many discover what they like, or don't like, which can help guide their career decisions before graduation. Connections made during an internship can lead to job recommendations and even part- or full-time employment. Internships also give students a way to build a professional network.

My classes at PNW gave me a solid foundation and helped me dive right into the projects.

Juliette Miranda, '27, Mechanical Engineering

Source: Purdue University Northwest



Happy Holidays

Dave Woerpel
Hammond 5th District Councilman
&
Michael Opinker
(Former Hammond 5th District Councilman)

City of Hammond Obtains Deed of Former Franciscan/ St. Margaret's Site—Redevelopment Planned

Mayor Thomas M. McDermott and the city's economic development team announced that the former site of Franciscan/St. Margaret Hospital is now owned by the city. "The deed was received from Franciscan last week and we promptly recorded it so that the city can move on to the next exciting chapter on this site," said Mayor McDermott.

The site, which occupies an entire square city block and is nearly 8 acres, was home for over a century to St. Margaret Hospital. The hospital was recently part of the Franciscan hospital network until its sudden closure, announced in December 2022. The city fought the closure, but ultimately Franciscan shuttered the hospital and demolished what was a long-standing city institution.

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"Losing the hospital was a shock, and we fought it, but we've moved on—and now my economic development team is focused on redevelopment of this large parcel of land that will continue to add to our downtown renaissance anchored along Hohman Avenue," said the mayor. Through an agreement with Franciscan the city obtained the site after Franciscan paid for and completed the demolition in a little over a year. "We're grateful to Franciscan for transferring the land at no cost and for completing the demolition work in a timely manner," said Anne Taylor, Executive Director of the city's Department of Redevelopment.

The former hospital site kept one building standing on the northeast corner, which was transferred to Purdue Northwest and is being rehabilitated into the Roberts Impact Lab for Quantum Commercialization, slated to open in 2026. The parking garage on site was also spared



The city fought the closure, but ultimately Franciscan shuttered the hospital and demolished what was a long-standing city institution

from demolition so that it can provide downtown parking to future users of the site. "This is a very important site to our downtown plan and is within walking distance of our new downtown South Shore station—we already are fielding calls from interested developers," said Ms. Taylor.

The city anticipates making the site available to developers via a Request for Proposals in early 2026. "We've seen how popular downtown Hammond parcels are for developers and

we expect big demand for this site as well," said Juan Moreno, Director of Economic Development for the city. The land is well-situated for residential, commercial, mixed-use, or institutional development.

For questions or comments please reach out to the City of Hammond Economic Development Office at 219-853-6508 or by email to Juan Moreno at morenoj@gohammond.com

Source: City of Hammond

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HAMMOND, IN

She survived a stroke at 21. Now, she helps other survivors find meaning in their story.

The spring of Molly Buccola's senior year at Santa Clara University, she ran the Los Angeles marathon. The next month, she and her boyfriend enjoyed a fun Sunday tooling around on bikes they borrowed from Buccola's sister, Kelley Solberg, who lived nearby.

The next morning, Buccola didn't feel up to her usual 6 a.m. run, and she slept through class. When her roommate got home that afternoon, Buccola was still in bed.

She roused Buccola, who started speaking incomprehensibly. Her left side was weak, and she needed help getting to the bathroom. The roommate called Buccola's then-boyfriend to let him know what was going on, and he called Solberg.

In the emergency room, Buccola lost consciousness. By her side, Solberg teared up as she phoned their parents, Cande and Gene Buccola, who live in Oregon. Gene was recovering from prostate surgery he'd had five days earlier, a part of his cancer treatment.

"I'm driving to the airport," Cande told Gene. He nodded in agreement. At the hospital, doctors weren't sure what happened to Molly, who was 21 and otherwise healthy. Their initial wave of tests didn't provide any answers.

A neurologist came to the hospital the next day to review Molly's chart. He recognized the signs of a type of stroke known as venous sinus thrombosis, a blood clot that led to bleeding in both sides of her brain.

Molly got medication to break it up. She also had what was a new procedure at the time (it was 2005) called a thrombectomy, when a doctor uses a device to remove a clot from an artery.

"If she makes it through the night, we'll reevaluate," her doctor told her family. Upon hearing the grim news, Cande's knees buckled. Molly continued to lose consciousness after the procedure.

Later, with Molly in a coma, two priests sat by her bedside and delivered her last rites.

Meanwhile, Molly's other two siblings, Ryan and Tim Buccola, and their families flew to California to be by her side. They held her hand and prayed with rosary beads.

Molly woke up and gradually became more lucid. Cande knew Molly was getting better when she read aloud the one-liner jokes on the hospital popsicle sticks and waited for laughs. Molly, however, was paralyzed on her left side.

Nine days after her stroke, Molly moved in with Solberg and her husband and their new baby. Cande stayed in town to be Molly's caretaker, helping her learn how to walk again.

Cande used the same range-of-motion therapy techniques with Molly that she'd used with Gene's brother, who had ALS. Also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, it slowly weakens the muscles because the nerves that control them stop working properly.

With determination and perseverance, Molly progressed quickly from a walker to a four-point cane.

She returned to school to finish her final semester. At graduation, she walked across the stage using just a cane. In the audience, her family wore T-shirts that read "Life is Good."

For the next year, Molly volunteered at a community dining hall in San Francisco, kept busy with follow-up medical appointments, and started graduate school to get a degree in educational leadership. She continued to improve physically. Then she took a job as director of campus ministry at a Catholic monastery and school. She led retreats for community members and helped leaders draft talks on life lessons.

But when it came to her stroke, Molly "just went on with life." "I didn't understand how it fit with the rest of my life," she said. "I didn't know any other stroke survivors. So, I just tried to move on."

Gradually, with time and distance, Molly began to reflect on her stroke and remarkable recovery. She came to believe that "it really is important to stop and reflect."

In 2022, Molly, who now lives in Bend, Oregon, began volunteering as a stroke support group facilitator and came to see storytelling as an important tool.

Now, she's the founder and host of Beyond Stillness: Stories After Stroke, a nonprofit that runs a stroke storytelling program that culminates in a podcast. She meets one-on-one with survivors as they reflect



A month before her college graduation, Molly Buccola had a stroke. Now, she helps stroke survivors worldwide share wisdom they've learned from their own stroke experiences. (Photo courtesy of Liam Pickhardt)

on the wisdom gained through recovery and then shares their story on the podcast.

"I'm in awe of each and every guest, and the way a community has sprouted within our organization," Molly said. "The power of reflection, reframing and storytelling is profound."

Over the past year and a half, the nonprofit has recorded over 145 podcast episodes. Listeners hail from 50 states and 47 countries. The nonprofit also organizes virtual support groups, retreats and workshops for survivors.

One podcast guest said the story-crafting process made her realize "I'm strong. I have a voice. ... I'm a big advocate with a purpose." Another said that Molly "sees me in the way I've always hoped to be seen." Survivors who've worked with the nonprofit have gone on to restart therapy, start their own support groups and speak about stroke.

"Molly empowers a lot of people to look at their story in a different way," Cande said. "It's beautiful work."

Source: American Heart Association News

Indiana, Sheriff's Department

Warrant Division

For Lake County of Indiana.



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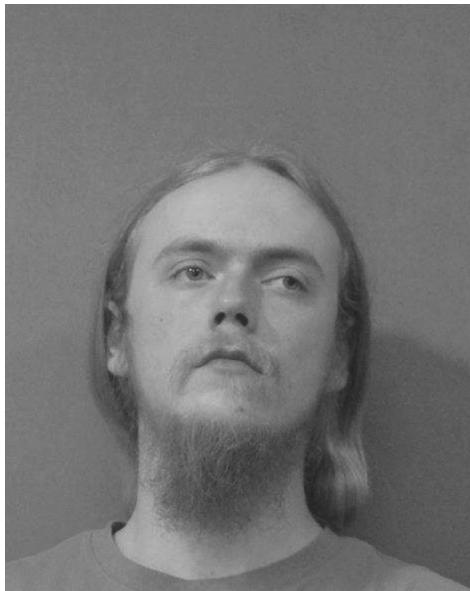
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Alias:

Sex MALE

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Weight 130 Pounds

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Hair Black

Marks/Scars/Tattoos

Wanted For: DEALING

..... COCAINE

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Date of Birth..... 1/4/1999



WANTED

Name: GONSALEZ, MIRANDA MARIAH

Alias:

Sex FEMALE

Height 5' 2"

Weight 150 Pounds

Eyes Brown

Hair Brown

Marks/Scars/Tattoos

Wanted For: BURGLARY

Name #: 20N042659

Date of Birth..... 4/19/1994



WANTED

Name: ELLIS, ANDRE LAMON

Alias:

Sex MALE

Height 5' 9"

Weight 119 Pounds

Eyes Brown

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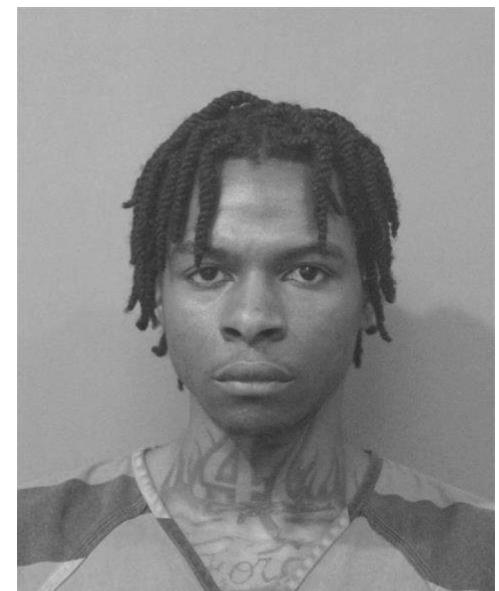
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