

DUPAGE COUNTY

Pretrial release denied for man accused of killing girlfriend

BY SUSAN SARKAUSKAS
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A judge denied pretrial release Friday for a man accused of murdering his girlfriend Wednesday in Villa Park.

DuPage County Judge Joshua Dieden ruled Anthony Jimenez, 26, demonstrated an inability to control himself and that

there were no conditions of release that could adequately mitigate the threat of danger.

"He has demonstrated that he is willing to commit crimes even where he resides," Dieden wrote in his order.



Anthony Jimenez

Jimenez is accused of killing 24-year-old Jessica Reyes. The two had argued in Jimenez's apartment in the 1600 block of South Michigan Avenue, with Jimenez accusing her of infidelity, according to court records. He blocked a door to keep her from leaving, so she climbed out the window of the third-story apartment and went to her car.

Jimenez followed her to the car and briefly blocked her from getting out, according to court records. Reyes then returned to the apartment to retrieve belongings, including her phone.

As Reyes went into a closet for her items and told Jimenez she thought they should take a three-month break in their relationship, Jimenez pulled

a switchblade knife out of his pocket and began stabbing her in the head, court records show.

His mother and a man heard Reyes' screams and entered the bedroom. The man grabbed Reyes and took him out of the room.

Reyes was pronounced dead at Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove.

"Domestic violence has no place in our society," Villa Park Police Chief Michael Rivas said in a news release. "The alleged actions of the accused are horrific. When the facts of the case are revealed, there is no doubt the accused should face the full force of our justice system."

Jimenez's next court date is Aug. 12.



Mary Kelley, 12, of Elburn, kisses her Scottish Highland heifer on top of the head while they practice in the show arena during the Kane County Fair on Thursday in St. Charles.

JOE LEWNARD/jlewnard@dailyherald.com

It's Kane County Fair time!

BY JOE LEWNARD
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The carnival rides are spinning, the funnel cakes are dusted with sugar, the corn is roasted and a few newcomers are getting acquainted with the Kane County Fair, now underway in St. Charles.

Mary Kelley, a 12-year-old from Elburn, kissed her anxious Scottish Highland heifer on the top of the head as the pair

practiced for the fair's 4-H competition.

"I'm getting her used to the arena because she's never been here before," Mary said of the young cow. "It's kind of a way of getting her 'normalized.'"

Sporting a coat of neatly brushed fur — the breed is noticeably hairier than most other cows — the heifer hesitated at first and "mooded" several times, but soon began to settle down

for Kelley. Rabbits, poultry, sheep, swine dairy cows and beef cattle are all part of the 4-H show.

The fair continues this weekend with a carnival, live music acts, the "Swiftly Swine" racing pigs, a petting zoo and a mullet competition.

The fair closes on Sunday, but it won't go quietly. The tire-screaming demolition derby is set to rev up on the final afternoon of the fair.

LAKE ZURICH

After more than 20 years, the promenade ready for a refresh

BY MICK ZAWISLAK
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The Lake Zurich promenade, a decades-old focal point along Main Street in downtown, will be getting a face lift.

Work to refresh the feature installed on the south side of the namesake lake in 2002-2003 will begin in coming weeks with the award Monday of a \$586,648 contract with A Jules Construction LLC of Woodstock.

Brick pavers will be removed and replaced and irrigation installed for new native flowers, shrubs and trees. Creating softer curves on planting beds, installing new "street furniture" and customized emblems in the brickwork also are part of the project.

Repainting streetlights, railings and structures was added to the bid package after \$362,154 in budgeted village funds was redirected to the promenade project.

The village received a state grant for costs related to the Buffalo Creek stream bank stabilization project and allocated some of the savings to supplement the promenade work.

"We had some funds budgeted but this allowed us to do more — a reboot, refresh," said Michael Brown, public works director. "All the ornamental features will be taken down to bare metal and repainted (for) a fresh look."

What is described as a comprehensive landscaping project "aims to



COURTESY OF VILLAGE OF LAKE ZURICH

The promenade in downtown Lake Zurich built in 2002-2003 will be getting a refresh with new brick pavers, landscaping and other elements. The \$587,000 project will begin in a few weeks and wrap up this year.

improve the beauty of the promenade making it a more inviting and enjoyable destination," according to a village summary.

Plants blooming year-round and added green space will "significantly enhance" the overall appearance of the promenade and make it more appealing for events and gatherings, attract visitors and boost property values in the area, according to the village.

Promenade improvements are another in a series of completed or planned projects to attract investment in village-owned properties in the area.

Among them is open land across Main Street known as Block A for which two concept plans for a mix of uses have surfaced.

Also is the ongoing renovation of a corner building housing three businesses at Old Rand Road and Main Street. It recently was purchased from the village by a developer with the stipulation that at least

\$1.5 million in improvements be made within two years.

Last year, the village replaced water, storm and sanitary sewer mains as part of a \$5 million investment in the area.

"It's an active area for us," Brown said, and will continue to be over the next few years with utility relocations and streetscape improvements, including landscaping, sidewalks and road resurfacing planned.

The promenade project and the rehabilitation of about 14,000 square yards of asphalt parking lots, access drives, sports courts and walking paths at Staples, Sonoma and Paulus parks are the last two capital projects for 2024 to go out to bid.

Village officials Monday also approved a not-to-exceed bid of about \$1.08 million with Chicagoland Paving Contractors Inc., of Lake Zurich for that work, planned to begin in August.

Both are expected to be completed this year.

WHEATON

Cosley Zoo parking project gets final OK from council

BY KATLYN SMITH
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The Wheaton Park District has the green light to add parking for Cosley Zoo now that the city council has approved plans for the much-discussed project.

The council's 5-1 vote paves the way for construction of an accessory parking lot across from Cosley Zoo. The park district plans to put the project out to bid in August and begin construction this fall.

Some neighbors earlier this week reiterated their objections to expanding zoo parking. The current iteration of the project calls for 93 parking slots — scaled back from an originally proposed 258-space lot along Gary Avenue.

"The park district has made tremendous modifications to this project," Mayor Phil Suess said. "What we're looking at today is dramatically different than where we started."

The park district also intends to remove an existing 30-car staff parking lot, resulting in a net gain of 63 new spaces on the east side of Gary Avenue. The Cosley Foundation is expected to cover the design and construction of the new parking area at an estimated cost of \$2.1 million, meaning no taxpayer funds will be used to pay for it.

"We are very pleased that we can continue with our plans to build a new staff and visitor overflow parking area that will allow more children and families to visit the zoo on its busiest days. For more than a year, we have listened to constructive feedback to shape our plans, maintain green



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The Wheaton Park District plans to build an auxiliary parking for Cosley Zoo, an institution turning 50 this year.

space, and reduce the size of the parking area from the original proposal," said park district Executive Director Mike Benard in a statement Friday.

"The current plan is the culmination of input from residents and stakeholders and evenly balances the need for additional parking without changing our community's character."

The park district owns 6 acres on the east side of Gary Avenue, and the parking lot, when complete, would occupy roughly an acre of that land.

Some neighbors, however, continue to raise concerns about pedestrian safety and the demand for more parking.

"The \$2 million from the Cosley Foundation could be better spent inside Cosley Zoo rather than on an unnecessary parking lot that will devalue property values in Pioneer Terrace," Wheaton resident Joan Wegrzyn said, referring to a subdivision of homes. Councilman Scott Brown

was the only dissenting vote. "What's the urgency? I haven't heard it. Maybe it exists, but I haven't heard it," Brown said earlier this month.

Among the conditions imposed by the city, the new parking area cannot be used until a Gary Avenue roadwork project is complete. Crews are set to install a traffic signal and a crosswalk at the intersection of Gary and Prairie avenues.

The park district will put in a six-foot fence along the west side of the parking lot to direct people to the signalized crosswalk. Officials have said the new 93-space area will be used by "50-60 staff members during the busiest summer months" as part of an effort to free up spaces on the west side of Gary Avenue for zoo visitors.

"In the context of the city council, this is a zoning issue," Suess said. "It's not a policy issue. The policy issue rests with the park district."

• Staff writer Dave Oberhelman contributed to this report

SCHAUMBURG

Woman dead after townhouse fire

BY ERIC PETERSON
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A Schaumburg woman died Thursday night after a townhouse fire authorities believe was likely caused by careless use of smoking materials.

Joann Puhl, 51, of 25 Illinois Blvd., Unit L1 in Schaumburg, was pronounced dead at 8:22 p.m. after

efforts to resuscitate her at the scene and at Alexian Brothers Hospital were unsuccessful.

Schaumburg Deputy Fire Chief Fabio Puccini said the apartment received the call at 7:24 p.m. and responded in time to confine the fire to its room of origin, the master bedroom of a lower level unit of the four-unit townhouse

complex. Three other units of the building remain habitable, but the investigation is continuing in the damaged unit.

Authorities believe the fire was accidental.

An autopsy by the Cook County medical examiner's office was performed Friday, but Puhl's cause and manner of death are still pending.

NAPERVILLE

Man charged with drug-induced homicide

BY SUSAN SARKAUSKAS
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A man accused of killing a Naperville man by illegally selling him fentanyl and a sedative has been ordered held in jail pretrial.

Christopher H. Hobson, 38, of the 4300 block of S. St. Lawrence Avenue, Chicago, was in DuPage County First Appearance Court Friday morning.

He was charged in April with three counts

of drug-induced homicide and two counts of manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance. Hobson was arrested Wednesday.

Authorities say that he sold alprazolam and fentanyl to Daniel Grimley, 36, on Feb. 20, 2023.

Grimley died in his home on Feb. 22. An autopsy ruled he died of combined



Christopher Hobson

drug intoxication. Fentanyl, alprazolam, phenobarbital and fluoxetine were found in his body.

Fentanyl is an opioid; alprazolam is the generic name for Xanax, a sedative; phenobarbital is a sedative that also is used to treat epilepsy; and fluoxetine, the generic name for Prozac, is an antidepressant. The last two were prescribed to Grimley, according to authorities.

Hobson's next court date is Aug. 12.