

Cops: AR-15 at Jake's 58

Man arrested twice; rifle found in room, guns later at his home

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A man was charged Friday morning with having an illegal military-style rifle in his Islandia casino hotel room, then arrested again Friday night after officers found illegal weapons in a raid of his home, Suffolk police said.

Raymond Hansen, 25, of Parker Lane in East Patchogue, is expected to be arraigned Saturday on two counts of third-degree criminal possession of a weapon. Fourth Precinct detectives found two illegal semi-automatic rifles, police said. Police did not release other details.

Hansen had first been ar-



Raymond Hansen

rested after security at Jake's 58 Hotel & Casino entered his room Thursday night to investigate a complaint about a barking dog, then discovered a disassembled, semi-automatic AR-15 rifle and two magazine clips capable of holding a combined 30 rounds of ammunition, police said.

Hansen had smuggled them under his jacket and into his room, authorities said.

A police statement Friday morning had said Hansen "did not intend to use the weapon to cause harm," but authorities did not disclose why he brought the rifle to his room.

"It's concerning that an individual walked into a casino with an assault rifle," Suffolk District Attorney Timothy Sini said at a news conference Friday in Hauppauge. "And that's why we are taking this investigation extremely seriously. We are going to look into his past. We are going to dig and dig until we get the full picture."

Hansen was arraigned in the casino-related case Friday on charges of third-degree criminal possession of a weapon and unlawful possession of marijuana.

His defense attorney, Robert Del Col of Smithtown, said his client was out on \$250,000 bond when he and his mother got home Friday and found officers ready to serve them a

search warrant.

The attorney questioned the probable cause and legality of the search of Hansen's hotel room. Del Col said Hansen is a gun enthusiast and legally bought the AR-15 in Pennsylvania, where the gun culture and shows attract many.

"He never posed a risk to anyone," the attorney said, because he had his weapon in the hotel room for an "innocent" reason, which will be disclosed in time.

Hansen has no history of mental illness or work problems, Del Col said, and was at the casino because his family, including his mother and her boyfriend, wanted to gamble.

Sini said the hotel room was booked by Hansen and three other individuals. He did not identify those individuals but said they are part of the investigation.

Hansen was arrested after he returned to the room while officers were still searching the scene, police said. Marijuana was also found, Sini said.

Hansen confessed to bringing the weapon and marijuana into the hotel room, according to a criminal complaint.

He does not have a criminal record, Sini said.

It's unclear if the rifle was operable, Sini said, but aspects of the weapon are illegal under state law, including a telescoping stock and pistol grip.

Authorities found two magazine clips — one capable of holding 20 rounds of ammunition and another capable of holding 10 rounds. The SAFE Act prohibits possession of any magazine that has the capacity to hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition.

"There are a lot of unanswered questions for the public," said Sini, adding that there was no active threat.

Jake's 58, which is run by Suffolk Off-Track Betting Corp. and has 1,000 video lottery terminal machines, said in a statement Friday that it is "cooperating fully with police on the criminal investigation."

More are vaping pot component, Nassau cops say

BY JOHN ASBURY

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Nassau County police said Friday that they have seen an increase of vaping using concentrated THC.

Police made 990 arrests last year for users vaping THC, the principal ingredient in marijuana, in vape pipes. Police this year have made 410 arrests for vaping THC, Nassau County Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder said.

"I think that people have the perception that because it is not marijuana being smoked in a pipe or another method, it is not illegal," Ryder said. "That could not be further from the truth. The police treat THC vape cartridges the same way they treat any other illegal drug. You will be arrested and

prosecuted."

Police said they will allow parents to test any vape pipe for THC for free at any Nassau County precinct.

Ryder and Nassau County Executive Laura Curran pointed to a jar of concentrated THC seized in a Bellmore raid last year, which was used to inject the drug into gummy bears, Ryder said at a news conference in Mineola.

Curran said many vaping products are marketed to children and are not generally safer than smoking cigarettes. The vaping materials are flavored as fruit or candy, but still carry many of the same carcinogens as cigarettes and nicotine.

"Nicotine is a drug. THC is a drug. Using a vaping method to ingest either can have both negative health effects and, in the



Laura Curran displays a jar of concentrated THC during the news conference Friday in Mineola.

case of THC, be illegal," Curran said. "Don't be fooled into thinking either one is harmless."

Vaping products can be sold in Nassau County to those 18

and older, while the age to buy tobacco products is 19.

Several jurisdictions, including Suffolk County, North Hempstead, Oyster Bay, Long Beach and New York City, have

raised the age for all vaping and tobacco products to 21.

An initiative to raise the age in Nassau County has failed to pass the Republican-controlled legislature.