



**Richard Ploch**  
**LaSalle County Coroner**

707 E. Etna Rd.  
Ottawa, IL 61350  
Phone – 815-434-8268  
Fax – 815-434-8306

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**\*\*\* NEWS RELEASE \*\*\***

**DATE:** December 27, 2022

**FROM:** LaSalle County Coroner's Office

The two individuals who died in the Saturday, December 24, 2022, fire at 1522 Sycamore St. Apt. A, Ottawa, Illinois have been identified as:

Arthelia M. Brewer, age 44, of Ottawa, Illinois and her daughter, Melani A. Embry, age 3 of the same address.

The preliminary autopsy findings indicate that both decedents died of smoke inhalation and carbon monoxide intoxication as the result of the fire.

This incident remains under investigation by LaSalle County Coroner's Office, Ottawa Police and Fire Departments, and the Illinois State Fire Marshall.

Rich Ploch,

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LaSalle County Coroner



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**\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***

**DATE:** January 25, 2023

**FROM:** LaSalle County Coroner's Office

On the morning of Wednesday, January 25, 2023, the LaSalle County Coroner's Office and the LaSalle County Sheriff's Office, responded to a fatal single vehicle accident near the intersection of N. 3450<sup>th</sup> Rd. and 2175<sup>th</sup> Rd. in Rutland Twp. The driver and only occupant has been identified as Sean C. Stoew sand, 27, of Serena, IL.

A forensic investigative autopsy was conducted on Wednesday, January 25. Results are pending. This incident is under further investigation by the LaSalle County Coroner's Office, and LaSalle County Sheriff's Department.

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**\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***

**DATE:** February 21, 2023

**FROM:** LaSalle County Coroner's Office

**SUBJECT:** Further information, release of identity of gunshot wound incident investigation.

The LaSalle County Coroner's Office responded to the OSF St. Elizabeth Medical Center Emergency Room, Ottawa, Illinois on Sunday, February 19, 2023, for a female decedent who has been identified as Alexandria R. Davis, age 20, of Ottawa, Illinois.

A forensic autopsy was conducted Monday, February 20, 2023, with the results pending.

This incident is under further investigation by the LaSalle County Coroner's Office, LaSalle County State's Attorney, and the Ottawa Police Department.

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**\*\*\* NEWS RELEASE \*\*\***

**DATE:** March 20, 2023

**FROM:** LaSalle County Coroner's Office

The individual who died in the Wednesday, March 15, 2023, fire at 108 W. Campbell St. #2, Ottawa, Illinois have been identified as:

Rendelle Farrell, age 39, of Ottawa, Illinois.

The preliminary autopsy findings indicate the decedent died of smoke inhalation and carbon monoxide intoxication as the result of the fire.

This incident remains under investigation by LaSalle County Coroner's Office, Ottawa Police and Fire Departments, and the Illinois State Fire Marshall.

Rich Ploch,

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**\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***

**DATE:** March 30, 2023

**FROM:** LaSalle County Coroner's Office

The LaSalle County Coroner's Office responded to the River Walk south of the Main St. Bridge, Ottawa, Illinois on Wednesday, March 29, 2023

The male decedent recovered was identified as David L. Ebert., age 56, of Ottawa, Illinois. A forensic autopsy was conducted Wednesday, March 29, 2023 with the results pending.

This incident is under further investigation by the LaSalle County Coroner's Office and the Ottawa Police Department. Further information will be released when it becomes available.

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**DATE:** April 3, 2023

**FROM:** LaSalle County Coroner's Office

On Friday, March 31, 2023 the LaSalle County Coroner's Office responded to a single vehicle crash at East 9<sup>th</sup> and North 40<sup>th</sup> Roads, Earlville, Illinois. The investigation revealed there was one male occupant inside the car. His name will be released at a later date pending notification of next of kin.

An Investigative Autopsy was conducted on Saturday, April 1, 2023. This accident is still under further investigation by the LaSalle County Coroner's Office and LaSalle County Sheriff's Department.

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**\*\*\* NEWS RELEASE \*\*\***

**DATE:** April 10, 2023

**FROM:** LaSalle County Coroner's Office

The individual who died on Tuesday, April 4 2023, due to a fall at Starved Rock State Park, Utica, Illinois has been identified as:

Gabriella J. Paulsen, age 20, of Addison, Illinois. Preliminary findings stated she died of injuries sustained from a fall from a height. No foul play is suspected.

This incident is still under investigation by the LaSalle County Coroner's Office, and Illinois Conservation Police Department.

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**DATE:** April 14, 2023

**FROM:** LaSalle County Coroner's Office  
Utica Police Department

On Friday, April 14, 2023, the LaSalle County Coroner's Office responded to a death of a male individual at Grand Bear Lodge, Unit 4, Utica, Illinois. There is not a threat to the public and no foul play is suspected. A forensic autopsy will be performed Saturday, April 15, 2023.

This incident remains under investigation by LaSalle County Coroner's Office and the Utica Police.

The name of the decedent is being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

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**\*\*\* NEWS RELEASE \*\*\***

**DATE:** April 17, 2023

**FROM:** LaSalle County Coroner's Office

On Saturday, April 15, 2023, the LaSalle County Coroner's Office was called to a single vehicle motorcycle accident near 2107 N. 2635rd. Rd. (Fall River Twp.) Marseilles, Illinois. The deceased operator of the motorcycle was identified as Francis M. Grimes, age 76, of Morris, Illinois. A forensic autopsy was conducted on Sunday, April 16, 2023. Preliminary investigation indicates the motorcyclist failed to negotiate a curve in the roadway.

This incident is under further investigation by the LaSalle County Coroner's Office, and the LaSalle County Sheriff's Office.

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**DATE:** April 17, 2023

**FROM:** LaSalle County Coroner's Office

On Friday, April 14, 2023, the LaSalle County Coroner's Office and the Utica Police Department responded to a death of a male individual at Grand Bear Lodge, Unit 4, at 2543 N. Rt. 178, Utica, Illinois. The male individual has been identified as John Fisher-Dann, age 59 of the same address. A forensic autopsy was performed Saturday, April 15, 2023. There is no foul play related to this incident.

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*Richard L. Ploch*

LaSalle County Coroner



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**PRESS RELEASE**

**DATE:** April 17, 2023

**FROM:** LaSalle County Coroner's Office

On Friday, April 14, 2023, the LaSalle County Coroner's Office and the Utica Police Department responded to a death of a male individual at Grand Bear Lodge, Unit 4, at 2543 N. Rt. 178, Utica, Illinois. The male individual has been identified as John Fisher-Dann, age 59 of the same address. A forensic autopsy was performed Saturday, April 15, 2023. There is no foul play related to this incident.

Richard Ploch,

*Richard L. Ploch*

LaSalle County Coroner



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**\*\*\* NEWS RELEASE \*\*\***

**DATE:** July 12, 2023

**FROM:** LaSalle County Coroner's Office and the LaSalle County Sheriff's Office

On Monday, July 10, 2023, the LaSalle County Coroner's Office and LaSalle County Sheriff's Office were called to a single vehicle motorcycle accident,  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile North of 4405th and E. 1251st. Rd., (Earl Twp.) Earlville, Illinois. The deceased operator of the motorcycle was identified as Jacob J. Krisch, age 28, of Triumph, Illinois. A forensic autopsy was conducted on Tuesday, July 11, 2023. Preliminary investigation indicates the motorcyclist failed to negotiate a curve in the roadway.

This incident is under further investigation by the LaSalle County Coroner's Office, and the LaSalle County Sheriff's Office.



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**\*\*\* NEWS RELEASE \*\*\***

**DATE:** August 18, 2023

**FROM:** LaSalle County Coroner's Office

On Friday, August 18, 2023, the LaSalle County Coroner's Office responded to a four-vehicle crash on Interstate I-80, near mile marker 93. We have confirmed one female fatality. The deceased driver has been identified as Joyce A. Riskedal, age 54, of Leland, Illinois

An investigative autopsy will be performed Saturday, August 19, 2023. The Illinois State Police will release more information regarding the accident when it becomes available.

This incident remains under investigation by Illinois State Police and LaSalle County Coroner's Office.

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**DATE:** August 23, 2023

**FROM:** LaSalle County Coroner's Office

On Friday, August 4, 2023, the LaSalle County Coroner's Office responded to the Illinois River near Douglas and Buchanan Streets. The male decedent who was recovered from the river was identified and Gary Lee Powell, age 32 of Ottawa, Illinois. A forensic autopsy was conducted as part of the investigation.

This incident remains under investigation by LaSalle County Coroner's Office and the Ottawa Police Department.

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**\*\*\* NEWS RELEASE \*\*\***

**DATE:** August 28, 2023

**FROM:** LaSalle County Coroner's Office

On Friday, August 25, 2023, the LaSalle County Coroner's Office and LaSalle County Sheriff's Office were called to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of North 4750<sup>th</sup> Rd. and East 30<sup>th</sup> Rd., Northville Township, Sandwich, Illinois. The deceased, sole occupant, and driver of the vehicle was identified as 52-year-old, Desiree L. Kice, of Montgomery, Illinois. A forensic autopsy was conducted on Saturday, August 26, 2023 with results pending.

This incident is under further investigation by the LaSalle County Coroner's Office, the LaSalle County Sheriff's Department, and the Illinois State Police Traffic Reconstruction Unit.

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**\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***

**DATE:** September 6, 2023

**FROM:** LaSalle County Coroner's Office

On the evening of Saturday, September 2, 2023 the LaSalle County Coroner's Office was called to Illinois Rt. 178 at the Lowell Bridge, Tonica, Illinois for a single vehicle motorcycle crash. The deceased occupants of the motorcycle were driver, Anthony B. Harvey, age 60, of Normal, Illinois and passenger Wendy C. McBeath, age 55, of Pontiac, Illinois.

A forensic investigative autopsy was conducted with results pending.

This incident is under further investigation by the LaSalle County Coroner's Office, LaSalle County Sheriff's Department and Illinois State Police Traffic Reconstruction Unit.

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**\*\*\* NEWS RELEASE \*\*\***

**DATE:** October 13, 2023

**FROM:** LaSalle County Coroner's Office

On Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 the LaSalle County Coroner's Office and LaSalle County Sheriff's Office were called to a two-vehicle accident near the intersection of Route 23 and North 18<sup>th</sup> road in Farm Ridge Township, Illinois. The following decedents have been identified as the drivers, and sole occupants of each vehicle involved in the crash. Anna M. Martin, age 19 of Streator, IL. & David J. Strack, age 40, of Leonore, IL. A forensic autopsy was conducted on both decedents on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The cause of the accident is being investigated by the Illinois State Police Accident Reconstruction unit and the LaSalle County Sheriff's Office.

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**\*\*\* NEWS RELEASE \*\*\***

**DATE:** October 17, 2023  
**FROM:** LaSalle County Coroner's Office

On Thursday, October 12, 2023, the LaSalle County Coroner's Office was called to the Flying "J" Truck Stop, 343 Civic Rd., LaSalle, Illinois. The female shooting victim was identified as 25-year-old, Gina Nicole Bryant, of Macomb Township, Michigan. A forensic autopsy was conducted on Monday, October 15, 2023, with results pending.

This incident is under further investigation by the LaSalle County Coroner's Office, LaSalle Police Department and Illinois State Police Crime Scene Unit.

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**\*\*\* NEWS RELEASE \*\*\***

**DATE:** October 25, 2023

**FROM:** LaSalle County Coroner's Office

On Monday, October 23, 2023, the LaSalle County Coroner's Office was called to the area of Illinois Rt. 71 and N. 32<sup>nd</sup> Rd., Ottawa, Illinois. The male victim was identified as 41-year-old, Daniel M. Keigher, of Mokena, Illinois. A forensic autopsy was conducted on Monday, October 23, 2023, with results pending.

This incident is under further investigation by the LaSalle County Coroner's Office, LaSalle County Sheriff's Department and Illinois State Police Accident Reconstructionist.

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