



**Richard Ploch
LaSalle County Coroner**

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***** NEWS RELEASE *****

DATE: July 5, 2024

FROM: LaSalle County Coroner's Office

In the early morning hours of Friday, July 5, 2024, the LaSalle County Coroner's Office responded to the Emergency Department of OSF St. Elizabeth Medical Center, Ottawa, Illinois, for a deceased male individual who was fatally injured by fireworks. This incident occurred at a rural residence in Wallace Township.

The male decedent has been Identified as, Chance W. Ruger, age 25, of Ottawa, Illinois.

A forensic investigative autopsy is being conducted today with preliminary results pending. This incident remains under investigation by LaSalle County Coroner's Office, and the LaSalle County Sheriff's Office.

Rich Ploch, LaSalle County Coroner