



**Richard Ploch**  
**LaSalle County Coroner**  
**LaSALLE COUNTY FORENSIC CENTER**

520 W. Walnut St.  
Oglesby, Illinois 613548  
Phone 815-434-8268  
Fax 815-434-8306

coroner@lasallemountyil.gov or rploch@lasallemountyil.gov

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

**DATE:** January 20, 2025

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

On the evening of January 16<sup>th</sup> 2025, the LaSalle County Coroner's Office was called to the emergency room of OSF ST. Elizabeth's Hospital in Peru, IL. for a male decedent who had been declared dead at 17:11 p.m. He was recovered from the Illinois River near the Route 89 bridge in Spring Valley, IL. and subsequently transported to the hospital by EMS. He has been identified as Nicolass E. Vanwingerden, age 71, of Granville, IL.

A forensic investigative autopsy was conducted on Saturday, January 18, 2025 with preliminary results pending.

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

Richard Ploch,

LaSalle County Coroner