



**Richard Ploch**  
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**\*\*\* NEWS RELEASE \*\*\***

**DATE:** August 26, 2024

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

On Sunday, August 25, 2024, the LaSalle County Coroner's Office was called to the Peru Boat launch area for a male decedent that was recovered from the Illinois River. The male decedent had been involved in an earlier motor vehicle accident that had occurred on the Interstate 39 Abraham Lincoln bridge. As a result of the accident, he was ejected from his vehicle and into the river below. The Peru River Rescue Squad made the recovery. He has been identified as John S. Smith 36 of Streator, Illinois.

A forensic investigative autopsy was conducted on Monday, August 26, 2024, with preliminary results indicating that he died from fatal injuries due to the initial motor vehicle crash. This incident is under further investigation by the LaSalle County Coroner's Office and Illinois State Police.

Richard Ploch,

LaSalle County Coroner