

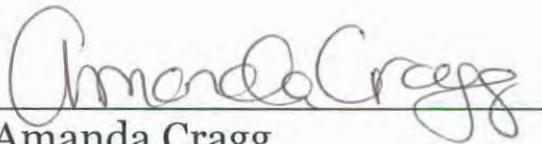
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Arrests & Courts

Unless otherwise noted, people listed below are innocent until proven guilty in court

Two Steuben County residents charged in I-390 drug stop

By The LCN Staff

AVON — Two Steuben County residents face felony drug charges following a traffic stop by the Livingston County Sheriff's Office.

Janelle Hopkins, 27, of Bath, was charged July 4 with felony third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, felony fifth-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, felony tampering with physical evidence, and violations of state Vehicle and Traffic Law.

Douglas Raker, 34, of Corning, was charged with felony third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, felony fifth-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, and felony tampering with physical evidence.

At approximately



Raker



Hopkins

8:02 p.m. July 4, Deputy Ca-

leb Nellis conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 390 in the town of Avon.

The Deputy suspected drug activity and conducted a drug investigation. Hopkins and Raker were found to be in possession of crack cocaine and had attempted to conceal the drugs during the stop.

Both defendants were turned over to Central Booking Deputies at the Livingston County Jail for processing and pre-arrainment detention.

They were later arraigned at the Livingston County Centralized Arraignment Part (LC-CAP) at the Livingston County Jail before Leicester Town Justice Wayne Scofield.

Assisting on the scene were Deputy Jason Page and the Geneseo Police Department.

'Decoys' aim to protect kids

By ALYSSA HILL AND SOL HAUSER

news@livingstonnews.com

PERRY — The operation started months before the arrest.

In private messages, a 54-year-old man from Caledonia allegedly began talking to girls he believed were 13 and 14 years old. Police say the conversations turned explicit. He allegedly asked them for photos and offered to teach them "lessons" about their bodies.

But the girls didn't exist.

They were decoys — part of a volunteer network called Decoys Making a Difference, a Facebook-based group that says it works to expose online predators and hand over evidence to police.

The group operates independently, gathering chat logs and occasionally filming confrontations. They say it took nearly four months to build a case against Christopher L. Kervin, a former Brighton Central School District security guard.

"This wasn't something done on the fly," said a member who goes by the decoy name "Scribe." She requested anonymity, citing the need for privacy to continue the group's work. "Our sting operations take months, sometimes longer, to plan out."

Kervin was charged with first-degree disseminating indecent material to minors, a felony, after Perry police reviewed the group's evidence. He ultimately confessed during a police interview, according to authorities.

Who they are

Decoys Making a Difference describes itself as a grassroots network of volunteers — many of them parents — who pose as minors online, collect chat logs and deliver evidence "if appropriate." The group claims 17 active members in New York, with others in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Illinois.

"Most of us have kids of our own," Scribe said. "We started talking about all the children who've gone missing. How do these predators find kids?"

The impetus to form the group came, she said, when one member's teenage daughter received "inappropriate" messages online.

"We asked ourselves, what if adults started intercepting these messages and could do something about it before real children got hurt?"

Their leader, who goes by "Slayer," compiles evidence and submits it to law enforcement if the team believes a crime has occurred.

In a written statement, Slayer said the goal is to "raise awareness, educate communities and work in partnership with police departments and district attorneys."

What happened in Perry

According to the group,

Kervin contacted three decoys on online platforms.

"That pattern was a red flag," Scribe said. "When it's not just a one-off, that's huge."

The group arranged to meet Kervin at a convenience store in Perry. They filmed the encounter and then contacted police. By the time officers arrived, Kervin had left. But the group handed over a binder of chat logs and screenshots.

"This case was pretty cut and dried," said Perry Police Chief Michael Grover. "When somebody turns himself in and confesses, it makes our job easier."

Grover said his department had not worked with Decoys Making a Difference before, but described them as "parents looking out for kids."

"My department doesn't have the resources to set up this kind of operation," he said. "The ones that do — state police, FBI — they're overwhelmed."

While Grover stopped short of endorsing such groups, he said they had not broken any laws in this case.

"If you have concerns, we always recommend calling us first," he added. "We can connect you with agencies trained to handle this."

Risk and responsibility

Some legal experts and law enforcement groups have warned against these types of stings, citing potential legal pitfalls. Evidence may not be admissible. Suspects might be provoked or endangered. In some cases, innocent people could be misidentified.

"There's a potential here for not only not having enough for a criminal conviction — so getting it overturned in court if there isn't more evidence brought to the table — but also sometimes acting in a counterproductive manner, doing things to the suspect that give them their own complaint, their own legal action; or doing things that could jeopardize the case," said Mark Bartholomew, a law professor researching online culture at the University at Buffalo.

Bartholomew says such stings have grown popular on social media in recent years, inspired by the NBC program, "To Catch a Predator."

Social media groups' use of on-camera confrontations, and their pursuit of virality, have caught the attention of some researchers studying vigilantism.

"To be defined as vigilantes, you need two things," said Fan Xuan Chen, a doctoral psychology researcher studying vigilantism at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. "One is monitoring for wrongdoing. The other is delivering punishment without authority."

Some researchers, he said, view public confrontations as a form of punishment. And that can be dangerous.

"What if they go after an innocent person?" he said. "There are risks. But some people do this because they think they're doing the right thing."

Chen said motivations vary. "Some want to feel morally superior," he said. "Others are genuinely trying to help."

Bartholomew says the cases he's seen succeed are those

in which groups alert law enforcement early on to allow them to investigate, rather than conducting their own stings.

"You might see a confession online and think, 'Case closed,' but you haven't notified someone of their right to remain silent. Or you might think, 'Somebody shows up — we pose as a 15 year old, and they show up — case closed,' but there's more to these crimes than just showing up, under the statutory elements. And then there are other things that might constitute entrapment that law officers are aware of," Bartholomew said. "What you might think constitutes proof of being a child predator might not exactly match up with the law."

He said groups conducting their own confrontations could also meet violent reactions, or give suspects an opportunity to destroy evidence before police get involved.

"There are two risks there. One is things that can kind of spiral out of control, that the 'gotcha' moment that's going to go viral could lead to violence. These are people who are not trained to deal with violent situations, like law enforcement," Bartholomew said. "The other risk is that if you engineer one of these confrontations, and you don't have the necessary elements for a crime of this nature, you can alert a potential suspect, and they might cover their tracks."

Criticism and caution

Scribe said the team takes precautions. Before meeting anyone, she says, they run background checks and try to assess for violent offenses or gun ownership.

"We all understand there's risk in what we do," she said. "That's why we go in groups and watch each other's backs."

Still, the group has faced criticism.

Scribe said some police departments have labeled them vigilantes in the past, a term the group rejects. But she said Perry police have been "wonderful and encouraging."

Some viewers questioned in Facebook posts why the group didn't call police before confronting Kervin. In a response, the group said Perry police were grateful for their work.

"We did say we were going to the police before we ended the live stream, we gave them the binder FULL of decoy conversations, we sat there for a half an hour explaining," the group wrote in a Facebook post. "They are MORE than happy to look into this and investigate this situation. As someone who grew up in Perry, and STILL lives here, I can proudly say the Perry police doesn't take this lightly. They are absolutely looking into this."

Despite the risks, Decoys Making a Difference says it plans to keep operating.

"We do this to help the community," Scribe said. "It's emotionally taxing. But we have a strong team. When one of us feels low, we help build each other back up."

"We're not trying to replace law enforcement," Scribe said. "Our goal is to keep kids safe."

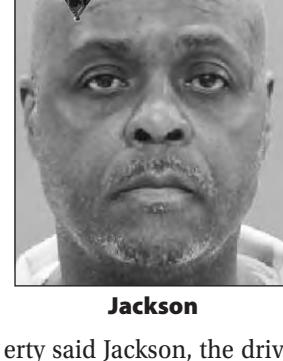
By The LCN Staff

GENESEO — A Rochester man faces felony charges under Leandra's Law following a traffic stop by the Livingston County Sheriff's Office.

Algen Jackson, 55, was charged July 3 with felony driving while intoxicated, felony DWI refusal, felony first-degree aggravated unlicensed operation, and two counts of endangering the welfare of a child.

At 9:28 p.m., Deputy Dylan Bowser of the Sheriff's STOP DWI Unit stopped a vehicle on West Lake Road in Geneseo for a traffic violation.

Sheriff Thomas Dough-



Jackson

Law.

Jackson refused a chemical breath test, deputies said. A records check showed a prior DWI conviction in 2019 and a revoked license.

He was turned over to Central Booking Deputies at the Livingston County Jail for processing and pre-arrainment detention.

Jackson was later arraigned at Livingston County Centralized Arraignment Part (LC-CAP) before Leicester Town Justice Wayne Scofield, who remanded him to custody without bail due to two or more prior felony convictions.

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What happened in Perry

According to the group,

Lockport man gets prison for child porn

BUFFALO — A Lockport man was sentenced June 30 to more than six years in prison for child pornography.

Richard Greer, 58, was convicted of possession of child pornography involving a prepubescent minor.

He was sentenced to serve 78 months in prison and 25

years supervised release.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas A. C. Penrose, who handled the case, said that between April 2019, and Aug. 14, 2023, Greer used Skype to communicate with people operating a child-sex-trafficking network from the Philippines.

FBI agents later executed a warrant at his residence.

Greer said Jackson, the driver, appeared intoxicated and was taken into custody after field sobriety tests.

Two children, ages 11 and 5, were allegedly in the vehicle, making the offense a felony under Leandra's

Law.

Jackson refused a chemical breath test, deputies said. A records check showed a prior DWI conviction in 2019 and a revoked license.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PSC No. 16 – Gas - Schedule for Gas Services

PSC No. 18 – Electricity - Schedule for Electric Service (Street Lighting)

PSC No. 19 – Electricity - Schedule for Electric Service

Caroline Ruth 'Grandma Ruth' Weden

AVON: At age 103, Caroline Ruth "Grandma Ruth" Weden passed peacefully on July 9, 2025, at the Livingston County Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation in Mount Morris, N.Y.

She was born on March 29, 1922, in Scottsville, N.Y., to the late William and Mary Weiland. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by sons, Ronald Hungerford and Donald Hungerford; and siblings, William Weiland, Marguerite Bush, Mary Wesley, and Doris Weiland.

She is survived by her sons, Robert (Terri) Hungerford of Louisville, Ky., Thomas (Laurie) Hungerford of York, and James Weden of Rush; grandchildren, Nicole (Richard) Basham, Christopher (Ryan) Hungerford, Amy (Jason) Barber, Adam Hungerford, Breanna Weden, Mikayla Weden, and Wyllie Weden; many great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. She is also survived by the many children and families of the St. Agnes School.

Grandma Ruth shared many life experiences in and around Avon, N.Y. She made many friends over the decades of her life, her gift was giving back to others. Her family was very important to her and she cherished time spent



**Caroline Ruth
'Grandma Ruth'
Weden**

with them. She enjoyed the time she spent at St. Agnes School with children, family, and the dedicated staff.

She retired from Stromberg-Carlson in Rochester, N.Y., after 23 years, and other jobs including working at the New York State Department of Environment Conservation in East Avon, and the Livingston County Sheriff's Office as a 911 dispatcher. Grandma Ruth also retired from the Grandparent Program at St. Agnes School at age 93, she was there from 1990 to 2015.

Family and friends may call from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday, July 21, at the Kevin W. Dougherty Funeral Home Inc., 21 Big Tree Street (Route 15 & 20A), Livonia, N.Y., where her funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday, July 22. Burial to follow at Holy Angels Cemetery, Scottsville, N.Y.

Memorial contributions may be made in her memory to St. Agnes School, 60 Park Place, Avon, NY 14414.

To send a condolence or share a memory, please visit www.doughertyfuneralhomes.com.

DEATH NOTICES

Willard F. 'Bill' Overholt

Willard F. "Bill" Overholt, 98, of Leicester, New York, died Friday, July 11, 2025, at UR Medicine Noyes Health in Dansville, New York. He is survived by his wife, Frances

(Zanghi) Overholt; two children, Wayne (Lynne Ellen Finout-Overholt) Overholt, and Barbara (Roger) Johnson; four grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Kevin E. Barnhardt

Kevin E. Barnhardt, 54, of Bloomfield, New York, died peacefully surrounded by his family on Friday, July 11, 2025, at his home.

He is survived by his husband, Mohamed Bourass; parents, Ken Sr. and Arlene Barnhardt; brother, Kenny (Pamela) Barnhardt Jr.; a nephew; and several aunts, uncles, and cousins. He was predeceased by his brother, Steven Barnhardt.

Larry J. Walsworth

Larry J. Walsworth, 82, of Nunda, New York, died Wednesday July 9, 2025 at UR Noyes Health Medical Center in Dansville, New York.

He is survived by his wife, Donna (Garwood) Walsworth;

Roger C. Damon

CONESUS — Roger C. Damon, 82, passed away peacefully with his family by his side on Friday, April 4, 2025, at his home in Conesus.

He was predeceased by his parents, Paul J. Damon and Geraldine Palma; his wife, Michele F. Damon; and his daughter, Barbara Damon.

George Arthur Gardner

George Arthur Gardner, 91, of Cohocton, New York, passed away peacefully on April 11, 2025.

George was predeceased by his parents, Henry and Marion Gardner, and his sis-

ter, Lois Ardell. He is survived by his sister, Elaine (Jack) Burnett, and their children, Jacqueline Radford, Steven (Carmen) Burnett, and Gardner (Ann Marie) Burnett; and three nieces.

Matthew C. Trubia

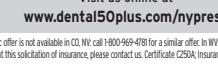
LIVONIA/AVON — Matthew C. Trubia passed away unexpectedly at his home in Livonia on May 5, 2025, at age 44. He was predeceased by his mother, Sharon (Agnello) Kelly; and his stepfather,

Timothy Kelly. He is survived by his father, Charles "Chuck" (Patty) Trubia; brother, Josh Trubia (Katie Moran); sisters, Mari Jo DiBella and Charlaine Trubia; and several nieces and nephews.

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Janet MacVean Rapp

Janet MacVean Rapp, 81, of Nunda, N.Y., passed away peacefully on July 28, 2025, at her home surrounded by her family.

Janet, youngest daughter of Percy (Tink) and Martha MacVean, was born on Oct. 4, 1943, in Nunda.

Following high school, Janet attended Geneseo State and returned back home to Nunda to teach elementary school for 28 years. She was loved by her co-workers and students alike and was thrilled when former students would remember her and share favorite memories.

Janet was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, community member, and pillar of the Trinity Church. She loved her country home, her flowers, birds and family gatherings. Her potato salad and brownies go unrivaled.

Janet was preceded in death by her parents and sister, Patricia Foote. She is survived by her loving husband of 61 years, John; her sister, Jean Manly, and brother-in-law, Theron Foote. Also surviving are her four children, John



Janet MacVean Rapp

(Mary) Rapp of Tully, N.Y., Brian (Debbie) Rapp of Fabius, N.Y., Stephen (Audrey) Rapp of Nunda, and Cheryl Maxwell of Livonia, N.Y. She is also survived by 13 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild, several nieces and nephews, many dear friends, and her beloved dog, Rudy.

Special thank you to so many wonderful caregivers, friends, and Livingston County Hospice that made it possible for Mom to remain at home her final months.

Friends and family are invited to call from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 1, 2025, at the Trinity Church of Nunda, 25 East St. in Nunda. Janet's funeral service will take place on Saturday morning at 10 a.m. at the Trinity Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Nunda Ambulance or Trinity Church.

Arrangements by the John W. Martin Funeral Home, Mount Morris, N.Y.

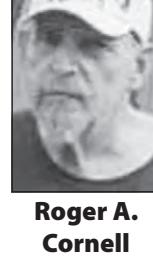
Sign the online registry at www.johnwmartinfuneral-home.com.

Roger A. Cornell

Roger A. Cornell, 74, passed away peacefully on July 15, 2025, at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, N.Y. Born on June 9, 1951, in Rochester, N.Y. Roger was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother and friend.

A skilled machinist by trade, Roger worked with dedication and precision throughout his career. He was known not only for his work ethic, but for the quiet strength and steadfast love he gave to those around him.

Roger was married to the love of his life, Deborah, for 54 years before her passing. Together, they built a life centered on family, love, and enduring values. Roger is survived by his three sons, Ronald (Tracy) Cornell, Todd Cornell and Jeremy Cornell; his beloved grandchildren, Joanne (Joshua) Marshall, Teddy Huang, and Julie (Owen Maloy) Huang; and his cherished great-grandsons, Xander and Wesley Marshall.



Roger A. Cornell

He is also survived by his siblings, Robin (David) Pire, Gary (Maureen) Cornell, Timothy Cornell, Curtis (Christine) Cornell and Karen (Chuck) Tremblay; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife, Deborah; and his parents, Joseph and Joyce Cornell.

Roger's life was marked by his deep love for his family, his quiet humility, and his unwavering loyalty. He will be remembered for his kind heart, his steady presence, and the legacy of love and dedication he leaves behind.

A celebration of Roger's life will be from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, July 27, 2025, at the Highland Park Depot, 23 Highland Rd., in Geneseo.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Teresa House, 21 Highland Rd., Geneseo, NY 14454.

To share a memory with the family or leave a condolence, please visit Rector-HicksFuneralHome.com.

For information on submitting an obituary, please email: obits@livingstonnews.com or call (585) 243-0296

The deadline for submissions is 11:30 a.m. Tuesday

DEATH NOTICE**Thomas C. Good**

CANADICE — Thomas C. Good, 79, passed away peacefully at his home on April 8, 2025. He was predeceased by his parents, Alvin and Doris (Blum) Good. He is survived by his sisters, Nancy Catalfamo and Deborah Sivils; two nieces; a great-nephew; and a great-niece.



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COURTESY OF PAMELA BICKFORD

Caroline "Grandma Ruth" Weden poses with her three sons — James Weden, Thomas Hungerford and Robert Hungerford — during her 102nd birthday celebration. Weden had five sons, including the late Ronald and Donald Hungerford.

'Grandma Ruth' remembered for life of service, storytelling

By ALYSSA HILL
ahill@livingstonnews.com

AVON — Caroline "Grandma Ruth" Weden didn't just remember Avon's history. She helped preserve it — and, at 102, co-wrote it.

Weden, a longtime Avon resident and dedicated volunteer at St. Agnes School, died July 9 at age 103. She was buried last week at Holy Angels Cemetery in Scottsville, following a funeral service attended by family and friends.

In her final years, Weden co-authored a children's book, "Grandma Ruth Reads: The Day I Was Born," with her caregiver Pamela Bickford. The story, featuring a cat named Luck, blends Weden's birth with memories from her early life in Avon, including the Great Depression.

"She went after her dreams and proved age doesn't matter," Bickford said.

Beyond her written memories, Weden was best known for her decades of service at St. Agnes School, where she was affectionately called "Grandma Ruth."

Weden, a 1938 graduate of St. Agnes, began volunteering there in 1990 through the Foster Grandparent Program and remained until her retirement at age 93. She provided one-on-one support to students and became a familiar presence in the school community.

"She was a legacy at St. Agnes," said retired teach-



ALYSSA HILL/LIVINGSTON COUNTY NEWS FILE PHOTO

Caroline "Grandma Ruth" Weden, 103, reads from the children's book she co-authored to students at St. Agnes School in May.

er Vicki Rose, who worked with Weden for nearly 15 years. "Everyone — the kids, the parents, the teachers — called her Grandma Ruth."

Rose said Weden had a quiet way of supporting students and building trust.

"She would notice things I couldn't always see while I was teaching," Rose said. "They'd always end up talking and giving her a hug."

In May, Weden returned to St. Agnes for a belated 103rd birthday celebration. Students sang and asked her questions about growing up in Avon. Weden and Bickford also read aloud from the book they created together.

After the event, Bickford took Weden to Tom Wahl's for a chocolate sundae and they sat near the Five Arch Bridge, one of Weden's favorite spots.

"We talked and watched the world go by with our ice cream," Bickford said. "It was one of my favorite memories."

Tom Hungerford, one of Weden's three surviving sons, said his mother found joy in simple moments and was always quick to help others.

"We weren't rich, but she would always try and help out everyone in any way she could," he said. "Her lega-

cy was that she showed you could achieve your goals at any age. 103 is a long time. Too many memories to put into words."

Her grandson, Chris Hungerford, who lives in Kentucky, said they often spoke on the phone when he traveled for work.

"She was a bit of a talker herself," he said, laughing. "But those calls always gave me so much joy — just hearing her voice and all her stories."

Over the course of her life, Weden held several jobs, including 23 years at Stromberg-Carlson in Rochester, where she worked on telephone circuit boards. She later served as a dispatcher for the Livingston County Sheriff's Office and was active with the Avon Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, where her first husband was fire chief.

Weden spent her final days at the Livingston County Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation in Mount Morris, surrounded by family.

"She never failed to fascinate us," said Cindy Zhe, a longtime colleague at St. Agnes. "She had so much to share — and she remembered everything."

Rose called her "a living document of Avon's history."

"She could remember things that happened so long ago," she said. "She was a living piece of the history here."



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PUBLIC NOTICE

PSC No. 16 — Gas - Schedule for Gas Services

PSC No. 18 — Electricity - Schedule for Electric Service (Street Lighting)

PSC No. 19 — Electricity - Schedule for Electric Service

On June 30, 2025, Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation (RG&E) filed with the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) an Investment Plan for Powering NY, which includes testimony, exhibits, and proposed delivery rate changes to the above-referenced tariff schedules for service.

The changes contained in that filing would increase revenues by approximately \$216.2 million from RG&E's electric operations and by approximately \$71.3 million from the company's natural gas operations, to become effective in the spring of 2026.

The PSC may approve, modify or reject any or all of the proposed tariff changes. Among other things, the PSC's determination may require revisions of the proposed amount of the increases applicable to particular classifications of service or changes in rates applicable to those classifications for which no increase is proposed by the companies.

The complete RG&E filing may be examined on the PSC's website or the PSC's Albany office. These cases are open and public. Individuals may provide comments directly to the Secretary of the PSC or offer comments at a public statement hearing hosted by the PSC. As the case proceeds, documents pertaining to the case are posted on the PSC website.

The PSC is required to render a decision within 11 months.