

Obituaries

Ernest M. Farris

Ernest Michael Farris, 74, of Hume died at 8:05 p.m. on Thursday, April 22, 2021 at the Carle Foundation Hospital.

Mike was born on January 11, 1947 to Ernest and Marcella (Curtwright) Farris in Danville, IL. He married Sharon (White) on September 8, 1968 in Hume.

He is survived by his wife, Sharon Farris; two children, Joel (Hoa) Farris of Champaign and Amanda (Josh) Drake of Camargo; three grandchildren, Hayden, Harper, and Lilly; one brother, Jon (Sherry) Farris of Cissna Park; and one niece, Paige Farris.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a nephew Ryan Farris.

Mike grew up on a farm just outside of Hume where he worked with his brother and father. He served in the Army in Vietnam and was awarded a Bronze Star. Mike was a farmer for most of his life and finally retired in 2015. Although he never quit worrying about the weather as farmers do. He also worked for IDOT for many years. Being outdoors was his favorite place to be. Hunting and fishing were some of his favorite hobbies. He was an active member of the Hume American Legion and was a FreeMason. He loved his wife Sharon very much of almost 53 years. They met in the lunch line in 6th grade and have been together ever since. His children Joel and Amanda brought him so much joy as did his grandchildren Hayden, Harper and Lilly. He was a wonderful husband, father, brother, grandfather and uncle and will be greatly missed.

A funeral service was held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at the Joines Funeral Home (Newman) with pastor Justin Smith officiating. Burial followed at the Young America Cemetery. A visitation was held from 4 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at the Joines Funeral Home (Newman).

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Hume American Legion or the Hume Auxiliary.



Charles E. Kroll

Charles E. "Charlie" Kroll, 86, of Atwood, IL, passed away at 5:00 p.m., Sunday, April 18, 2021 at the Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana, IL.

Funeral Services were held at 3:00 p.m., Saturday, April 24, 2021 at the United Church of Atwood, 210 North Main, Atwood, IL with Rev. Mike Drake officiating. Burial with military graveside rites accorded was in the Mackville Cemetery, Atwood, IL.

Visitation was held from 1 to 3 p.m., Saturday at the church.

Charlie was born on January 19, 1935 in Bourbon Township, IL, the son of William and Janie Gribbon Kroll. He married Eugenia M. Mauck on September 5, 1959 in Montgomery, AL. She survives and was faithfully beside him for 61 years.

Also surviving are his sons: Mark Eugene (Connie) Kroll of Brownsburg, IN, Gary V. (Lori) Kroll of Sachse, TX, daughters: Terri Kroll Reifsteck of Tolono, IL and Kristie Denise Kroll of Louisville, KY, 10 grandchildren: Natalie Kroll, Alec and Bailey Reifsteck, Kaci (Stephen) Boren, Kody (Brittany) Kroll, Kolby, Kelsey and Kennedy Kroll, Tanner Rawlings and Lexi Warner, four great-grandchildren: Grady and Lincoln Boren, Brooklyn and Lennon Kroll, sister: Joyce Strack of Tuscola, IL.

He was preceded in death by his parents, grandson: Chad Honn, brothers: Floyd Kroll, Ed Kroll, David Kroll and Bill Kroll, sisters: Marjorie Simmons, Helen Flanagan and Doris Davis.

Charlie retired from Caterpillar Inc in Decatur after 30 years of service as a welder. He had previously worked at Progress Industries in Arthur after serving in the US Air Force. Throughout the years, Charlie loved playing golf, coffee hour with the guys in Atwood, watching the Illini and spending time with family. He was a member of the United Church of Atwood and a lifetime member of the Arthur Masonic Lodge, AF & AM.

Memorials are suggested to the United Church of Atwood and Atwood Fire Department.

Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home is assisting the family with the arrangements. Online condolences may be shared via hilligossshraderfh.com



Amanda J. Miller

Amanda Jane Miller, 92 of rural Arcola, IL passed away at 3:36 p.m. on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at her residence.

Funeral services were held at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 9, 2021 at the William Otto residence, 326 E. CR 100 N., Arcola, IL. Bishop David Otto officiated. Burial was in the Miller Cemetery. Visitation was held anytime after 1:00 p.m. on Friday, May 7, 2021 and anytime after 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 8, 2021 at the William Otto residence. The Edwards Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

Amanda was born on January 5, 1929 in Plain City, OH. She was a daughter of Menno E. and Emma E. (Beachy) Herschberger. She married Elmer S. Miller on December 5, 1950 in Arcola, IL. He passed away on December 30, 2012.

Amanda is survived by five daughters, Emma Jo Gingerich and her husband Leroy of Sullivan, IL, Carolyn Gingerich and her husband Seranus, Tillie Gingerich and her husband Marlin, Clara Mae Kaufman and her husband Jerry and Kathryn Otto and her husband William all of Arcola, IL, one son, Kenneth Miller and his wife Dorothy of Arthur, IL, daughter-in-law, Margaret Miller of Arcola, IL; 47 grandchildren; 149 great-grandchildren; seven great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Elmer S. Miller; two sons, Samuel Miller and Enos Miller; four grandchildren, Eli Eugene Gingerich, Wilbur Gingerich, Treva Gingerich and a still born; two great-granddaughters, Cynthia Ann Yoder and Carly Joy Otto; three sisters; three brothers.

Amanda was a member of the Old Order Amish Church.

Gov. Pritzker Urges Illinois to 'Start Seeing Motorcycles'

Gov. JB Pritzker has proclaimed May as Motorcycle Awareness Month in Illinois, joining the Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois State Police and motorcycle safety advocates to remind all users of the road to Start Seeing Motorcycles.

"We want all riders and motorists, whether they're traveling a short distance or long distance, to reach their destination safely," said Acting Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman. "Warmer temperatures mean that more motorcyclists will be on the road so remember to always be alert for motorcycles and share the road."

The Start Seeing Motorcycles campaign is important because while motorcyclists represent only 3 percent of total vehicle registrations in Illinois, they account for 14 percent of traffic fatalities. There were 1,010 traffic fatalities in Illinois in 2019, - 137 were motorcyclists, and in 2020, there were 1,193 traffic fatalities - 153 were motorcyclists, an increase of 16 from 2019. (2020 data is provisional as of May 4, 2021)

"As drivers and riders, we all have a responsibility to each other as we share the road, especially when we operate our vehicles near highly vulnerable roadway users such as motorcyclists and pedestrians," stated Illinois State Police Director Brendan F. Kelly. "Understanding these vulnerabilities and operating with an increased awareness of each other, combined with good choices behind the wheel and handlebars is good for everyone involved. We should all be doing our part to increase roadway safety. Whether our knees are in the breeze, or we are wrapped comfortably in our vehicles, we all want to return to our loved ones at the end of each and every trip."

Motorists should always:

- Look twice before changing lanes or merging. Use your mirrors and look over your shoulder to be sure it is safe.
- Allow appropriate

distance. Traffic, weather, and road conditions require motorcyclists to react and maneuver differently. Drivers should allow motorcyclists enough space to maneuver and enough time to adjust.

- Use care when driving near a group of motorcyclists. Sharing the road with organized motorcycle groups requires patience and communication. If a driver needs to change lanes or reach an exit, they should signal their intention and wait for the riders to create space. Do not merge in between groups or riders unless there is enough space to do so safely.

Riders are urged to take precautions:

- Wear DOT-compliant gear with bright colors and retro-reflective strips or decals, over-the-ankle boots, gloves, a protective jacket, pants and a properly fitted helmet with face shield or protective eye-wear.

- Get regular maintenance and take advantage of IDOT's free motorcycle safety courses. Visit startseeingmotorcycles.org for more information.

- Give yourself space and time to react. Allow space for emergency braking and for avoiding a crash. Make lane changes gradually and expect the unexpected.

- Ride Sober. Motorcycle riding, alcohol and cannabis don't mix. They slow your reaction time, affect your balance, coordination and vision, and may increase your risk of crashing.

Start Seeing Motorcycles is made possible by the teamwork among IDOT, ISP, Gold Wing Road Riders Association, A Brotherhood Aimed Towards Education (ABATE) and other organizations that promote motorcycle education, awareness and safety.

During the riding season, Start Seeing Motorcycles banners and yard signs will be on display throughout the state, reminding the public to always stay alert for motorcycles.

DCHD Gold and Silver Spoon Awards

By Aaron Patrick

Congratulations to the following food establishments which received the Gold Spoon Award. This is awarded for no priority violations, no more than 1 priority foundation violation, and excellence in training of Certified Food Protection Managers and Food Handler Staff at the required levels at all times. The awardees for the months of September & October 2020: The Royal Academy daycare, Casey's-Atwood, Walnut Point Restaurant & Kayak Rental, C & C's One Stop, Pizza Man of Newman, Bub's Donuts & More, Jack Flash-Arthur, Yoder's Kitchen, Cast Iron Pub, La Cascada, Los Gallos, Dairy Queen-Arcola, & The Pantry.

A Gold Spoon Award is awarded to retail establishments with no food preparation which had no

violations observed at the time of their annual inspection, and the recipients are: Meadowview Herbs, Dollar General-Newman, & The Woodloft.

The Silver Spoon Award was awarded to establishments with food preparation for excellence in training of Food Manager staff and the recipient is: Flesor's Candy Kitchen.

A Silver Spoon Award is awarded to retail establishments with no food preparation which had no priority level violations observed at the time of their annual inspection, and the recipient is: Rick's Country Market.

I would welcome conversation about this program and other topics concerning the food program. I can be reached at 217-253-4137 or by email through our website, www.dchealth-dept.org.

Flooding and your water well/septic system

The Douglas County Health Department would like to share some information on flooding, particularly for those with water wells, going into this year's rainy season. Your water well is a potential source of contaminants such as E-coli and coliform bacteria. Regular maintenance and testing can ensure safe drinking water for your family.

Water wells can be a source of contamination through overloading of the ground water supply. Floods can bring in contam-

inates from septic systems, agricultural dangers such as pesticides and fertilizers, and other sources that could get into your drinking water. In addition, coarse sediment and debris can cause physical damage to your well. Electrical components, such as the pump, also run the risk of electrical shock when flooded. In this case, do not use rubber boots. Instead turn off the pump if able and contact a professional electrician.

Wells should be considered contaminated until

they have been properly tested. It is recommended to use boiled or bottled water following a flood until the water has been tested. This includes drinking, cooking, and bathing. You can pick up a kit for free water testing at the Douglas County Health Department. Results will be given back with disinfecting procedures if required.

Besides being a source of contamination to your groundwater, special precautions also need to be made for your septic sys-

tem:

- Do not use the sewage system until water in the soil absorption field is lower than the water level around the house.

- Plug all basement drains.

- Limit water usage.

- Have your septic tank professionally inspected and serviced if you suspect damage.

- Only trained specialists should clean or repair septic tanks because of possible dangerous gases.

CEFS and WIOA programs provide youth education opportunities

C.E.F.S Economic Opportunity Corporation Youth Program is designed to help teens and young adults develop a career path or find employment through training and job search assistance.

The services are available to young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 who meet eligibility requirements and need assistance in paying for col-

lege, finding a job, earning a GED, paying for transportation, paying for childcare or many other areas of need.

C.E.F.S Economic Opportunity Corporation offers paid college tuition, books, and fees, paid work experience, GED and tutoring, leadership skills, career guidance, financial literacy training, mentor-

ing, resume development and supportive services such as required tools, uniforms, transportation, childcare and more.

C.E.F.S Economic Opportunity Corporation is a partner of American Job Centers, Illinois WorkNet Centers and also works in partnership with Lake Land College.

The WIOA Youth Services program offers many

areas of assistance as well, including access to job fairs and recruitment opportunities, part-time and full-time jobs, paid work experience, resume assistance, on-the-job training, vocational training programs, assistance with obtaining high school diploma/GED, supportive services such as transpor-

See CEFS page 6

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