



World absorbs historic wartime oil disruptions

BUSINESS, 8B

Rockford Register Star

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026 | RRSTAR.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Behr Den victim of overnight break-in

179 people arrested in joint endeavor

Federal agencies team up in Rockford, Chicago

Jeff Kolkey
Rockford Register Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Federal law enforcement officials in Chicago are declaring victory after what they have dubbed "Operation New Dawn."

In all, 179 people were charged as part of 140 cases in the Chicago and Rockford areas over 60 days, according to a news release.

The arrests are part of what U.S. Attorney Andrew Boutros of the Northern District of Illinois is calling a "bad-guess" enforcement initiative because participating law enforcement agencies worked under a federal umbrella instead of as individual agencies, a news release said.

"Doing so created shared accountability and unified, mission-minded, anti-violence work in the Northern District of Illinois starting in the spring and continuing into the summer in special recognition of our nation's 250th birthday," the release said.

"U.S. Attorney Boutros constructed Operation New Dawn using an innovative federal law enforcement approach to fighting violent crime that had not been done before in the District: eleven federal agencies worked arm-in-arm as one cohesive, unified partnership to arrest dangerous criminals responsible for serious offenses, including robberies, kidnapping, kidnapping resulting in death, firearms trafficking, firearm offenses, drug trafficking, immigration violations, child exploitation and various other federal violent

See ARRESTS, Page 2A



The Behr Den restaurant, 1125 Seminary St., is seen July 7. JEFF KOLKEY/ROCKFORD REGISTER STAR

Jeff Kolkey
Rockford Register Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

An overnight break-in has forced the owner of Rockford's iconic Behr Den to close for a few days to assess damage and loss.

Jennifer Eaton, sole proprietor of the diner for more than 14 years, said this is the first time she has ever had a problem like this at her store located at 1125 Seminary St.

According to Eaton, someone pried the front door open overnight July 6, broke into the restaurant and stole the

cash register. Whoever it was had come inside the diner and left in a matter of seconds, she said.

There was a minimal amount of money in the drawer, but Eaton said she now has to replace the machine

See BREAK-IN, Page 2A

'No act' caused death of woman in county jail

Jeff Kolkey
Rockford Register Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley will not file charges in the wake of a woman's Dec. 7, 2025, death inside the Winnebago County Jail.

In a memorandum of decision issued July 6, Hanley writes that there is no ev-

idence any actions taken by jail personnel caused the woman's death.

Miranda Joiner, 30, of Rockford, was found unresponsive in her cell at 10:47 p.m. that night after being arrested the day before on a charge of theft. Joiner was taken to a local hospital where she was pronounced dead despite efforts to save her.

Joiner had told officers she had a

cold, was a drug user and was seen by a guard vomiting Dec. 6 while in her cell, according to Hanley's memorandum.

The guard called a nurse to examine Joiner, but no treatment was recommended.

The guard later found Joiner sleeping the rest of her shift that night. And the guard said Joiner was in a sleeping position the night of Dec. 7 but responded

and seemed OK during cell checks at 7:13 p.m., 9:07 p.m. and 10:01 p.m.

But when checked on at 10:47 p.m., Joiner was not responsive. An emergency medical response and life saving efforts were not successful.

An autopsy performed by the Winnebago County Coroner's office found no

See DEATH, Page 2A

Hear the Sounds of Summer

Your best summer starts with better hearing.

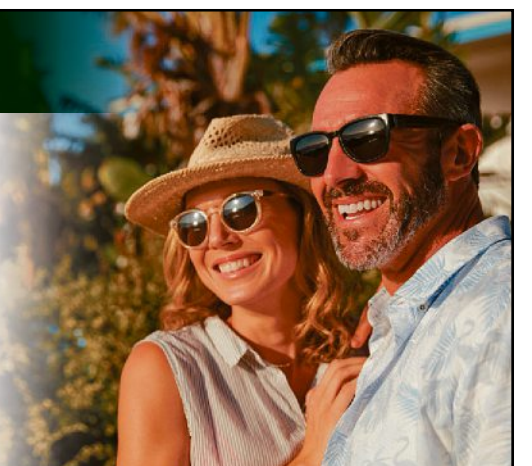
AudioNova
Your Hearing Experts

Take the first step and schedule your FREE HEARING TEST today!

779-306-6033

404 North Galena Ave, Ste 120, Dixon

3957 North Mulford Rd, Ste 2, Rockford



Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to rrstar.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 171 | No. 161
To subscribe 815-987-1400
©2026 \$3.00



0 40901 07101 3