

Teacher in coma after Costa Rica boat crash

By **BRENDA SCHORY**
Kane County Chronicle

BATAVIA — A Batavia High School Spanish teacher is hospitalized in critical condition in San Jose, Costa Rica, following a white-water rafting excursion Saturday.

Joy Vaughn, 24, a Spanish teacher for two years at Batavia, was with foreign language teacher Julie Johnson and nine students when the boat they were riding in collided with a capsized boat. Vaughn and 14 others fell into the water, according to school officials and the American Consulate in Costa Rica. Another passenger was killed, but the other teacher and all the students were unharmed.

Her parents, John and Jo Vaughn, went to Costa Rica to be with their daughter. "I want to thank all the people of Batavia for their prayers," said Jo Vaughn. "She is on a ventilator and is in a coma. She is in very serious condition. She is responsive to pain, but not if you spoke to her. Prayer is the only thing that's going to help her now."

Jo Vaughn said at some point she will be airlifted to a U.S. hospital, but they don't know if she can handle a trip to Chicago, or if she will be taken to a hospital on the Gulf Coast.

Jo Vaughn described her daughter as "an outgoing person, someone who enjoys life." She said well-wishers could send cards and letters to her daughter in care of Batavia High School, 1200 Wilson St., Batavia, 60510.

According to newspaper reports in Costa Rica, an embassy official said the two boats were on River

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St. Charles does turnabout on Regole zoning changes

By **KATHY GUYER**
Kane County Chronicle

ST. CHARLES — A surprise addition to the St. Charles City Council meeting Monday reversed a previous decision and changed the comprehensive plan to accommodate the Regole family's zoning requests for several parcels they are attempting to annex into the city.

Two aldermen, Joe Sekera and Peter Grathoff, changed their positions which allowed the comprehensive plan amendments with an 8-6 vote.

Sekera, who had voted against making the changes to the comprehensive plan during a March 20 council meeting, requested the council reconsider the issue.

During the March 20 meeting, the council voted 7-5 with one abstention to not change the

plan before a crowd of more than 150 people. Sekera said he had learned since that meeting that Geneva was aggressively pursuing annexing some of the properties and St. Charles needs to keep it within its control.

Jim Martin, 4th Ward, a staunch opponent to changing the comprehensive plan, objected to the item being reconsidered, saying proper procedures were not being followed.

Mayor Fred Norris, who supports the annexation, said it was proper procedure and city attorney Allen Landmeier said city ordinance allowed the issue to be reconsidered.

"This is the most underhanded, dirtiest trick you've ever played on this body," Martin said to Norris.

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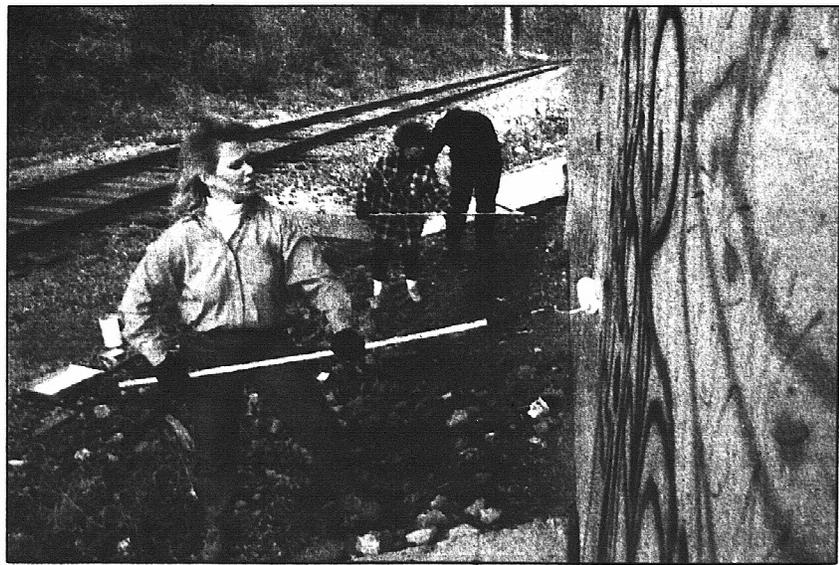


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Mary Beth Nolan/Chronicle photo staff

Painting the town

Karen Breier, front, Carol Blicke and Ron Breier paint over graffiti on a railroad bridge in St. Charles Saturday. Volunteers from the St. Charles Neighborhood Watch and Saints in Service removed graffiti from bridges throughout St. Charles to deter gang activity.

Kane ra in youth salary st

By **TOM SCHLUETER**
Kane County Chronicle

GENEVA — Since the Kane County Youth Home to take similar jobs in Du "We are just training th said Rob McConnaughay of the Kane County Bo mittee.

McConnaughay asked d forward a resolution to t calling for increases in y salaries.

According to figures g vices director Jim Muell the lowest salary of five c Starting salary for a Home employee is \$20.03 is increased to \$20,588, week.

Mueller's figures show positions in Lake County hour week, start at \$27 \$28,444 after six months on a 37.5-hour week, star and increases to \$25,373 Page starts its employees 37.5-hour week; Winnebago starts at \$20,555 and incr six months; Will, on a 3 employees at \$23,000.

"We're training these p ing to higher-paying jobs. "It doesn't make any sens