

Batavia Daily News: Corrections officer credited with saving inmate's life

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ALBION -- A local corrections officer at the Orleans Correctional Facility is credited with saving the life of an inmate who was choking on his food.

Michael Kropf, a 25-year veteran of the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, was on duty the afternoon of Dec. 28, when he noticed an inmate in the mess hall choking and barely breathing at approximately 5:10 p.m.

The quick-thinking Kropf realized immediately the inmate's airway was obstructed and administered the Heimlich maneuver. Initially, according to Kropf, he was unsuccessful in dislodging the obstruction, and administered the Heimlich maneuver a second time. This resulted in successfully clearing food which had lodged in the airway of the inmate.

"I was only doing what I had been trained to do," Kropf said. "I was just doing my job."

The inmate was transported to Medina Memorial Hospital for evaluation. He was treated, released and returned to the medium-security prison.

"On behalf of the entire executive board of the New York State Corrections Officers Police Benevolent Association, I would like to commend officer Kropf for his quick and alert actions," said Mike Dildine, Western Region vice president of NYSCOPBA.

"Certainly his training paid off on that day and saved the life of the inmate. Kropf is a prime example of the good men and women who work inside our prisons and keep the citizens of New York safe."