

IN BRIEF

GREEN BAY
Cyclist rescued from Baird Creek gorge

A man plunged 30 feet into a creek Thursday night after his bicycle left a trail in an east-side park, Green Bay fire officials said.

Firefighters used ropes and a rescue basket to get the 24-year-old man out of the gorge off Baird Creek Parkway, said Battalion Chief Ed Jarosz. He said a friend of the cyclist pulled the man from the water, which is about a foot deep.

"It was challenging," Jarosz said of the 6:20 p.m. incident. "It was pitch black and everything was slippery."

Firefighters took the man to Aurora BayCare Medical Center.

The man had been wearing a helmet, which Jarosz said might have prevented more serious injury. He suffered ear, chest and hip injuries, but was conscious when firefighters arrived.

The bicycle was found about 15 feet down the gorge.

— Doug Schneider/Press-Gazette

CHASE
Oconto County fire under investigation

The investigation continues into the cause of a fire that destroyed a one-story home Wednesday morning in Oconto County.

Pulaski Tri-County Fire Chief Randy Wichlacz said the fire began in the kitchen area at 7308 Oconto County S. The fire was reported about 7:05 a.m., and crews arrived about 10 minutes later to the home engulfed in flames.

No one was inside at the time of the fire, Wichlacz said.

The fire was contained in about 30 minutes, and no one was hurt. Wichlacz said the fire is not suspicious, and damage was estimated at \$100,000.

"It's a total loss," he said. The property is owned by John Antepencko and valued at \$117,486, according to Oconto County land records.

— Charles Davis/Press-Gazette

WAUSAU
Green Bay man faces charges for 11th OWI

A pretrial conference is scheduled for Oct. 20 for a Green Bay man charged with his 11th drunken driving offense.

Wallace C. Bowers, 64, was found at about 3 a.m. Oct. 1 either sleeping or passed out inside his van in a parking lot in Marathon County, Everest Metro Police Chief Wally Sparks said. Bowers was in the driver's seat with the keys in the ignition and admitted to the officer that he was drinking in Wausau before he stopped in the parking lot, Sparks said.

— Gannett Wisconsin Media

KENOSHA COUNTY
Husband, wife die in motorcycle crash

A former Oconto woman and her husband were killed Sunday afternoon in a motorcycle crash in western Kenosha County.

David and Kristin Novaez were riding a motorcycle on Kenosha County P in the town of Wheatland, about six miles south of Burlington, when an SUV pulled out in front of them.

Kristin Novaez, 36, was a passenger on the motorcycle and died after surgery at a Milwaukee hospital. She was a choir teacher at Union Grove High School.

David Novaez, 48, was driving the motorcycle and died at the scene. He was a German teacher at Westosha Central High School.

— The Associated Press and Press-Gazette

CORRECTION
POLICY

The Press-Gazette corrects factual errors promptly and courteously. If you have a correction or clarification, please call Local News Editor Amber Paluch at (920) 431-8361 or email apaluch@greenbaypressgazette.com.

FOCUS: EDUCATION



Area fifth-grade students tour the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay campus Thursday as part of the Phuture Phoenix program. Photos by H. Marc Larson/Press-Gazette

Phuture Phoenix get glimpse of college life

5th-graders encouraged to think about higher education

By Patti Zarling
Green Bay Press-Gazette

Setting your own schedule, living in an apartment and walking around campus were among the things about college life that excited fifth-graders who visited the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Thursday.

"This is so cool," said Valerie Greetan, who attends Oconto Falls Elementary School and spent the day on campus with about 500 other fifth-graders as part of Phuture Phoenix Day, the annual program aimed at helping young people think about education after high school.

Events on Tuesday and Thursday attracted 1,400 fifth-graders from Green Bay and nine other area school districts. Students spent time touring campus and connecting with UWGB student mentors who volunteered as tour guides. Students were invited to dozens of classrooms and lab areas for various experiments and activities.

Phuture Phoenix, started in the 2002-03 school year, welcomed its 10,000th student this week.

The program partners with schools that have high percentages of students from low-income families. Seventeen UW-Green Bay students are recipients of Phuture Phoenix Scholarship awards.

The program has been replicated at Western Washington University in Washington, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and Silver Lake College in Manitowoc.

"We think the program works well," said Stephanie Cataldo-Pabich, associate director for the program. "We don't care where they go to school, whether it's here or (North-east Wisconsin Technical College) or out of state. We encourage them to go where it's the best fit for them. We just want them to go beyond high school."

UW-Green Bay hosts a number of programs aimed at student recruitment and retention. About 181 middle school- and high school-aged students enrolled this summer in academic enrichment pre-college programs, according to Mike Stearney, dean of enrollment

services at UW-Green Bay. That's on top of hundreds of students enrolled in enrichment programs and athletic camps.

"Many of these students are the first ones in their families to attend college," Stearney said. "They might be students of color or high poverty.



Oconto Middle School fifth-grade student James Kelsey has his shirt autographed by UW-Green Bay basketball player Ashley Luke during a tour of the Kress Center, as part of the Phuture Phoenix program.



Oconto Middle School fifth-grade student Andrew Westphal grabs a pass in front of Steve Knaus during a football game in the turf gym.

ON THE NET

Phuture Phoenix:
www.uwgb.edu/phuturephoenix

As a regional campus, our mission is to serve the people of the region. I think as Green Bay is becoming more diverse, we need to make sure our college reflects that."

Nearly 90 percent of 2011 high school graduates who attended the pre-college programs enrolled in college or university in fall.

The Phoenix Start program admits 25 to 35 at-risk new freshmen each fall, Stearney said. The program provides tutoring, advising and supplemental academic and personal support. Fall to spring retention rates for these students averaged 90 percent during the past six years, he said.

Retention and graduation rates for those taking pre-college programs compare well to other students, he said.

NWTC and St. Norbert College also provide a number of programs and events to recruit new students and help them stay in school.

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Cause of shed fire remains mystery

Spontaneous combustion of hay ruled out in blaze

By Charles Davis
Green Bay Press-Gazette

TOWN OF WRIGHTSTOWN — Authorities may never know what caused a hay shed fire that burned for almost 24 hours and required up to 1 million gallons of water to extinguish.

Greenleaf Fire Chief Glenn Geurts previously said the fire at Wiese Brothers Farms, 7043 Bunker Hill Road, about a mile south of Greenleaf, may have been caused by wet hay that spontaneously combusted, but later ruled that out.

It's difficult to identify a cause because most of the smoldering hay was taken to a nearby field and firefighters could not determine a fire pattern, Geurts said.

The fire was put out at about 4:30 a.m. Thursday after about 25 firefighters worked overnight on the blaze, Geurts said. The fire first was seen about 5:45 a.m. Wednesday on the east end of the metal and concrete shed, which was about 280 feet long and 28 feet tall.

"Obviously, it got a spark or a flame from something," Geurts said. Electrical wiring in the shed is not believed to have caused the blaze, and the cause is not believed to be suspicious, he said.

David and Mark Wiese, co-owners of Wiese Brothers Farms, also are connected to a facility in Hilbert that had a large hay fire in the summer. Thousands of bales of hay burned for more than a day in August at the Fox Valley Alfalfa Farm.

Mary Zitzelsberger, secretary of Fox Valley Alfalfa Mill, said David Wiese is president of the mill, and his brother, Mark Wiese, is vice president.

Mark Wiese did not return a call Thursday seeking comment.

About 50 to 60 firefighters worked together Wednesday during the fire's peak, Geurts said. Crews responded from nearly 10 departments.

Between 750,000 and 1 million gallons of water were used to fight the fire, he added. About 350,000 gallons came from Greenleaf, said Public Works Director Lyle Dequaine.

Crews had to stop using water from Greenleaf's system twice because the supply could not keep up with demands. Water tankers were diverted to different sites but it did not hamper firefighting efforts, Geurts said.

The owners of the shed will douse with liquid manure the hay remaining in the nearby field, Geurts said. The hay eventually will be used for fertilizer.

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Victims identified in Manitowoc Co. crash

Alcohol is believed to be a factor

Gannett Wisconsin Media

SHOT — Authorities said Thursday morning that alcohol is believed to be a factor in an accident that killed three members of a Two Rivers family on Wednesday.

Names of the victims were released Thursday by Manitowoc County Sheriff Robert Hermann.

Killed were Lawrence H. Gerroll, 79, his wife Lou A. Gerroll, 75, of 4411 Mishicot Road, Two Rivers, and their daughter, Joan M. Gerroll, 48, of 1110 33rd St., Two Rivers.

According to a news release from Hermann:

The victims were hit by a van driven by a 43-year-old Manitowoc woman shortly before 4 p.m. Wednesday outside of a home at 1112 Shoto Road, near Shoto. The van was traveling west on Shoto Road, went out of control and left the roadway, en-

tered the north ditch and hit the victims, who were watching a roofing construction project on the home belonging to relatives.

The driver was partially ejected from her 2003 Chevrolet Venture van. Her 6-year-old son was a passenger in the vehicle and was ejected.

Both received serious injuries and were transported to Aurora Medical Center in Two Rivers before being transferred to St. Vincent Hospital in Green Bay by the EAGLE III helicopter.



Lt. David Remiker, right, of the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department, on Thursday shows Manitowoc County District Attorney Mark Rohrer, left, and Assistant District Attorney Michael Griesbach, the scene of the accident that killed three people. Sue Pischke/Gannett Wisconsin Media