



Tim Snopek/Special to The Freeman

EMTs work to remove the victim of a vehicle crash from her car in the City of Pewaukee on Thursday afternoon.

Waukesha woman dies in City of Pewaukee crash

CITY OF PEWAUKEE — A 72-year-old Waukesha woman has died from injuries sustained in an auto crash late Thursday morning.

According to a press release from the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department, officers and emergency medical personnel were dispatched for a report of a vehicle accident at 11:30 a.m. Thursday in the City of Pewaukee.

A red Ford pickup truck driven by a 33-year-old male from Menomonee Falls was traveling east on Bluemound Road when it struck a blue Subaru Outback coming from Takoma Road. The Subaru was driven by the Waukesha woman.

The male driver suffered minor injuries and was transported by ambulance to Waukesha Memorial Hospital. The female driver suffered serious injuries and was later pronounced dead at the scene.

Bluemound Road was closed between Saratoga Road and Eastmound Road for the next several hours.

The accident remains under investigation by the Sheriff's Department. Further information was not released before press time.

— Freeman Staff



Emergency personnel work to remove the vehicle crash victim from her Subaru on Thursday in the City of Pewaukee.

WAUKESHA WATER UTILITY

Commission still undecided on water supply recommendation

By Hannah Weikel
Freeman Staff

WAUKESHA — City residents will have to wait a little longer to find out where their drinking water will be coming from and how much rates will increase when the city switches to Great Lakes water in five or six years.

Waukesha Water Utility Manager Dan Duchniak said Thursday that the Water Utility Commission does not have enough information yet to make a recommendation to the Common Council, which is the first step in the city's decision-making process. The group went into a closed session Thursday evening to discuss ongoing negotiations and proposal details.

Negotiations haven't been finalized with Oak Creek, which was Waukesha's choice for water supply when Milwaukee came forward in May with an unsolicited proposal to sell Lake Michigan water.

Duchniak said the Water Utility Commission will not be ready to make a recom-

mendation to the full Common Council at its next meeting on Sept. 5. The commission meets only once a month, but he expects they have all the information needed to reach a recommendation agreement by Sept. 28 during their next meeting.

From there, the public will be notified and given the chance to share thoughts or concerns with aldermen and the full council will make a final decision sometime in October, Duchniak said.

Lingering questions

Duchniak said the water utility has been getting a lot of questions about the pipeline route, water supplier, return flow, cost, timing, water quality and transition to a new water supply.

Water rates for homes in Waukesha's service area could double or triple once Great Lakes water comes online, which has many residents worried.

When news of Milwaukee's unsolicited proposal first broke in July, several city residents sounded off

and urged Waukesha officials not to engage with Milwaukee for water.

In an email to The Freeman, longtime Waukesha resident Craig Tallar said: "With the current and last several years of fiscal issues to which Milwaukee is growing in debt; all they are seeking 'now,' is someone to provide funding for their failing county and high costs by lawsuits. The current engagement with Oak Creek should remain intact."

Tallar said despite the shorter distance between Waukesha and Milwaukee than with Oak Creek, Milwaukee has issues with their water distribution and wastewater.

Duchniak said negotiations haven't started over Milwaukee's proposal. All communication with Milwaukee has been over the details of their original proposal, so it's not certain if they will be able to offer a better or worse deal than Oak Creek.

Because the two cities are vying for the water sale and Waukesha is in active nego-

At a glance

Where: Waukesha Rotary Building, Frame Park
What: Public informational meeting with Waukesha Water Utility representatives
Who: All utility customers were mailed an invitation
When: Sept. 6, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

tiations with Oak Creek, all meetings over the specifics of each deal are done in closed session and proposal documents are sealed.

Waukesha residents still have time to discuss the two water supply options with experts.

There will be an open house for the public on Sept. 6 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Waukesha Rotary Building where residents can ask questions about the water diversion plan, the pipeline routes and costs.

Although Waukesha will not have a provider picked before the open house, the water utility will have estimated rates and costs for residents as well as water quality information.

Duchniak said the open house will be the first of many as the Great Lakes water diversion project moves forward.

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Stillwaters Cancer Support Center to close

By Ashley Haynes
Freeman Staff

SOUND OFF

What do you think?

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WAUKESHA — On Thursday morning, it was announced that the Board of Directors of Stillwaters Cancer Support Center determined the organization could not afford financially to continue operating. Founded as a nonprofit in 1994 by Mary Soergel, who lost her son to brain cancer, the center provides cancer-specific professional counseling and emotional support for those affected by any stage of cancer. Through the years, Stillwaters has helped many people and their family members find peace.

"My husband was dying in a hospice facility, and an amazing woman from the center came to the hospice to help him," said Sue Larsen, a Nashotah resident. "This woman was able to change my husband's focus from anger about a childhood situation that plagued him his entire life (repressed memories had come back to him) to spending his remaining days loving the people close to him. It was transformative."

Larsen says that before her husband's death, they did not have a personal counselor. The woman from Stillwaters was the only person who would come to him. At the time, Larsen's husband was dying of brain cancer, so a team began trying to get help for him, including Larsen's therapist and two bereavement counselors at the hospice. They reached out to Stillwaters for help, and soon Larsen received a phone call from a counselor she could only identify by the name of Amy.

"This woman allowed my husband to die at peace," said Larsen. "I am forever in her debt."

She says that after her husband's death, Stillwaters staff continued supporting her by offering their help and letting her know they were available. Now that the support center is closing, those who use its services will be directed to another facility. An official statement from the nonprofit says:

"Stillwaters will wind down its operations over the next two months, focusing on ensuring that current cancer patients are connected to ongoing counseling services. The Stillwaters board and leadership team wish to express their sincere gratitude to all those in the community who have supported the organization's mission."

Some clients will be referred to Hope for a Better Tomorrow, which is located directly across the hall from Stillwaters at 2607 N. Grandview Blvd. Others may be referred to Family Services of Waukesha, 101 W. Broadway. Both locations offer additional emotional support/wellness and counseling programs.

For more information on Hope for a Better Tomorrow, visit www.hopeforabettertommorrow.com. For information on Family Services of Waukesha, visit www.fswaukesha.org.

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IN BRIEF

Menomonee Falls police investigating Verizon burglary

MENOMONEE FALLS — The Menomonee Falls Police Department is investigating a burglary that occurred at 2:33 a.m. on Aug. 24 at Verizon, N56-W15560 Silver Spring Drive.

Initial information shows that the suspects gained entry to the store by force and several electronic devices were stolen or damaged. The details of this incident are currently being gathered, and the MFPD is working with other area law enforcement departments to determine if this burglary may be related to others in the area.

Anyone with information regarding the burglary should call the department's non-emergency line at 262-532-8700.

Man sentenced after coins, guns stolen from Town of Eagle home

WAUKESHA — A West Allis man was put on probation for three years Thursday after he and his girlfriend stole several gold and silver coins, competition guns and classic guitars from her grandparents while she lived on

their property almost two years ago.

Brandon Polley, 25, also had a prison term of three years plus three more on supervision stayed in favor of probation, which carries with it a 125-day term in jail with work release privileges after having entered an Alford no contest plea to a count of theft. In an Alford plea, a defendant admits no guilt but concedes the state has enough evidence to obtain a conviction.

Polley and Amanda Lapp, 24, were charged after Lapp's grandfather in the Town of Eagle reported Lapp stole firearms and coins from a safe in his home valued between \$12,000 and \$17,000. She also took several classic guitars. Lapp then sold the various items in Milwaukee and Waukesha, according to a criminal complaint. Polley said he was with Lapp when she sold the items on multiple occasions, but never stole any of the goods, according to the complaint.

Lapp pleaded guilty to a count of theft of property greater than \$10,000 and was sentenced July 31 to serve three years on probation with 90 days of work-release jail stayed for her probation agent's discretion. Polley and Lapp were also ordered to pay more than \$27,000 in restitution.

Man sentenced in theft of rifle from Oconomowoc home

WAUKESHA — A Minnesota man has been sentenced to prison for his role in stealing a rifle from an Oconomowoc home last January.

Jesse Bryant, 30, of Cromwell, Minn., was sentenced Thursday to serve 22 months in prison plus three years on extended supervision after he was convicted of theft with special facts in a plea agreement that downgraded the charge from burglary.

Bryant and Heidi K. Groskreutz, 25, of Superior,

and Chad M. Potrykus, 39, of Oconomowoc all were charged with burglary while armed with a dangerous weapon after a resident reported a burglary Jan. 13 in the 900 block of Hancock Court.

An AR-15 rifle and ammunition were reported stolen as well as a fire safe, a criminal complaint said. The victim said his neighbor told him she had seen a suspicious SUV with a Minnesota license plate in the area.

On Jan. 24, an

Oconomowoc police officer stopped the vehicle that the victim's neighbor had described, with Potrykus, Groskreutz and Bryant inside it. Both Bryant and Groskreutz said Potrykus had sold the gun for cash or heroin or both, according to the criminal complaint.

Groskreutz pleaded

guilty to theft with special facts and was sentenced to a year in jail last week, with 206 days credit for time served, plus three years' probation. She is to make restitution of \$1,880.

Potrykus is due in court again Sept. 8.

— Freeman Staff



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Watching over Waukesha

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