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New Ulm, Minnesota

Thursday, November 5, 2015

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Good
Morning

Bomb may have downed Russian jet

U.S., U.K.
officials say

By JILL LAWLESS
and KEN DILANIAN
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British and U.S. officials said Wednesday they have information suggesting the Russian jetliner that crashed in the Egyptian desert may have been brought down by a bomb, and Britain said it was suspending flights to and from the Sinai Peninsula indefinitely.

Intercepted communications played a role in the tentative conclusion that the Islamic State group's Sinai affiliate planted an explosive device on the plane, said a U.S. official briefed on the matter. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't au-

thorized to discuss intelligence matters publicly.

The official and others said there had been no formal judgment rendered by the CIA or other intelligence agencies, and that forensic evidence from the blast site, including the airplane's black box, was still being analyzed.

The official added that intelligence analysts don't believe the operation was ordered by Islamic State leaders in Raqqa, Syria. Rather, they believe that if it was a bomb, it was planned and executed by the Islamic State's affiliate in the Sinai, which operates autonomously.

Other officials cautioned that intercepted communications can sometimes be misleading and that it's possible the evidence will add up to a conclusion that there was no bomb.

British Foreign Secretary

Philip Hammond said there was a "significant possibility" the crash was caused by a bomb, and Britain was suspending flights to and from the Sinai resort of Sharm el-Sheikh indefinitely.

After a meeting of the British government's crisis committee, COBRA, Hammond said Britain was advising its citizens not to go on vacation to Sharm el-Sheikh, which is visited by hundreds of thousands of Britons a year.

Meanwhile, Russian and Egyptian investigators said Wednesday that the cockpit voice recorder of the Metrojet Airbus 321-200 had suffered substantial damage in the weekend crash that killed 224 people. Information from the flight data recorder has been successfully copied and handed over to investigators, the Russians added.

Prime Minister David Cameron's office said British avi-



Andrey Dorokhin, right, cries as he and others pay their last respects to the young family of Alexei Gromov, 27, his wife Tatyana, 26, and their 10n-month-old daughter Darina, who was the youngest passenger in Russia's deadliest plane crash last Saturday. (AP Photo/Elena Ignatyeva)

New Ulm teen found dead in Blue Earth County

By Clay Schuldt
Staff Writer

JUDSON Township — Hannah Oliva, a 16-year-old New Ulm resident and Mankato West High School junior, was found dead Wednesday morning in Judson Township, Blue Earth County. The cause of death is unknown at this time.

Shortly before 6:30 a.m. on Wednesday, the Blue Earth County Sheriff's Department received a report of a vehicle sitting in a field approximately 200 yards off Highway 68. The responding deputy located the unoccupied vehicle, which was stuck in the mud. No person was found in the immediate vicinity of the vehicle.

A search of the area was conducted, and Oliva was found around 8 a.m. over a hundred yards from the vehicle. She was unresponsive and face down in the field. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

Capt. Rich Murry with the Blue Earth County Sheriff's Department said the incident does not appear to be a vehicle accident.

The unoccupied vehicle found near the scene was linked to the Oliva family, but it appeared to be undamaged. Murry said the department is treating the death as suspicious due to the victim's age.

Oliva's body was transported to the Ramsey County Medical Examiner's Office for an autopsy to determine the cause of death

Meyer inspired to write poetry by good stories, lyrics, family of talkers

FIELDSTONE

I look across a broken field
that spills its rubbled glacial yield.
This farm that's rocky to a fault,
where the ground sweats stones as I sweat salt,
insists my hands get boulder worn
before it gives up beans or corn.

IF YOU GO

What: Richard Meyer reading his poems from "Orbital Paths"

Where: New Ulm Public Library

When: 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 12

By Donna Weber
News Editor

NEW ULM — Award-winning poet Richard Meyer is ready to rattle your bones and get your blood flowing when he shares his works at a reading at the New Ulm Public Library on Thursday, Nov. 12.

Meyer, a retired English and humanities teacher, will read from "Orbital Paths," a recently published book that features poems he penned over a span of four

decades.

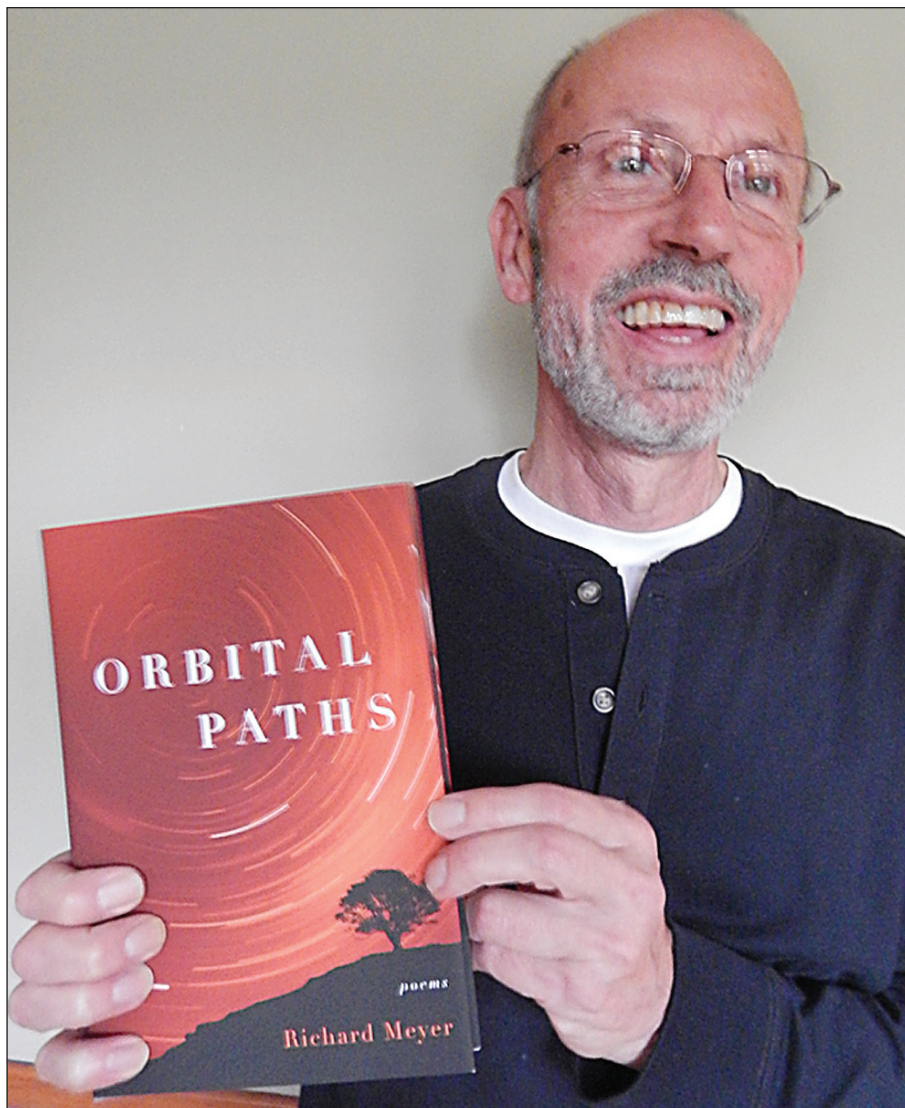
"Poetry is something very elemental and universal," Meyer said. "Poetry is in our blood and bones."

Meyer, now 64, hails from "a family of talkers," he said. Lively discussions at the dinner table with his seven siblings and parents while growing up in Mankato sparked his interest in crafting words into poems for the common people and propelled him into a teaching career.

He began teaching at New Ulm High School in 1974 and continued there until he was a victim of budget cuts in 1988. His teaching career then took him to Mankato East for 18 years until he retired.

"I loved New Ulm," Meyer

Continued on page 7A



Staff photo

Richard Meyer poses with a copy of 'Orbital Paths,' a recently published collection of his poetry that he has written over the past four decades. Meyer, a former English teacher at New Ulm High School, will read from the book on Thursday, Nov. 12, at the New Ulm Public Library.

St. James, Madelia voters OK school referendums

Voters in St. James and Madelia school districts approved both questions of referendum votes Tuesday by wide margins.

In St. James, voters approved Question 1 1,474 (61.8 percent) to 911 (38.2 percent).

Voters authorized the school board to issue \$23,955,000 in General Obligation school building bonds including expansions and im-

Voters

Continued on page 7A

Preschoolers help spread milkweed seeds at Pollinator Nature Park

By Clay Schuldt
Staff Writer

NEW ULM — Students from Creative Kids Preschool helped the new Pollinator Nature Park by spreading milkweed seeds Wednesday.

The preschoolers danced and stomped to the sound of drums and rattles while spreading milkweed seeds. The dance simulated the bison stomping prairie seeds into the ground before winter.

Deb Steinberg, who works in New Ulm preschools through the AmeriCorps LEAP program, made the request to the Park and Rec De-

partment to create a pollinator park earlier this year.

The City chose to dedicate a portion of North Broadway Park to help pollinators. Steinberg has since been working with other groups to further develop the park.

Recently, through the Minnesota Pollinator Partnership of Pheasants Forever and the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund, a grant was awarded to help engage youth in establishing pollinator habitat.

Steinberg described Wednesday's activity with preschoolers as a trial run. Further work must be done at North Broadway Park includ-

ing controlled burns to eliminate smaller trees and other noxious plants.

The Pollinator Nature Park is located at 2250 N. Broadway.

The idea for the park came from Creative Kids Preschool classes studying the life cycle of the monarch butterfly. Monarchs need the milkweed plant to survive, but in recent years milkweed and other natural prairie plants have been declining. Consequently, monarchs and other pollinators are decreasing in numbers. An objective of pollinator parks is to help curb the decline of butterflies.



Students and a staff member from Creative Kids Preschool in New Ulm watch as a school official spreads milkweed seeds in the new Pollinator Nature Park at 2250 N. Broadway on Wednesday.

Staff photo by Clay Schuldt



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Garbageman returns \$12,000 in lost checks

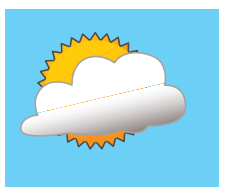
SEATTLE (AP) — A Seattle elementary school is thanking a garbageman for finding nearly \$12,000 in checks in the trash.

Waste Management employee Micah Speir was picking up scattered trash next to some bins when he found a number of checks made out to Lawson Elementary School.

Principal Dorian Manza says he met Speir on his route and gratefully took the checks back. The funds were from a fundraising drive and a Parent-Teacher Association member had accidentally dropped the bag along the garbage truck's route. When Manza tried to tip Speir for his good deed, the man turned him down.

Today's Outlook

Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s. Temperatures falling into lower 50s in afternoon. SW winds 10-20 mph. Chance of rain 40 percent. Thursday night... Mostly cloudy. Lows in upper 30s. NW winds 15-20 mph.



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‘Hero’ officer staged suicide, embezzled from youth program

By **DON BABWIN**
Associated Press

FOX LAKE, Ill. (AP) — For weeks, investigators said they were searching for the killers of a small-town police officer known as “G.I. Joe.” Thousands attended the funeral of Fox Lake Police Lt. Charles Joseph Gliniewicz. Many lauded him as a hero, the latest law enforcer to die at a time when police feel under attack.

But after an intense and costly manhunt for three phantom suspects came up empty, investigators realized he was something else: A small-time embezzler, who meticulously staged his death to make it look like he was slain in the line of duty.

In fact, the 30-year police veteran killed himself on Sept. 1 because his theft of thousands of dollars from a youth program was about to be exposed, authorities revealed Wednesday.

“Gliniewicz committed the ultimate betrayal,” announced Lake County Major Crimes Task Force Commander George Filenko, who endured blistering questions from skeptical journalists about his handling of the two-month investigation. “We completely believed from day one that this was a homicide.”

Recovered text messages and other records now show Gliniewicz embezzled from

the village’s Police Explorer program for seven years, spending the money on mortgage payments, travel expenses, gym memberships, adult websites and loans to friends, Filenko said.

“We have determined this staged suicide was the end result of extensive criminal acts that Gliniewicz had been committing,” he said.

Filenko said he could not reveal more details about these crimes because “the investigation strongly suggests criminal activity on the part of at least two other individuals.”

The revelation shocked people in Fox Lake, a village of 10,000 about 50 miles north of Chicago where the 52-year-old married father of four had long been a role model.

“He was a great guy. I looked up to him. I am really upset about this. It really opens your eyes up,” said Tim Pederson, 22, who was an explorer under Gliniewicz and now works as a corrections officer.

Minutes before he died, Gliniewicz radioed that he was chasing three suspicious men into a swampy area. Backup officers followed a trail of equipment to the Army veteran’s body, about 50 yards from his squad car.

The first bullet from his handgun had struck his cell phone and ballistic vest. The

second pierced his upper chest. His head was scraped and bruised, although the coroner said that could have been intentional. The swampy terrain was otherwise undisturbed, and his gun wasn’t found for more than an hour, even though it was less than three feet from the body, Filenko said.

By then, an intense manhunt had begun and was growing quickly, with hundreds of officers searching houses, cabins and even boats on area lakes. Helicopters with heat-sensing scanners and K-9 units scoured the area for days. Some 50 suburban Chicago police departments and sheriff’s offices assisted, racking up more than \$300,000 in overtime and other costs, according to an analysis the Daily Herald published in early October.

More than 100 investigators stayed on the case for weeks, even after questions arose. The vague description Gliniewicz had radioed in — two white men and a black man — didn’t help. No one was ever arrested.

More than 100 people submitted DNA for tests that ultimately found nothing, Filenko said. Asked Wednesday whether that evidence will now be destroyed, Filenko said he didn’t know.

One hint was made public relatively quickly: The Lake County coroner, Dr. Thomas



Police Lt. Charles Joseph Gliniewicz

Rudd, announced on Sept. 9 that Gliniewicz was killed by a “single devastating” shot to his chest, and that he couldn’t rule out suicide or an accident. Filenko responded angrily that releasing such details put “the entire case at risk.”

Gliniewicz’s family had dismissed the suggestion of suicide. He “never once” thought of taking his own life, and was excited about his retirement plans, his son D.J. Gliniewicz insisted.

Incriminating texts and Facebook messages Gliniewicz sent tell a different story, revealing his increasing anxiety after Fox Lake hired its first professional administrator, Anne Marrin. She began auditing all the village departments, including the Explorer program.

Gliniewicz deleted the messages, but investigators recovered them, and released some of them verbatim on Wednesday, without identifying whom he sent them to.

Jet From page 1A

ation experts had been sent to Sharm el-Sheikh, where the flight originated, to assess security before British flights there would be allowed to resume.

Several British flights due to leave Sharm el-Sheikh for the U.K. Wednesday were grounded, leaving hundreds of tourists stranded.

Cameron’s 10 Downing St. office said late Wednesday that the team’s preliminary report “noted that the Egyptian authorities had stepped up their efforts but that more remains to be done.”

Downing Steet said it could not say “categorically” why the Russian jet had crashed.

“But as more information has come to light, we have become concerned that the plane may well have been brought down by an explosive device,” it said in a statement.

Cameron had discussed the issue of security at the Sharm el-Sheikh airport with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, who flew to Britain on Wednesday for an official visit, Downing Street said.

The British disclosures were an embarrassment to el-Sissi, who had insisted in an interview with the BBC on Tuesday that the security situation in the Sinai Peninsula is under “full control.” He has staked his legitimacy on restoring stability and reviving Egypt’s economy.

The suspension of flights

is a further blow to Egypt’s troubled tourism industry, which has suffered in the unrest that followed the 2011 Arab Spring. The one bright spot for Egypt has been tourism at the Red Sea resorts.

The Irish Aviation Authority followed the British lead and directed Irish airlines to suspend flights to Sharm el-Sheikh Airport and into the airspace of the Sinai Peninsula “until further notice.”

The British acted “too soon,” said Hany Ramsay, deputy head of Sharm el-Sheikh’s airport.

“Other countries might soon follow them, Ramsay told The Associated Press, suggesting there may be political and commercial motives behind the British statement.

“They want to hurt tourism and cause confusion,” he added.

Several airlines, including Lufthansa and Air France, stopped flying over Sinai after the crash, but British carriers had kept to their schedules. Almost 1 million Britons visit Egypt each year, many to Sharm el-Sheikh, which is also popular with Russians.

The Metrojet flight carrying mostly Russian vacationers from Sharm el-Sheikh to St. Petersburg broke up in the air at an altitude of 31,000 feet 23 minutes after takeoff and came down in the Sinai desert, Russian officials said.

Senate panel summons price-hiking CEO of Turing Pharma

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Senate committee launched an investigation Wednesday into exorbitant drug price hikes by Turing Pharmaceuticals and three other companies, responding to public anxiety over rising prices for critical medicines.

The Senate’s special committee on aging requested documents and information from Turing, Valeant Pharmaceuticals and two other drugmakers already under scrutiny for recent price spikes.

Notably, the senators called for a face-to-face meeting with Turing Pharmaceuticals CEO, Martin Shkreli, “as soon as it is practicable.” Shkreli has become the public face of the pricing controversy, after his company raised the price of Daraprim by 5,000 percent after obtaining rights to the drug. The drug is the only U.S.-approved treatment for a deadly parasitic infection called toxoplasmosis.

Turing said in an emailed statement: “We are reviewing the committee’s request and, as we have and continue to do with similar congressional inquiries, we look forward to having an open and honest dialogue about drug pricing.”

Separately, Democrats in the House of Representatives called on their Republican colleagues to summon the CEOs of Turing and Valeant to a congressional hearing and issue subpoenas to collect documents from their companies.

Votes From page 1A

provements at Northside Elementary and St. James High School. In addition, outdoor athletic improvements, safe and security projects at various school sites were approved.

Question 2 was approved 1,643 (69.1 percent) to 733 (30.8 percent), increasing general education revenue by \$250 per pupil for 10 years.

Madelia
In Madelia, voters approved Question 1 472 (86.2

percent) to 75 (13.7 percent), renewing for 10 years a \$727.69 per pupil portion of the school district’s exiting referendum authorization scheduled to expire after 2015 taxes payable.

Voters approved Question 2 by 448 (82.3 percent) to 96 (17.6 percent) to increase general education revenue by \$165.31 per pupil for 10 years beginning with taxes payable in 2016.

Meyer From page 1A

Meyer said. “I would have stayed if I hadn’t been laid off.”

He is thrilled to have the opportunity to read his poetry in New Ulm. “I hope to see familiar faces and old friends,” he said.

In retirement, Meyer writes new poems and fuses with his earlier works. Themes of love, death and nature permeate his poetry — themes that are universal in all poetry, he said.

“Sometimes a poem has a long genesis,” Meyer said. “Fieldstone” is such a poem.

“Fieldstone,” a six-line poem that Meyer first drafted nearly 40 years ago, won the Robert Frost Farm Prize in 2012.

It is a poem about Meyer’s observations of the upheaval of stones from the fields each spring — forced to the surface by the departure of the frost.

As he drove on Highway 68 between New Ulm and Mankato, he noticed one or two very large boulders in what appeared to be land

more like a section of scrub prairie than tillable acreage

“Seeing those huge glacial stones made me think of farmers and the stones they sometimes have to clear from their fields,” he said.

Meyer crafted “The Autumn Way” as an elegy to his mother Gert, and the poem became part of her funeral service. He finished the poem several years before her death in 2007 and shared it with her. “She loved it,” he said.

“The Autumn Way” won the 2014 String Poet Prize. His poem “La Gioconda” was chosen as a top sonnet in the 2013 Great River Shakespeare Festival.

The award-winning poems are among Meyer’s personal favorites.

He considers his poems his children. “Some are witty, some are well-mannered; some are well-behaved; some are rough around the edges,” he said.

Gert Meyer heavily influenced her son’s love of poetry. She spoke in metaphors, and she stored hundreds of

poems and song lyrics in her memory. She sprinkled her conversations with colorful language and recitations from those poems and lyrics. Gert was also a storyteller.

“I had poetry in my ear as well as good stories,” Meyer said.

Lyrics also influenced Meyer’s writings. In his youth, he absorbed the lyrics of rock ‘n’ roll songs of the Beatles and other musicians. “Lyrics are really poetry,” he said.

Meyer began serious poetry writing in his 20s. Virtually all of his early works “were tossed long ago. It was practice — an apprentice finding the right skills,” he said.

Getting his poetry published proved difficult, Meyer said. However, a Facebook connection with Amy Malecki Rogers, a former student, made publication possible.

Rogers, a 1987 graduate of NUHS who excelled academically and was one of the Meyer’s brightest students, earned a Ph.D. and an M.D.

She then decided to write science fiction thrillers. She owns ScienceThrillers Media publishing company.

Rogers offered to publish a collection of Meyer’s poetry.

“Orbital Paths” was released in early October. It is now available at Barnes & Noble and on Amazon.

The poetry collection has been well received by other writers. Among them is Nicole Helget, who has ties to the Sleepy Eye area and is author of “The Summer of Ordinary Ways” and “Stillwater.” She now teaches college courses.

Helget wrote: Meyer “sees everything and he selects (or creates) the perfect word for the exact sentiment he means to convey. ... Meyer is a siren. Just try to put this collection down.”

The poetry reading begins at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 12, at the New Ulm Public Library.

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