

Medical helicopter crash injures three crew members

By Jeff Beach

Forum News Service

ALEXANDRIA — An air ambulance helicopter crashed into a wooded area along Lake Winona in Alexandria early Saturday, critically injuring three people.

A North Memorial Health Care helicopter crashed en route to the Alexandria airport at 2:07 a.m., according to a statement from North Memorial.

Three North Memorial crew members were injured. After being taken to Douglas County Hospital in Alexandria, the crew members were transferred to North Memorial in the Twin Cities.

There were no patients on board the helicopter.

"I am extremely proud of our team members for their response at the site," Dr. J. Kevin Croston, CEO of North Memorial Health Care, said in a news release. "Our immediate concern is with our crew

members who are now being treated at North Memorial Medical Center. We are glad they are here. There is no better place to receive care."

The crash site at 1438 Lakeside Drive is near the eastern shore of Lake Winona and north of the Alexandria Municipal Airport.

An investigator from the National Transportation Safety Board arrived at the crash site Saturday afternoon to begin gathering information.

He said findings may be available in four to five days.

Observations from the National Weather Service show that light fog was reported at the airport shortly after the crash, but at the 2 a.m. reading, there was no reduction in visibility due to fog.

There were low ceilings — about 300 feet — because of cloud cover and winds were light, from the west-northwest about 11

mph.

Shortly after 2 a.m., the Douglas County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call of a possible helicopter crash on the east side of Lake Winona.

North Memorial ambulance transported the three patients to Douglas County Hospital, according to Douglas County Sheriff Troy Wolbersen.

Douglas County Hospital was notified of the medical helicopter crash and immediately activated its Emergency Response Plan, calling in staff to assist in the response, according to Carl Vaagenes, the hospital's CEO.

"I am extremely proud of the response and performance from our staff and physicians who were working and everyone who responded to the emergency," Vaagenes said.

Douglas County sheriff's deputies, Alexandria Police Department and the Alexandria Fire Department also responded.



Lowell Andersonx / Forum News Service

Three people are in critical condition after this North Memorial Care helicopter crashed into the trees at 1438 Lakeside Drive on the east side of Lake Winona in Alexandria early Saturday morning.

Minnesota River Congress seeks input from the public

NEW ULM — The Minnesota River Congress will be hosting meetings this week in Granite Falls and Morton to hear from groups and individuals working for the economic and natural resource health of the river basin. This will guide the Congress as it develops a public statement of policies and actions.

"We know that many passionate people in the Minnesota River basin have ideas for policy statements that might be included in the Minnesota River Congress policy statement," said Scott

Sparlin, Congress facilitator. "We are asking everyone interested to attend one of six meetings in the Minnesota Basin and submit those items you feel are appropriate for inclusion in our final statement and agenda."

There is a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Granite Falls Lutheran Church, 350 Ninth Ave. in Granite Falls.

The final meeting in the series of six is scheduled at 7 p.m. Thursday at Jackpot Junction Casino. The meeting will be in the second-floor ballroom.

The eventual Con-

gress public policy statement and agenda will be approved at the seventh full Minnesota River Congress meeting on Thursday, Nov. 17.

"We need everyone's help to build the Congress policy and agenda," says Sparlin. "Please submit items that have a basin-wide and significant impact. Items that call for specific and measurable action by the Minnesota River Congress. And please submit items that include background information supporting the policy you are advocating."

BRIEFS

Worthington turkey wins first leg of Great Gobbler Gallop

WORTHINGTON — The visiting team never stood a chance.

Paycheck, Worthington's racing turkey, claimed a decisive victory in the first leg of the 44th Great Gobbler Gallop on Saturday over Ruby Begonia of Cuero, Texas. Looking composed and focused right out of the gate, Paycheck kept his feet on the ground and eye on the prize amidst boisterous fanfare from the King Turkey Day crowd. Holding a consistent pace from the very start, he dashed to an impressive time of one minute, 11.5 seconds, leaving rival Ruby in the dust.

While Paycheck had his eye firmly on the finish line, Ruby Begonia was wandering off to hang out with spectators in the crowd, much to her handlers' chagrin.

Cuero only has a few weeks to get Ruby focused on the task at hand. The second leg of the Great Gobbler Gallop will take place on October 8 during Cuero's Turkeyfest in Texas.

The bird with the best score from the two heats will be awarded the Traveling Turkey Trophy of Tumultuous Triumph, while the losing bird will have to settle for the Circulating Consolation Cup of Consummate Commiseration.

Boy was victim of attempted abduction, Burnsville police say

BURNSVILLE — An 11-year-old boy was the victim of an attempted abduction in Burnsville on Saturday afternoon, police say. The boy was walking his dog near

River Hills Drive and Clark Street about 4:30 p.m. when a man in a silver, four-door SUV asked him to get into the vehicle, according to a news release issued by the Burnsville Police Department. The boy ran from the man and called his mother, who called the police.

The boy described the man in the SUV as a white male about 60 years old, with crooked front teeth and long gray hair that covered his ears. The boy said the man drove north on River Hills Drive after the encounter.

Investigators are asking anyone with information that might be relevant to this incident to call Detective Andrea Newton at 952-895-4670.

Eagle Butte man sentenced for beating of another man

EAGLE BUTTE, S.D. — A 25-year-old Eagle Butte man will spend just over three years in prison for assaulting another man with a group of others with the victim suffering a broken arm and head injuries.

Raymond Uses the Knife III was sentenced last week for the incident on the Cheyenne Sioux Indian reservation in far northwest South Dakota.

He also pleaded guilty to a charge for failing to appear at an earlier court appearance.

In the assault incident in July of 2015, Uses the Knife along with three others chased down the victim and started hitting and kicking the victim repeatedly, then fled the scene and drove off together.

Forum News Service

Charges: Willmar man injured boy in a rage

By Gretchen Brown

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WILLMAR — Authorities say a Willmar man threw a walkie-talkie at an 8-year-old boy's head, splitting it open and causing it to bleed.

Erik Brent Frederickson, 35, is facing a five felony, gross misdemeanor and misdemeanor charges for malicious punishment of a child, third-degree assault, and domestic assault for that incident and one other alleged incident. He made his first appearance Wednesday in Kandiyohi County District Court.

Frederickson had been sleeping on a couch in

a Willmar home as the 8-year-old boy played with a 5-year-old girl. According to court documents, the boy threw a stuffed animal at the girl, but missed. The stuffed animal hit Frederickson.

Enraged, Frederickson allegedly grabbed the closest nearby object, a plastic walkie-talkie, and threw it at the boy.

A Willmar police officer interviewed both children about the incident, and they both told the same story.

The 8-year-old boy "was very sad and seemed as though he may cry" while speaking about it, according to the criminal complaint.

An anonymous person also mentioned another incident from one year ago to police. Frederickson had allegedly become angry at the 5-year-old

girl because she was "talking back."

Frederickson allegedly slapped the girl in the mouth several times, which left several large, dark bruises on her face, according to the criminal complaint.

That individual provided photographs to police showing what appeared to be injuries from each incident.

According to the criminal complaint, Frederickson gave a statement to a Willmar police officer. He admitted to throwing a walkie-talkie, but said he did not mean to hit the boy.

Frederickson also denied that the slapping incident had ever occurred.

He is not in custody. His next court appearance is scheduled for Dec. 5.

Highway 104 detour in Glenwood begins today

GLENWOOD — Motorists on Minnesota Highway 104 will encounter a detour in Glenwood when a culvert project begins today.

Highway 104 will close near Eighth Street. Traffic will detour to state Highway 28, Pope County Road 21 and 190th Street.

According to a news release from the Minnesota Department of Transporta-

tion, the project involves placing a large culvert under Highway 104 and several culverts under Eighth Street. The work is expected to take approximately three weeks, weather permitting.

Riley Brothers Construction is the prime contractor for the project, which will be funded by the city of Glenwood.

Staff reports



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BOLD SCHOOL is now taking enrollment applications for the 2016-2017 school year.

BOLD School offers College Now classes along with ITV classes. There will be career and technical classes offered through the Ridgewater College. I pads to all students in grades 5-12. Busing is also available. Check out our website at www.bold.k12.mn.us.

Please call the school to request an open enrollment form or for questions:

John Dotson, Superintendent
BOLD Schools

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