

'Baby Theresa' case to get update

Dodge Co. authorities to share developments in 2009 case on Friday

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JUNEAU — Dodge County authorities will share "developments" Friday in a 2009 case where a dead infant was found wrapped inside a garbage bag in the woods near the town of Theresa.

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office and Dodge County Medical Examiner's Office will discuss

the death investigation of the newborn girl, who was dubbed by authorities as "Baby Theresa" because she was found near the Theresa March. Authorities were not able to locate the infant's mother at the time of her death.

Baby Theresa was found on Lone Road less than a mile from Highway 175 and less than three miles from Highway 41, on April 29, 2009. The man who found the body was cutting wood on private property.

The press conference Friday is limited to members of the media. The Dodge County District Attorney's Office is also expected to

join the conference, according to a release from the Sheriff's Office. Relatedly, a hearing is scheduled in Dodge County Circuit Court on Friday stemming from charges filed in 2014 against an unknown woman believed to be involved in Baby Theresa's death. The eight-year-old charges against a woman identified only as Jane Doe are for felony counts of hiding a corpse and concealing the death of a child.

According to the complaint, a now 61-year-old man found a white plastic garbage bag on his property. He opened the bag and saw a bloody towel and possible

fetus or baby in the bag.

The baby was taken to Fond du Lac Medical Examiner's Office for an autopsy. According to the complaint, the female infant was consistent with full-term gestation. An umbilical cord and small portion of membranes were present. There was no placenta present and no traumatic injuries. The cause of death was fetal demise.

According to the complaint, a maxi pad was found in the bag, and a woman's DNA profile was detected from the dried blood on the pad. A mixture of DNA from two or more people was detected from the wrapper of the maxi

pad. Checking it against genetic markers of Baby Theresa, the analyst determined one of the DNA profiles was the biological mother of the infant.

In 2009, authorities said the infant, who was 8 lbs. and 20.5 inches, had died within 24 hours of the body being found. The medical examiner at the time said that Baby Theresa did not suffer trauma that would result in her death. In addition, a complete toxicology screen was performed for drugs and was negative.

The autopsy also indicated she

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KELLY SIMON, DAILY CITIZEN

With early spring temperatures hovering around 65 degrees, a group of dogs play Wednesday afternoon in an off-leash park at the corner of Fletcher Road and Beichl Avenue where a Beaver Dam professional group is seeking to make improvements this year.

Group seeks to improve dog park

Leadership Beaver Dam class looks to add benches, shaded area

KELLY SIMON
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A group of community leaders plan to make the city's fenced, dog-friendly park more comfortable for the pets and their owners alike.

Members of the latest class in Leadership Beaver Dam — a professional development pro-

gram with the Beaver Dam Area Chamber of Commerce — are seeking to add more benches and a shaded area to the dog park. It's the latest efforts of the Leadership Beaver Dam program, which began in 2008 and has had twelve graduating classes with the exception of one in 2020.

Executive Director Tracy Probst said the nine-month course encourages and prepares participants to be active community leaders. Approximately 17 people make up this year's Leadership Beaver Dam class.

For its final class project, LBD breaks up into smaller groups to take on tasks that benefit the community. Participant Clayton Mills, who is the production operations director at Green Valley Enterprises, said the class held a brainstorming session to come up with ideas for the project.

"We took a broad look at what members felt were the pros and cons of living in Beaver Dam," Mills said. "And after studying the list of cons, we were asked what we could realistically do to

make things better."

Beaver Dam has more than 20 city parks and Mills said numerous people suggested working on ways to improve them.

LBD participant and Beaver Dam Director of Engineering Todd Janssen shared with the class that the city has received many requests from dog-park users for more benches and a shaded area in which to sit.

"He thought it would be a perfect opportunity for our group

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Rescuers search theater rubble

No reports of deaths; building had bomb shells in basement

ANDREA ROSA
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Rescue workers searched for survivors Thursday in the ruins of a theater blown apart by a Russian airstrike in the besieged city of Mariupol, while scores of Ukrainians across the country were killed in ferocious urban attacks on a school, a hospital and other sites.

Hundreds of civilians had been taking shelter in the grand, columned theater in central Mariupol after their homes were destroyed in three weeks of fighting in the southern port city of 430,000.

More than a day after the airstrike, there were no reports of deaths. With communications disrupted across the city and movement difficult because of shelling and other fighting, there were conflicting reports on whether anyone had emerged from the rubble.

"We hope and we think that some people who stayed in the shelter under the theater could survive," Petro Andruschenko, an official with the mayor's office, told The Associated Press.

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TERRI PEDERSON, DAILY CITIZEN

The Columbus Area Aquatic Center is pictured on Thursday. The city approved rate increases this week for use of the pool for the first time since the pool was built in 2001.

Rates for Columbus pool increase

Membership cost rising for first time in its 20-year history

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COLUMBUS — Swimmers will pay a bit more to stay cool this summer at the Columbus Area Aquatic Center.

For the first time in its 20-year history, the membership rates of the pool are raising after the Columbus City Council unanimously approved Tuesday higher entry fees for both residents and non-resident visitors. It's the

first time rates have been raised since 2001, which was around when the pool was built, said Columbus Mayor Mary Arnold.

Resident family rates will be raised from \$200 to \$220 and non-resident cost will go up from \$225 to \$245 per season. Individual residents rates went from \$90 to \$100 and non-resident individual's rate will go up from \$100 to \$110. Couple rates will go up from \$150 to \$155 for residents and from \$160 to \$165 for non-residents.

"Daily rates are now \$5 for a resident and \$6 for a non-resident, night swim is \$3 for either a resident or a non-resident," Co-

lumbus Recreation Director Amy Jo Meyers said. "Daily means when you arrive at the pool when we open, should you leave in the afternoon and come back in the evening, you do not pay an additional fee."

For those who hold a membership either as a resident or nonresident, their child would receive a \$20 discount on swimming lessons, Meyers said. Swimming lesson sessions will be posted in the middle of April.

The new rates will go into effect on April 1 with early bird specials still going on for the

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Update

From A1

was likely born within two days of her body being found.

Tips came into the Dodge County Sheriff's Office right after Baby Theresa was found but they dried up soon after.

The Wisconsin State Crime Lab in Madison analyzed evidence recovered from the scene and identified what is believed to be a DNA profile of the biological mother at the time. The DNA profile is run through a national database of convicted felons and sex offenders to look for a match.

Members of the community came forward to support Baby Theresa.

The Lowell Cemetery Association provided a cemetery plot so Baby Theresa could be laid to rest. Cornerstone Funeral Home and community members donated money and items to make the burial possible.

About 50 people attended her funeral in May of 2009, which was presided over by the Rev. Timothy Bauer. Baby Theresa was buried in a 24-inch-long, white casket and dressed in a pink one-piece outfit and a white sweater.



STATE JOURNAL ARCHIVES

A funeral is held in May 2009 for an infant, dubbed "Baby Theresa" by authorities, who was found dead in a garbage bag in northeastern Dodge County.

Dodge County has four other cold cases listed on its website: Jerrold D. Stege, 43 at the time, was reported missing on Oct. 11, 2002, by his father. He was last seen on Oct. 2, 2002, at his place of employment in Waupun. His apartment was unlocked and there was no signs of a disturbance.

Christine D. Stenulson, 38 at the time, was last seen in her home in Milwaukee, on Sept. 2, 1997. Her body was found in a cornfield in southeastern Dodge County on Sept. 14, 1997.

old, was beaten to death while at her apartment on Washington Street in Horicon on Sept. 6, 2007. The apartment was then set on fire and damaged the apartment complex.

Lori Bogenschneider, 34 at the time, was last seen in Mayville between Aug. 29 and Sept. 3, 1993. Her skeletal remains were found along a county road between Iron Ridge and Mayville on Dec. 7, 1995.

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WISCONSIN | INFLUENZA

3 children die from flu

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Three children have died from flu in Wisconsin, the first reported pediatric influenza-related deaths this flu season, health officials said Thursday.

In a state report earlier this month, when two of the childhood deaths had been attributed to the flu, there had been 10 pediatric flu deaths reported nationally so far this flu season.

The state Department of Health Services declined to say where in the state the deaths occurred. The children were younger than 18.

"It is important to remember that along with COVID-19, other communicable diseases such as flu are circulating in our communities," State Health Officer Paula Tran said in a statement. "Each of these alone can pose serious health risks for children, and co-infection can occur."

The state health department urged Wisconsin residents 6 months old and older to get vaccinated against influenza, saying the number of flu cases and

hospital admissions is rising throughout the state.

Flu shots are especially recommended for people who are at greater risk of becoming seriously ill, such as those who are pregnant, over age 65 and those with chronic health conditions. About 39% of state residents have had flu shots, lower than last year.

Flu activity has been relatively light this season statewide and nationally but has picked up a bit recently. Flu typically peaks in winter but can last through spring.

In Wisconsin, three children died from flu during the 2019-20 season. There were four pediatric flu deaths in 2018-19 and three in 2017-18.

Nationally, in 2020-21, only one pediatric flu death was reported, not in Wisconsin. Since flu deaths became nationally reported in 2004, the national total previously ranged from 37 in 2011-12 to 199 in 2019-20, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Ukraine

From A1

He said the building had a relatively modern basement bomb shelter designed to withstand airstrikes.

Other officials had said earlier that some people had gotten out. Ukraine's ombudswoman, Ludmyla Denisova, said on the Telegram messaging app that the shelter had held up.

Satellite imagery on Monday from Maxar Technologies showed huge white letters on the pavement in front of and behind the theater spelling out "CHILDREN" in Russian — "DETI" — to alert warplanes to those inside.

Across the city, snow flurries fell around the skeletons of burned, windowless and shrapnel-scarred apartment buildings as smoke rose above the skyline. "We are trying to survive somehow," said one Mariupol resident, who gave only her first name, Elena. "My child is hun-

gry. I don't know what to give him to eat."

She had been trying to call her mother, who was in a town 50 miles away. "I can't tell her I am alive, you understand. There is no connection, just nothing," she said.

Cars, some with the "Z" symbol of the Russian invasion force in their windows, drove past stacks of ammunition boxes and artillery shells in a neighborhood controlled by Russian-backed separatists.

Russia's military denied bombing the theater or anyplace else in Mariupol on Wednesday.

The strike against the theater came in the northern city of Chernihiv, at least 53 people had been brought to morgues over the past 24 hours, killed amid heavy Russian air attacks and ground fire,

the local governor, Viacheslav Chaus, told Ukrainian TV on Thursday. Ukraine's emergency services

said a mother, father and three of their children, including 3-year-old twins, were killed when a Chernihiv hostel was shelled. Civilians were hiding in basements and shelters across the embattled city of 280,000.

"The city has never known such nightmarish, colossal losses and destruction," Chaus said.

Ukrainian officials said 10 people were also killed Wednesday while waiting in a bread line in Chernihiv. An American man was among them, his sister said on Facebook.

At least 21 people were killed when Russian artillery destroyed a school and a community center before dawn in Mereta, near the northeast city of Khar'kov, according to Mayor Veniamin Sitov. The region has seen heavy bombardment in a bid by stalled Russian forces to advance.

In eastern Ukraine, a municipal complex where pregnant women and women with children were taking shelter was also hit Wednesday, according to

Pavlo Kyrylenko, head of the Donetsk regional administration. There was no word on casualties in that strike.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called for more help for his country in a video address to German lawmakers, saying thousands of people have been killed, including 108 children. He also referred to the dire situation in Mariupol, saying: "Everything is a target for them."

Zelenskyy's office said Russian airstrikes hit the Kalynivka and Brovary suburbs of the capital, Kyiv. Emergency authorities in Kyiv said a fire broke out in a 16-story apartment building hit by remnants of a downed Russian rocket, and one person was killed.

The U.N. Security Council planned to meet Thursday on the crisis.

In a joint statement, the foreign ministers of the Group of Seven leading economies accused Putin of conducting an "unprovoked and shameful war," and called on Russia to comply

with the International Court of Justice's order to stop its attack and withdraw its forces.

Russian President Vladimir Putin went on television Wednesday to exhortate Russians who don't back him.

Russians "will always be able to distinguish true patriots from scum and traitors and will simply spit them out like a gnaw that accidentally flew into their mouths," said Putin, using language reminiscent of the Stalinist era. "I am convinced that such a natural and necessary self-purification of society will only strengthen our country."

He said the West is using a "fifth column" of traitorous Russians to create civil unrest.

"And there is only one goal, I have already spoken about it — the destruction of Russia," he said.

The speech appeared to be a warning that his authoritarian rule, which had already grown tighter since the invasion began on Feb. 24, could become even more repressive.

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