

Trooper, second man die as ladder hits power line

A New York state trooper and a Canadian man were electrocuted in Ogdensburg on Sunday afternoon when they tried to fix a flat tire on an antique fire truck.

Police in Ogdensburg said the fire truck was approaching the Ogdensburg-Prescott International Bridge shortly before 5 p.m. when it got a flat tire.

Trooper Shawn W. Snow, 47, went to assist a 51-year-old man with the work, state police said.

During the work, the truck's ladder came in contact with power lines and both men were killed instantly, Ogdensburg police said.

The name of the Canadian man wasn't released pending notification of relatives.

Snow was a 19-year veteran of the state police.

The fire truck may have been returning to Canada from this weekend's muster in Central New York of the Society for Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus, according to members of that organization.

However, they were not certain if the fire engine was one of the dozens at the gathering at Long Branch Park in Geddes.

— Staff writer Charles McChesney

Boheim in China: The royal treatment

"When we drove to our hotel from the airport after arriving here from Beijing, the Shanghai officials blocked off the side streets so we could have a clear route on the highway and in the city. It was a good 30- to 40-minute ride, and we had the road all to ourselves. And this is in a town with 15-20 million people living in it."

SPORTS, PAGE C-1

Tropical storm heads to Louisiana, Texas

Tropical Storm Edouard formed in the Gulf of Mexico on Sunday, and forecasters expected it to bring high winds and several inches of rain to western Louisiana and eastern Texas.

STORY, PAGE A-3

Technology tip: Sort your digital photos

A new service at Tagcow.com helps you tag and organize your growing collection of digital photos.

TECHNOLOGY, PAGE B-3

Corrections

Call 470-2240 to discuss a correction on a news story. Subscription questions? Call 470-NEWS (470-6397).

QUITE PLEASANT

There will be a few clouds overhead today, but sunshine will be prevalent and the temperature will be up a bit. Another front will bring thunderstorms back into the area Tuesday.

Complete forecast, B-6

HIGH: 80 LOW: 60

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THE POST-STANDARD



Why they feel safe in DOWNTOWN SYRACUSE



Jennifer Meyers/The Post-Standard

People dine outdoors on a Saturday evening along Walton Street in downtown Syracuse.

By Greg Munno
Civic engagement editor

Study after study has identified downtown Syracuse as a key to the vitality of all of Central New York. It's clear we all have a stake in the future of downtown, whether we live in Syracuse, in the suburbs or in the region.

Want to keep young people in Central New York? You need a cool downtown.

Downtown Syracuse is among the safest neighborhoods in the city, a Post-Standard review of Syracuse police reports found.

The Syracuse Police Department breaks the city into eight neighborhoods: Downtown, Lakefront, North Side, Eastwood, East Side, Valley, South Side and West Side.

The department warns that comparing neighborhoods is a dicey proposition. After all, the Lakefront area has only 13 streets and few permanent residents, whereas the North Side has hundreds of streets and thousands of residents.

Nonetheless, a review of the statistics from each neighborhood make it clear that downtown — home to about 3,000 residents, 30,000 workers and thousands of visitors — is relatively safe.

The issue is crucial for those who want to see downtown become the vibrant hub of culture and economic activity that most experts say is key to the health of Central New York as a whole, said David Mankiewicz, director of the Downtown Committee.

Businesses won't move downtown if they feel their employees would be threatened. Suburbanites won't trek into the city to check out the symphony if they feel it would put them at risk. And shoppers will almost certainly take their money to the mall instead of Armory Square if they're worried about getting robbed while negotiating the city's streets.

The numbers suggest these folks don't have too much to worry about. Syracuse's crime rate is lower than that of its Thruway neighbors — Rochester, Buffalo and Albany — and substantially lower than one of Central New Yorkers' most popular vacation destinations, Orlando, Fla., according to FBI statistics.

And the crime that is happening in Syracuse isn't, for the most part, happening downtown. About 6 percent of the city's violent crime occurred downtown in 2007, along with 7 percent of the city's property crime, according to police statistics. Violent crime in the Lakefront, Eastwood and Valley neighborhoods accounted for 10 percent of the city's total.

Meanwhile, 84 percent of violent crime happens in the city's four other neighborhoods: the East Side (12 percent), the West Side (17 percent), the South Side (26 percent) and the North Side (29 percent).

BETTER LIGHTING, PAGE A-4

"I've never felt threatened downtown. The police down here are fantastic. If they even smell it, they're on it."



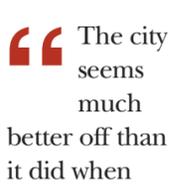
— Dana Jeschke, who lives in the Sedgwick Farms neighborhood of the city.



"I don't like the panhandlers. They bother me and make people uncomfortable."

But I can honestly say I have never felt threatened downtown."

— Tony Simiele of Liverpool.



"The city seems much better off than it did when I moved to Central New York six years ago. It is cleaner. Crime seems to be down. There are fewer bums."

— Jecenia Bressett of Liverpool.

Scientist: DNA led agents to anthrax suspect

New technology connected victims' cells to suspect's lab, says government scientist.

The Associated Press

Washington — DNA taken from the bodies of people killed in the 2001 anthrax attacks helped lead investigators to Bruce Ivins, who oversaw the highly specific type of toxin in an Army lab, a government scientist said Sunday.

Using new genome technology, researchers looked at samples of cells from the victims to identify the kind of anthrax Ames strain that killed them, the scientist said. They noticed very subtle differences in the DNA of the strain used in the attacks than in other types of Ames anthrax.

With that, investigators linked the specific type of anthrax back to Ivins' biological weapons lab at Fort Detrick in Frederick, Md., where he oversaw its use and handling for research.

"It had to do with the very specific characteristics in the DNA of the letters and what was in Bruce's labs," said the government scientist, who is close to the investigation. "They were cultures he was personally responsible for."

The scientist spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak to reporters.

The scientific discovery gave the FBI its first solid break in one of the nation's most high-profile unsolved crimes after years of pointing the finger at the wrong suspect. Combined with other evidence, the Justice Department is expected to close the case this week, concluding Ivins was the mastermind and sole criminal behind the attacks that killed five and sickened 17 others in the weeks after 9/11.

Ivins killed himself last week as prosecutors prepared to indict him on murder charges.

Dozens of other researchers in Ivins' lab also had access to the type of Ames strain used in the attacks, the scientist said, meaning the DNA alone is not enough to prove his guilt.

Investigators have said they used other evidence to build the case against Ivins, including looking at who had access to the poison or the labs at the specific time it was mailed. Those details are expected to be spelled out in sealed court documents that are expected to be released this week if the Justice Department ends the investigation, possibly today or Tuesday.

A senior law enforcement official said Sunday that victims' families were waiting to be briefed at FBI headquarters in Washington as soon as prosecutors agree to end the investigation.

\$10 MILLION, PAGE A-4

Famed author Alexander Solzhenitsyn dies

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the Nobel Prize-winning author whose books chronicled the horrors of the Soviet gulag system, has died of heart failure, his son said today. He was 89.

Stepan Solzhenitsyn told The Associated Press his father died late Sunday, but declined further comment.

Solzhenitsyn's unflinching accounts of torment and survival in the Soviet Union's slave labor camps riveted his countrymen, whose secret history he exposed. They earned him 20 years of bitter exile, but international renown.

And they inspired millions, perhaps,

with the knowledge that one person's courage and integrity could, in the end, defeat the totalitarian machinery of an empire.

Beginning with the 1962 short novel "One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich," Solzhenitsyn devoted himself to describing what he called the human "meat grinder" that had caught him along with millions of other Soviet citizens: capricious arrests, often for trifling and seemingly absurd reasons, followed by sentences to slave labor camps where cold, starvation and punishing work crushed inmates physically and spiritually.

His "Gulag Archipelago" trilogy of the 1970s shocked readers by describing the savagery of the Soviet state under the dictator Josef Stalin. It helped erase lingering

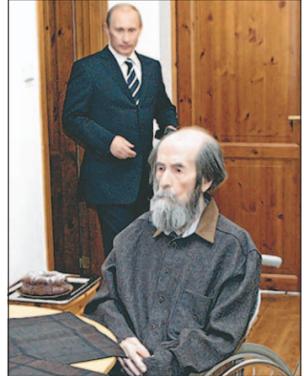
Honorary degree at SU

Alexander Solzhenitsyn received an honorary degree from Syracuse University in May, which his son accepted. Inside, SU's Dr. Patricia Burak describes Solzhenitsyn's moral vision/A-4

sympathy for the Soviet Union among many leftist intellectuals, especially in Europe.

But his account of that secret system of prison camps was also inspiring in its description of how one person — Solzhenitsyn himself — survived, physically and spiritually, in a penal system of soul-crushing hardship and injustice.

AUTHOR INSPIRED, PAGE A-4



File photo / AP, 2007

ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN, with Russian President Vladimir Putin in June 2007.