



NEWS LINE

2 teens killed in Crawford County crash

MEADVILLE — Two people were killed Thursday afternoon after a logging truck and car collided on snow-covered Route 89 south of Thompson Run Road in Oil Creek Township, Crawford County.

State police said Nicholas Masiker, 18, of Crawther Road, Titusville, and a 17-year-old youth whose name was not released died in the crash, reported at 3:15 p.m. Thursday. Both were pronounced dead at the scene, authorities said.

State police said Masiker and the youth were riding in a Hyundai Accent driven by 18-year-old Timothy Snyder of Centerville. The car was headed north on Route 89 when it swerved out of control while rounding a curve and collided with the Peterbilt logging truck, authorities said.

The truck, driven by 35-year-old Brent Bowser of Worthington, was southbound on Route 89 at the time of the crash.

Snyder was taken to Titusville Hospital for treatment, but his condition was unavailable. Bowser was not injured, state police said.

Erie man accused of fleeing from police

An Erie man faces criminal charges after Erie police accused him of running from officers Wednesday.

Terry Hasberry, 36, no address available, was charged with fleeing and eluding police, reckless driving, driving under suspension and driving with an expired inspection sticker on his vehicle.

Police accused Hasberry of driving away from police who tried to stop his vehicle at West 20th and Cherry streets shortly before 4:30 p.m. He was caught after a short chase, police said.

2 charged in sexual assaults of children

JAMESTOWN, N.Y. — Two Jamestown residents were arrested Thursday in connection with the alleged sexual assault of several children, one younger than 5.

Guy Thomas, 26, and Tamara Zofchak, 21, both of the 100 block of Stowe Street, each was charged with first-degree felony criminal sex acts and second-degree sex abuse. Thomas faces an additional rape charge, and Zofchak faces charges of using a child in a sexual performance.

The arrests were made after police received a sexual-abuse complaint from a Jamestown school resource officer. The number of children involved in the crimes was not released.

Thomas and Zofchak were being held in Jamestown City Jail.

— from staff reports

Mystery van stalks new school

2 Emerson-Gridley students report abduction attempt

By ERICA ERWIN
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Erie police are investigating what could be a second abduction attempt outside a city elementary school in as many days, and a separate, possibly related incident involving a 16-year-old girl.

An administrator of Emerson-Gridley Elementary School

called police after two female students reported that two men tried to lure them into a white minivan shortly after school let out Thursday, Erie police Lt. Steve Goozdich said.

The girls, both around 10 years old, said the men tried to coax them into the vehicle by saying their mother had asked

the men to pick the girls up because of the bad weather.

But the girls told the men — both described only as white males — that they lived just across the street from the school at 816 Park Ave. N. The van then sped off, Goozdich said.

The report was similar to the one police received days earlier.

A 7-year-old boy said he was on his way home from McKinley Elementary School, 933 E. 22nd St., on Tuesday when a nondescript work van approached him and two men inside — this time described as light-skinned black males — tried to lure him into the van with candy.

➤ Please see CRIME, 2B

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Will you consider picking up your children at the end of the school day?

- Yes
- No
- I already do

Log on to GoErie.com before 4 p.m. today to cast your vote. Results will appear online and in Saturday's newspaper.

EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR



GREG WOHLFORD/Erie Times-News

Eriez Magnetics was honored Thursday as manufacturing employer of the year by the Economic Development Corp. of Erie County.

Growing at home

Investment in Erie pays off for companies

By JIM MARTIN
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Bucking trends apparently has its rewards.

Eriez Magnetics, which proved sending jobs to China doesn't always mean losing them here, was honored Thursday night as manufacturing employer of the year by the Economic Development Corp. of Erie County.

Erie Management Group, which showed how to breathe new life into an old industrial site, picked up the honor as non-manufacturing employer of the year at the EDCEC's 25th annual dinner.

The two companies represent bright spots in a local economy that's had its share of disappointment in recent months.

While other companies were leaving town, Eriez Magnetics has been busy in recent months expanding its plant capacity by 25 percent and adding 40 new employees for a total of 269 in

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Erie. At the same time, the Erie-based company continued to ramp up operations and sales efforts at nine overseas plants.

There's no need to choose between one or the other, said Tim Shuttleworth, the company's chief executive.

"There is a misperception, unfortunately, that it is one or the other," he said. "There is a big enough market that we are growing at home and we are growing overseas. There is enough business that people should be involved in the global economy and they should be exporting more."

Founded in 1942, Eriez Magnetics is hardly a newcomer.

"We've been here so long we didn't feel like we needed the recognition," Shuttleworth said.

He understands, however, that his company's success is a

RECENT HONOREES

■2006
Custom Engineering Corp.
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

■2005
Lord Corp.
Hamot Medical Center

■2004
Industrial Sales & Manufacturing
Logistics Plus

bit of welcome news. "It's uplifting for the community in light of GAF, Steris and Brake Parts," Shuttleworth said. "People need a cheerleader and we are happy to do that."

The second honoree of the evening did its own bit to raise the community's spirits.

EMG, an investment group led by Samuel "Pat" Black III,

➤ Please see BUSINESS, 2B



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tim Shuttleworth, chief executive of Eriez Magnetics, says businesses should be involved in the global economy.

School strike nears

Millcreek district, faculty contract talks falter

By SCOTT WALDMAN
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Six days. Less than 144 hours. Not even 8,640 minutes. The likelihood of a Millcreek teacher strike grows as the Feb. 1 deadline nears, and neither side sees a middle ground.

Officials from the Millcreek Township School District and the Millcreek Education Association met once again on Thursday night to find the elusive middle ground in their teacher contract talks that would avoid the impending strike.

And, despite more than 20 bargaining sessions in the last year, they once again did not emerge with a contract.

This time, discussions lasted for more than four hours. The two sides didn't even share the same room as they traded offers through a state mediator.

"We're not optimistic," Pennsylvania State Education Association spokesman Marcus Schlegel said after Thursday night's meeting.

John Revell, a PSEA negotiator, said the union membership is preparing to voice its opinion on the contract talks on the picket lines. "We're telling everyone to get warm clothes," he said.

District officials, who have said they will not be intimidated by the threat of labor unrest, also were pessimistic about the ongoing talks.

Millcreek School Board President Terry Scutella said the union's Thursday night proposals were "unacceptable." He did not elaborate.

The negotiating sessions have become increasingly heated as both district and union officials cannot even agree on the exact concessions they are offering one another.

District officials claim they are offering the union an average 3.5

➤ Please see MILLCREEK, 2B

Business: Key to success includes thinking globally, locally

Continued from 1B

has been working to fill the void and the space left by the departure of International Paper.

EMG has already launched or plans to launch seven new

firms, including Lake Erie Bio-fuels. Those companies employ about 100 people, but that number is expected to grow to 300.

"That property is an icon, a symbol of the past and Pat is proud to have the opportunity to

restore it — to bring manufacturing back to that site," said Stan Shumway, the company's chief executive.

EMG is rebuilding an old, industrial site, but the company's future isn't rooted in nostalgia, Shumway said.

"Clearly there is still room for new investment in Erie for the people who are willing to look to the future," he said. "It's also indicative that you can't look to the old industries that made Erie what it was. We have to have new technologies, new markets and new supply chains."

Representatives of both com-

panies are urging others to invest in Erie.

"Erie represents a golden opportunity for business," Black said. "It's located near 50 percent of the U.S. population and Canada. It has resources of rail, water, roads for bringing goods in and shipping them out."

Shuttleworth shares that enthusiasm, but acknowledged in an interview that there are forces standing in the way.

"We just don't have a business climate that is appealing," he said. "Our motivation (at Eriez Magnetics) is not so much economics as sentimental. This is our com-

munity. These are our roots. If you are in Germany looking to build a factory in America, Pennsylvania never gets mentioned."

For whatever challenges Pennsylvania and the region might face, local companies do continue to invest, said Monica Brower, president and chief executive of the EDCEC.

Forty-six Erie County companies were honored Thursday night, in addition to EMG and Eriez Magnetics, for what Brower called significant investments and expansion in 2006.

Thanks in part to the weather, representatives of some of

those companies weren't on hand for Thursday night's dinner.

Brower said there had been some concern early in the day that attendance would be poor and that few of the 427 people who made reservations would be on hand. She need not have worried. There was a scattering of empty spaces at the Ambassador Banquet and Conference Center, but only a few.

"We live in Erie," she said. "It's January. What do you expect?"

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