

Yorkville man killed in early-morning crash

By Matt Hanley
STAFF WRITER

YORKVILLE — A 21-year-old Yorkville man was killed a few blocks from his home in a collision that blocked traffic for more than two hours Wednesday morning.

Nicholas Wirth, of the 100 block of Colonial Parkway, died from injuries he sustained in the car crash at 4:39 a.m. near Routes 47 and 126, according to Yorkville police.

Police said Wirth was westbound on Route 126 when he

went through a red light and struck the left rear tire of semi-trailer heading south on Route 47. The tire of the trailer went over Wirth's 1995 Pontiac Firebird, causing significant damage to both vehicles, police said.

Wirth was taken to Rush-Copley Medical Center in Aurora but died of injuries Wednesday afternoon, police said. The driver of the truck was not injured or ticketed, police said.

Yorkville Sgt. Terry Klingel said police are investigating the crash and haven't yet determined whether heavy fog con-

tributed to the incident.

"There's probably many reasons," Klingel said. "There is no one concrete reason."

Police believe Wirth may have been on his way to work at the time of the collision. He was not wearing a seat belt, police said.

Traffic on Route 47 was blocked between Colonial Parkway and Route 126 for more than two hours.

Plano crash investigation

No tickets were issued in a fatal three-car Plano crash that

occurred Saturday night.

Anthony Helm, 18, of Sandwich, was killed after an incident at 7:30 p.m. near Route 34 and Little Rock Road, police said.

Michael Valent, 22, of St. Charles; and Diane Sanders, 56, of Aurora, were treated and released from Valley West Community Hospital in Sandwich. Donald Laycock, 67, also of Aurora, was transferred from Valley West to Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove, where he was in fair condition Wednesday.

No tickets were issued to any of the people involved in the initial crash, police said.

Lavore Jude-Rogers, 43, of Plano, was charged with felony aggravated battery for driving through the accident scene about 30 minutes after the crash, striking two firefighters and nearly hitting a helicopter, police said. Tuesday, her bail was set at \$8,000 in Kendall County court.

Both firefighters were treated and released.

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Terrorism case nabs Chicago cousins

By Mike Robinson
AP LEGAL AFFAIRS WRITER

CHICAGO — Two cousins were arrested Wednesday on federal charges of conspiring to wage holy war against Americans overseas, including U.S. military forces in Iraq. Zubair A. Ahmed, 27, of suburban North Chicago, and Khaleel Ahmed, 26, of Chicago, were accused along with three other men already under indictment on charges of plotting acts of terrorism against Americans overseas.

The fresh indictment returned by a grand jury in Cleveland added the two Chicago-area men to the roster of defendants and brought additional charges against the three other men.

The cousins, both American citizens, appeared briefly in Chicago before U.S. Magistrate Judge Geraldine Soat Brown, who ordered them sent to Ohio for arraignment.

The indictment claims that, between June 2004 and February 2006, the cousins and the other three men — Mohammad Zaki Amawi, 27, and Marwan Othman El-Hindi, 42, both formerly of Toledo, and Wassim I. Mazloum, 22, formerly of Sylvania, Ohio — conspired to "kill or maim persons in locations outside of the United States, including U.S. armed forces personnel serving in Iraq."

The conspiracy allegedly included finding fresh recruits to commit terrorist acts and seeking out sites for training in firearms, hand-to-hand combat and the use of explosives. The men also allegedly agreed to raise funds for "jihad training" and download Internet information on improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

The five men face a maximum penalty of life in prison if convicted of conspiring to kill Americans overseas, according to federal prosecutors.

Maple Park gambling case quietly closes up

By Matt Hanley
STAFF WRITER

The last remaining defendant has put a quiet end to the Maple Park gambling case, pleading guilty and avoiding prison time.

A case that began with both the Maple Park police chief and village president being arrested in May of 2004 ended with one dismissal, 12 guilty pleas and no prison sentences.

Bartender Keith Nickels, 56, of the 100 block of Main Street, Maple Park, pleaded guilty to misdemeanor keeping a place of gambling earlier this month. He received one year of supervision and is required to complete 40 hours of community service, according to court records.

In 2004, 13 employees or patrons of D.J.'s Tavern were charged in connection with a State Police investigation into illegal slot machines, a bookmaking operation, a spin-the-wheel lottery and other illegal gambling at the bar. Most were charged with conspiracy to commit gambling.

Police Chief Chester Morris was charged with official miscon-

duct for allowing the operation to continue, but charges against him were quickly dropped.

■ Village President Mark Delaney pleaded guilty to six counts of illegal gambling and was sentenced to a year of probation and a \$250 fine.

■ Bar owner David Weeks of Yorkville pleaded guilty to felony conspiracy to commit gambling and received 30 weeks' probation and \$30,000 in fines.

■ Bar manager Michael Faber of Maple Park pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit gambling, syndicated gambling and conspiracy to keep a gambling place and was sentenced to 24 months' probation, 100 hours of community service and fined \$500.

■ Bartenders Susan Duewel, Kelly Ferdinand, Reed Overhaug, Mary Richardson, Jennifer Roelfsema and Nickels, all of Maple Park; Hope Baker of DeKalb; Sheila Bode of St. Charles; and Amy Davies of Cortland were later charged. All received a year of court supervision and 40 hours of community service after pleading guilty to misdemeanor keeping a place of gambling.

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Two charged in Kendall burglaries

POLICE BLOTTER

Street, Glendale Heights, were charged with felony theft, police said.

BURGLARY

Aurora incident

Construction equipment worth \$1,240 was stolen from a home in the 500 block of Seventh Avenue in Aurora between 9:30 p.m. Feb. 15 and 6:45 p.m. Monday.

■ A laser level, drills and other tools, valued at \$2,000 total, were taken from a car in the 1400 block of North Bridge Street in Yorkville at 9:54 p.m. Monday.

■ Ladders, lights and copper wire, all valued at \$17,500, were stolen from a construction trailer in the 1600 block of Havenshire Road in Aurora over the weekend.

VANDALISM

Gang graffiti

About \$1,525 in damage was done to a bathroom of a hotel room in the 2400 block of Bushwood Drive in Aurora between 5:05 p.m. Sunday and 11:31 a.m. Tuesday.

Joseph Hall, 25, of the 200 block of Blackhawk Drive, Aurora, and John Harvey Kellum III, 33, of the 200 block of Maple Street, Sugar Grove, were charged Tuesday with felony burglary for break-ins committed at two Kendall County businesses last year, the Kendall County sheriff's office said.

Hall and Kellum were arrested by the DeKalb County sheriff's office in December 2006 and are being held in that county, police said. Hall and Kellum also allegedly committed burglaries or attempted burglaries in DeKalb, Lee, Grundy, LaSalle and Kane counties, authorities said.

THEFT

Plano felonies

Three men face felony charges after they took an unknown amount of copper and steel from a business in the 800 block of East South Street in Plano at 12:32 p.m. Wednesday, police said. Nicholas Miller, 19, of the 400 block of North Center Street, Plano; Joshua Bird, 28, of the 300 block of South James Street, Plano; and Darren Biddle, 25, of the 1300 block of Hartford



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