

10 TIPS

FROM THE NEWS MEDIA TO DRAW

BETTER RESPONSE

Tulsa Night Writers 2018



LEADER/TIM CARMAN

Desperate search

Oologah Lake rangers and Northwest firefighters search the Hawthorn Beach area for a missing 8-year-old boy on Sunday. Northwest Fire has invested in water rescue equipment and training because the lake is important to the community.

Tulsa boy drowns in lake tragedy

By **JOHN M. WYLIE II**

Editor

An 8-year-old Tulsa boy on an outing to Hawthorn Beach disappeared from his family Sunday afternoon and drowned.

Authorities said he was first noticed missing shortly after 2:30 p.m.

His body was located just after 6 p.m. by the Northwest Rogers County Fire District's water search and rescue team using sonar in nine feet of water.

Trooper Gena Gillis of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol Marine Enforcement said the child was not wearing a personal flotation

device.

In keeping with OHP policy, his name was not released because of his age.

Besides OHP Marine Enforcement Troopers Gillis and Brian Gage, Northwest and the Corps of Engineers, those involved in the search included officers from

the Rogers County Sheriff's Office and at least one officer from the Oologah Police Department.

A local pastor served as a chaplain/counselor for the boy's family at authorities' request while the search and conducted.

An advanced

from OTEMS ambulance provided medical support on scene as needed.

The search marked the second time in 48 hours during the holiday weekend that Northwest had issued a general alarm for all available firefighters to assist in a

See **Tulsa boy**, Page 2



Tulsa Night Writers 2011

Cutline under photo

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Lead paragraph

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the Rogers County Sheriff's Office and at least one officer from the Oologah Police Department.

A local pastor served as a chaplain/counselor for the boy's family at authorities' request while the search and recovery was conducted.

An advanced life support unit

from OTEMS ambulance provided medical support on scene needed.

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See **Tulsa boy**, Page 2



Tulsa Night Writers 2015



LEADER/FAITH WYLIE



Saving lives

Rescuers carry a six-year-old survivor up the Oologah Dam embankment to a waiting OTEMS ambulance for treatment as Northwest firefighters work to free the driver. Medics provided preliminary treatment while the two were trapped in the wreckage for about 45 minutes. The boy was taken by Air Evac air ambulance to St. Francis, while the driver was transported by OTEMS to St. Francis. A 32-year-old Collinsville woman and an 11-year-old boy were ejected during the wreck and perished.

Driver arrested in double fatality

BULLETIN
By JOHN M. WYLIE II
Editor

Eric Steven Coager, the driver in a double-fatality crash Saturday on Oologah Dam, was booked into the Rogers County Jail at 8:52 p.m. Tuesday night on two complaints of first degree manslaughter and

vit that Coager was driving his Pontiac Firebird towards Oologah Saturday at a speed so excessive that it missed the sharp curve on Oklahoma 88 leading to the dam, went off the road, and overturned a number of times before coming to rest at the bottom of a steep cliff.

During the wreck

Oologah-Talala EMS personnel to reach them said Coager had an odor of alcohol on his breath.

Medical personnel at St. Francis who treated Coager made the same observation, Floyd's affidavit said, and two described the odor as "strong."

"One nurse described Coager as mildly combat



Oologah Lake Leader

GAH, OKLAHOMA, BIRTHPLACE OF WILL ROGERS

34TH YEAR • NO. 19

Playground for park

BOARD MEMBERS discussed funding for the projects. The town allotted \$455,000 for demolition, ground work, construction and equipment for the site around town hall.

The splash pad will be built in phases. Phase one of the splash pad is estimated to cost \$85,000 to \$115,000.

Mayor Mat Shockley said the playground would be completed first because it can be used throughout the year.

The board also discussed installing split rail fencing around the park rather than a chain link fence.



LEADER/FAITH WYLIE

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The investigating trooper's affidavit and jail records show he was being held without bond on the felony charges as of 4 a.m.

The penalty for each count of first degree manslaughter is a minimum of four years up to life in prison upon conviction; the third complaint carries a penalty of one to ten years in prison upon conviction.

At press time no formal charges had been filed in the case. Coager, 34, had an initial court date set for 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29.

vit that Coager was driving his Pontiac Firebird towards Oologah Saturday at a speed so excessive that it missed the sharp curve on Oklahoma 88 leading to the dam, went off the road, and overturned a number of times before coming to rest at the bottom of a steep cliff.

During the wreck, 32-year-old Angela Dawn Brown was ejected from the front passenger seat and died at the scene.

Rear seat passenger Aden W., 11, was ejected from the rear seat and taken to St. Francis Hospital, where he died later Saturday.

Passenger Dathan W., 6, remained at St. Francis Tuesday night where he was being treated for incapacitating injuries. Coager was also treated for injuries at St. Francis and was arrested at 8 p.m. Tuesday, records show. All four occupants had Collinsville addresses, the affidavit and jail documents show.

Dathan and Coager were seat-belted and trapped in the wreckage. The first

Oologah-Talala EMS personnel to reach them said Coager had an odor of alcohol on his breath.

Medical personnel at St. Francis who treated Coager made the same observation, Floyd's affidavit said, and two described the odor as "strong."

"One nurse described Coager as mildly combative and appearing altered as he reluctantly followed commands. The nurse also described that Coager admitted to drinking 'whiskey' when asked about drinking or taking drugs," the affidavit added.

Floyd concluded that Coager was driving on a public road "while under the influence of intoxicants and in an unsafe manner when he lost control of the vehicle and crashed. This crash resulted in the death of Angela Brown and Aden W. The crash also resulted in the great bodily injury of Dathan W."

Through an intermediary, the family asked that the names of the injured boys not be made public, but they are contained



ERIC STEVEN COAGER

in the affidavit which is a public record.

The first names have been widely disseminated on social media but to comply with the family's wishes only a last initial has been used by the *Leader* since the last names have not been previously disclosed publicly.

A complete account of the accident, including details on the heroic rescue and emergency medical treatment work at the scene and information on the victims, was completed just an hour before the arrest. That account is on Page 3.

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LEAD PARAGRAPH

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COURTESY

Plan for park
A new playground village for the park. The site will be customized to Oologah's site.



Writers 2018