

Police use defibrillator, restart man's heart

Device saves 70-year-old's life after being added to Columbus department patrol cars this year



By MARK WEBBER
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The city in January approved outfitting its police patrol cars with a medical device that can assist a person having a heart attack. Over Memorial Day weekend, the return on that investment was a life saved.

A medical emergency was reported at 9:05 p.m. Sunday at a residence in the 2800 block of 19th Street, two blocks east of Columbus Regional Hospital, said Columbus Police Department spokesman Lt. Matt Myers.

Three officers arrived at the home and found 70-year-old Douglas Elam unconscious and without a pulse on the kitchen floor, Myers said.

As Patrolman Wesley Dodge performed CPR, Patrolman Toby Combest used an external defibrillator Sunday to save a man's life.

Defibrillator overview

According to the American Heart Association, an automated external defibrillator delivers an electric shock through the chest to the heart. The shock can stop an irregular rhythm and allow a normal rhythm to resume in a heart during sudden cardiac arrest.

A built-in computer in this type of defibrillator checks a victim's heart rhythm through adhesive electrodes. The computer calculates whether defibrillation is needed. The shock momentarily stuns the heart and stops all activity. It gives the heart the chance to resume beating effectively.

In January, the city used \$73,700 from its general fund to buy 67 external defibrillators. Officers were trained in their use before a defibrillator was placed in each patrol car in late February.

tophel an external defibrillator to use on Elam. It delivers electrical energy to restore the heart's normal rhythm, Myers said.

Moments after Combest gave the man one charge from the defibrillator, paramedics arrived and determined that Elam had regained his pulse, Myers said.

The emergency marked the first time since the external defibrillators were provided to Columbus police that they have played a role in saving a life, Myers said.

Elam was taken and later admitted to Columbus Regional Hospital, where his condition continues to improve, Myers said Tuesday.

The city paid \$73,700 to purchase 67 external defibrillators. In February, 55 of the machines were put in patrol vehicles while the rest were placed in fire department administrative vehicles and in municipally owned buildings.

Since police officers often are the first to arrive at any emergency scene, it is crucial to provide them with lifesaving equipment, Columbus Police Chief Jason Maddix said.

"By equipping patrol officers with external defibrillators, they can immediately begin lifesaving procedures until emergency medical personnel arrive," Maddix said in a media release. "When used in the first few minutes following collapse, these devices often save lives."

Officers were trained on how to use the defibrillators by both local paramedics and the Kentucky company that

supplied the equipment. But the devices, which come in a case about the size of a handbag, also include an audible voice that walks the user through certain steps that need to be completed.

Sensor pads are placed on the chest, and information is transmitted to the unit, which assesses the situation and instructs the user if a shock needs to be applied in an attempt to regain a regular heartbeat.

Deputies with the Bartholomew County Sheriff's Department have had defibrillators in their patrol cars since 1999, and they have been used numerous times, Deputy Sheriff Maj. Todd Noblitt said.

The city's defibrillators are considered part of Mayor Kristen Brown's efforts to ensure optimal victim survivability in any life-threatening situation, Myers said.

Heroin bust puts pair in Jennings jail

By MARK WEBBER
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NORTH VERNON — Two Bartholomew County residents were arrested after more than 3 grams of heroin and other drug-related items were found during a weekend traffic stop in North Vernon, according to the Jennings County Sheriff's Department.

Skylar Walp, 21, of 8108 E. County Road 400N, Hope, and Amber L. Riley, 34, of 9655 W. County Road 450S, Columbus, were arrested on charges including dealing in heroin, a Class B felony; and possession of heroin, a Class D felony.

In Geneva Township on Saturday, a vehicle southbound on State Road 7 was spotted speeding near the entrance of



SKYLAR WALP



AMBER L. RILEY

Country Squire Lakes, according to a Sheriff's Department news release. Deputy Tom Webster pulled over the vehicle near the North Vernon Goodwill Store, just north of the junction with State Road 3, the release stated.

After becoming suspicious of the two occupants' behavior, Webster called for assistance from North Vernon Police Sgt. Andrew Richmond and his police dog, the release

stated. After the dog alerted officers to the presence of drugs, the vehicle was searched, the release stated.

The search turned up heroin, syringes and other drug paraphernalia, the release stated.

The occupants, Walp and Riley, were arrested and taken to the Jennings County Jail. Bond for Walp has been set at \$302,000, while Riley was being held in lieu of \$151,000 bond.

Agents with the Drug Enforcement Administration in Indianapolis said market conditions have resulted in a recent increase in heroin use.

"When people say heroin is making a comeback, I tell them it never left," DEA Special Agent Dennis Wichern said. "We're just getting more reports now because heroin prices

have come down, the purity has gone up, and there is quite a large supply out there now."

Wichern added the recent crackdown in prescription painkillers by law enforcement also has been a factor in a number of drug users turning from pills to heroin.

Besides the heroin charges, Walp and Riley are facing additional preliminary charges of:

- Dealing in methamphetamine, a Class B felony.
- Possession of methamphetamine, a Class B felony.
- Possession of a syringe, a Class D felony.
- Violation of the Legend Drug Act, a Class D felony.

Formal charges, if any, will be determined by Jennings County Prosecutor Alan Marshall.

Tips lead to man sought in vehicle, foot chases

By MARK WEBBER
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SAN JACINTO — Tips from residents helped police capture a man who led them on vehicle and foot chases in southeast Jennings County, police said in a news release.

Allen W. Williams, 30, of Commiskey, was arrested on charges of auto theft and resisting law enforcement, both Class D felonies; and driving while suspended, a misdemeanor.

At 1:45 p.m. Monday, a maroon-colored GMC Jimmy reported stolen just minutes earlier was spotted by North Vernon Police Lt. Randall Marshall on U.S. 50 on the east side of the city, Marshall said.

While the officer followed the vehicle out of town along several rural roads, he lost track of the Jimmy but got

word that Officer Jeff Day had the SUV in sight a short distance away.

Marshall said that when he caught up with the vehicle, the driver took off at a high rate of speed down several county roads that eventually led to the southeast part of the county.

Although the driver eventually drove off a rural road and into a farm field west of San Jacinto, Marshall and Day continued to follow the stolen Jimmy almost a half-mile into the field off County Road 500E, north of Grayford Road, the release stated. After the driver jumped out and fled on foot into a wood-



ALLEN W. WILLIAMS

ed area, the officers brought in a police dog and spent the next two hours in an unsuccessful effort to track down the suspect, the report stated.

But less than an hour after the search was called off, police received a phone call from a nearby resident who saw the suspect walking a half-mile to the northwest of where the SUV was abandoned, the report stated. Although Officer Matt Staples saw the suspect when he arrived in the area outlined by the resident, the man again fled into the woods, the report stated.

Just before a second search was about to begin, Jennings County authorities received another phone call that the suspect was running in a field a short distance away, the report stated. Officers quickly responded, located the man and

captured him, the report stated.

Formal charges, if any, will be determined by Jennings County Prosecutor Alan Marshall.

Marshall noted that Williams had just been paroled from prison in November.

In fall 2009, Williams was a suspect in a series of scrap-metal thefts and burglaries. In March 2010, seven charges were filed against him, including auto theft, theft, receiving stolen merchandise, burglary and being a habitual offender, according to court records.

In a June 2010 agreement, Williams pleaded guilty to one count of burglary and three counts of theft. While he received an 11-year sentence later that year, Williams was deemed eligible for parole with time already served early last summer, court records state.

SOLAR

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hit in the past two years, as Chinese companies were willing to lose hundreds of millions of dollars to try to corner the solar energy market. Stout said that glut of panels has disappeared and now his company can produce panels for about the same price as the overseas competitors at higher quality.

In the meantime, Nusun has "battered down the hatches," Stout said, and tried to weather the storm. In the past year, 500 solar energy companies have gone out of business, he said.

"We could see the shakeout happening, and my goal was not to just be another company that goes out of business," Stout said.

"And now we are in a perfect position to get business that was going to the Chinese." The company recently received a \$400,000 contract for 2,100 panels in northern Indiana, Stout said. That will allow him to bring eight part-time employees to full time, for a total of 15 employees.

The agreement with the city and county called for 80 employees at the end of 2012. Stout said the temptation could be to take every dollar available,

hire 80 employees and then fire them all, but instead Nusun has taken a slower approach.

Stout said the company deliberately decided not to use an entire \$600,000 grant from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for equipment purchases, instead using just over 10 percent of the money. The grant had a two-year window and ended at the end of last year.

"Why spend taxpayer dollars on equipment that we don't need, just because it is available?" Stout said.

One of the concerns of city

officials was that Nusun has not been filing compliance reports each year. The company has been filing quarterly reports for the IOGRA grant and did not realize that the city needed a separate report for the local money, Stout said. He said he plans to speak with City Attorney Jeff Logston and get that report filed soon.

Stout said he looks forward to the opportunity to explain the company's progress to the city.

"I am not ashamed of what we have done because we are still in business and we are

growing," Stout said. "I don't mind going in front of City Council and explaining what we have done and why we have done it."

Should the city start charging

the company the \$6,875 monthly mortgage payment that is now being forgiven, it would damage the company at an especially sensitive time,

Stout said. "Honestly, that would kill our business," Stout said. "It would add so many more expenses into our equation."



FILE
A student works at Columbus North High School, one of the schools that could be affected by state funding.

FUNDING

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(42 percent) won't see any additional money, and some could lose funding, according to Terry Spradlin of the Center for Evaluation and Education Policy at Indiana University.

Bartholomew Consolidated's funding will increase by about \$1.3 million next school year, from \$65.8 million to \$67.1, and by about \$400,000 the year after to \$67.5 million, according to the Indiana State Legislature.

That's a 2 percent and 0.6 percent increase, respectively.

Flat Rock-Hawcreek's state funding will drop by \$54,651 next school year, from about \$5.72 million to \$5.67 million, and rise by \$20,512 the year after to \$5.69 million, the state reports. That's almost a 1 percent reduction in the first year and a 0.4 percent increase in the second.

Spradlin said changes in the formula by which schools are funded are designed to make the system more equitable. Some districts receive much more in per-pupil expenses than others under the old formula, he said.

John Quick, superintendent of the Bartholomew Consolidated district, and Kathy Griffey, superintendent of the Flat Rock-Hawcreek district, said the state pays their schools systems about \$5,700 per student.

Funding amounts for all districts in the state are subject to change. Local school leaders said the funding estimates might increase or decrease in the next few months.

Quick said one downward influence on funding is that the state for the first time will consider results from an updated enrollment count required of every school district in February.

The current funding estimates are based only on September enrollment counts. Quick said enrollments in al-

most every school district tend to drop between the initial count and the revised count for a variety of reasons.

In February, Bartholomew Consolidated was found to have lost about 150 students, he said. If the state at the time had been counting the February adjustment, the district would have lost another \$370,000.

Quick said part of the loss in enrollment comes from students who graduate at midterm because of dual-credit opportunities and other factors that didn't exist just a few years ago.

A midyear loss of funding could challenge the corporation, he said. For example, teachers' contracts are set annually and assume the anticipated funding amount.

Quick said the increase being projected only brings his school corporation to about the same funding level that it had in 2008. That was when the economy took a hit and the district had to endure a \$3 million cut in funding off the top.

Griffey also cautioned that the state this year is counting vouchers in its funding predictions to school corporations.

She said public school districts don't get that money. Instead, the state sets voucher money aside for qualifying parents who want to send their children to private schools.

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10am to 2pm at Fair Oaks Mall (outside of Carsons)

Registration is \$30 per entry (\$20 for 2012 participants)
You may enter as many times as you wish • T-shirts and tote bag for each registered participant
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- You do not have to have a pet to participate, a paper pet will be provided for you.
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- You are not required to raise additional funds to participate.
- All Photos must be turned in on or before Friday, June 14th on a readable photo CD.
- Gift Bags, T-shirts will be handed out and prizes awarded at a Picnic on June 22nd 2013.

For additional info call Jane 372-6063