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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

Alcohol tied to crash that killed two

Family mourns; suspect previously convicted of drunk driving

ERIK PINDER AND SCOTT BILLECK

A MAN with a prior conviction for drunk driving is accused of being impaired while behind the wheel in a high-speed collision that killed two people on Kenaston Boulevard Saturday night.

Winnipeg Police Service traffic officers were called to the vicinity of Kenaston and Enterprise Drive around 9:30 p.m. Saturday, where they found a 31-year-old man dead and a 25-year-old woman seriously injured, police spokesman Const. Pat Saydak

said Monday.

"Two people are dead because of an impaired driver," said Saydak.

Paramedics rushed the woman to hospital, in critical condition, but she later died.

Investigators learned a speeding pickup truck was travelling south-bound on Kenaston when it veered onto the shoulder of the road, striking the two victims, Saydak said.

Police found a bicycle in the area, but at this point it's unclear to investigators whether one or both of the victims were riding the bike or if the

couple were walking with it when they were struck.

Loved ones identified the victims as Kerry Ashley Bonner and Egor Popov, who were in a relationship and shared a child together.

Police appealed for anyone with information or relevant dash camera or other video footage to call the traffic division at 204-986-7085.

The driver fled from the scene in the truck, but was located nearby, police said. Saydak would not elaborate on where the arrest took place or whether the driver was still in the truck at the

time officers found him.

Police determined the accused was impaired, but Saydak would not say whether he was believed to be impaired by alcohol, high on another drug or a combination of both.

Bonner's three sisters — Lisa, Julia and Nicole — gathered Monday afternoon around a sacred fire burning in the backyard of a Point Douglas home.

Such fires typically remain lit for several days after a death.

"She was a happy, young woman with a lot of life ahead of her," Lisa said, fighting back tears.

● COUPLE, CONTINUED ON A2

Decorum short-lived
as Tories, Liberals spar

Bickering resumes as House returns

DAVID BAXTER

OTTAWA — After talking up the prospect of cross-party collaboration in the House of Commons, Liberal and Conservative MPs wasted little time after Parliament resumed Monday before reverting to partisan attacks over housing and the cost of living.

The tone was set early Monday afternoon, when the first-ever question period exchange between Prime Minister Mark Carney and Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre began cordially before turning belligerent.

"When I left, there was a Liberal prime minister who was making excuses about breaking promises, running massive deficits. Costs, crime, chaos were all out of control," Poilievre said. "Whereas today... we have a Liberal prime minister breaking promises, making excuses, running massive deficits with costs, crime and chaos out of control."

"I understand the leader of the Opposition was busy," Carney said in reply — a reference to the Conservative leader losing his seat in the general election before securing another in an Alberta byelection.

"He missed the largest tax cut for 22 million Canadians. He missed a cut on the GST for new homes. He missed eliminating all federal barriers to trade."

Conservative MPs shouted across the aisle as Carney answered questions. Some joked about the government's new major projects office, saying they've heard it's ready to approve construction of the CN Tower.

Hours before question period began on Monday, government House leader Steven MacKinnon said he was under "no illusions" about the chances for co-operation with Poilievre and his caucus, even though the minority government needs Opposition votes to advance its agenda.

"Mr. Poilievre has a big decision to make. He can continue with the three-word slogans, or he can sit down and work on real solutions with the Liberal government," MacKinnon said.

Addressing the Conservative caucus Sunday, Poilievre said his MPs will work with any party — even as he ripped into the government's track record to date.

"(Prime Minister Carney) promised that after 10 years of Liberal government driving up costs and crime and chaos, that he would be different. And yet, sadly, everything is worse," Poilievre said.

"That is not what Canadians voted for. What we are getting from Mark Carney is the same Liberal bait-and-switch. Say one thing and do the opposite."

MacKinnon briefly outlined the Liberal government's agenda Monday morning.

One of the first tasks facing Carney's government is to shore up support for the coming austerity budget, due to be introduced next month, which MacKinnon said will include a "substantial" deficit.

● PARLIAMENT, CONTINUED ON A2



MATTHIAS SCHRADER / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BACK TO BACK BRILLIANCE

Canada's Camryn Rogers won gold in the women's hammer throw for the second straight year at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, Monday. She defended her title in dominant fashion, breaking her own Canadian record with a throw of 80.51 metres. See story on page D3.

Crash victims 'a huge loss' for First Nation

CHRIS KITCHING

FOUR people who died in a float-plane crash near a remote lake in northeastern Manitoba on Saturday are being remembered as loving parents and outgoing community members.

The victims — identified by residents as Bradley and Rena Monias, and Nestor and Ella Monias — were flying from St. Theresa Point Anisininew Nation to Makepeace Lake to camp and hunt.

"They were ready to support anybody. Anything that happened in our community, they were always there," Chief Raymond Flett told the *Free Press*.

"It is a huge loss for our community and the kids they left behind. We need

to give (their children) comfort, and give them hope at the same time."

All four were employed by the First Nation, with Bradley Monias being a former band councillor, Flett said.

RCMP said two 50-year-old women and two men, aged 53 and 49, died when the bush plane — a de Havilland DHC-2 (Beaver) — went down near Makepeace Lake.

Police said the 20-year-old male pilot survived with serious but non-life-threatening injuries. The pilot was not from St. Theresa Point, Flett said.

RCMP said it is too early in the investigation to determine the cause of the crash.

Investigators from the Transportation Safety Board of Canada are ex-

pected to arrive at the crash site later this week, spokesman Liam MacDonald confirmed.

The crash happened about 425 kilometres northeast of Winnipeg, near the Manitoba-Ontario boundary. RCMP were notified at about 6:45 p.m. Saturday.

The TSB investigation is in the field phase, which generally includes an examination of wreckage and interviews with witnesses or other people involved, such as a company.

"From there, we will determine the classification of the occurrence, and that will give us a better idea of the next steps in the investigation," MacDonald wrote in an email.

The independent agency's lone aim is to improve safety, a deployment notice

said. The board does not assign fault, or determine civil or criminal liability.

The single-engine, propeller-driven plane was owned and operated by Alair MHA Enterprises Ltd., owner Alan Hadland confirmed to the *Free Press*. He declined further comment.

The charter taxi service operates out of St. Theresa Point's airport. The company has six planes, including two Beavers, and provides flights for purposes such as tourism, mining, trapping and hunting, its website states.

Alair MHA Enterprises has been the registered owner of one of its de Havilland DHC-2 planes since 2007 and the other since 2017, according to the Canadian Civil Aircraft Register.

● CRASH, CONTINUED ON A2



WEATHER THUNDERSTORM. HIGH 24 — LOW 15



CITY SAFETY AT CITY HALL UNDER MICROSCOPE / B1