

UK woman dies after poisoning by Soviet-era nerve agent

LONDON (Reuters) - A British woman died on Sunday after she was poisoned by the same nerve agent that struck a former Russian spy in March and triggered a crisis in relations between Western capitals and Moscow.

Dawn Sturgess, 44, died after she was exposed to Novichok on June 30 in western England, just a few miles from where Russian double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter were attacked with the same poison four months ago.

The death of Sturgess was being investigated as a murder, police said in a statement.

Prime Minister Theresa May said she was appalled and shocked by the death.

Police said they were investigating how Sturgess and a 45-year-old man, named by media as Charlie Rowley, came across an item contaminated

with Novichok, which was developed by the Soviet military during the Cold War.

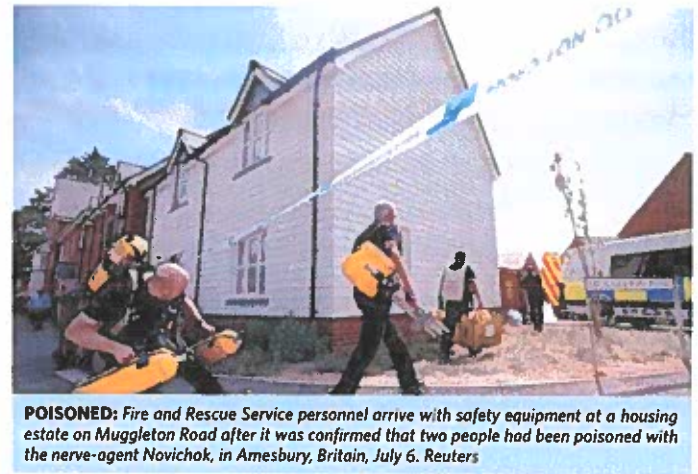
The March attack on the Skripals prompted the biggest Western expulsion of Russian diplomats since the Cold War as allies sided with Britain's view that Moscow was either responsible or had lost control of the nerve agent.

Moscow hit back by expelling Western diplomats.

After Sturgess' death on Sunday, Britain's interior minister, Sajid Javid, said the "desperately sad news only strengthens our resolve to find out exactly what has happened."

The head of UK Counter Terrorism policing, Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu, said Sturgess, a mother of three, died as the result of "an outrageous, reckless and barbaric act."

The 45-year-old man remained crit-



POISONED: Fire and Rescue Service personnel arrive with safety equipment at a housing estate on Muggleton Road after it was confirmed that two people had been poisoned with the nerve-agent Novichok, in Amesbury, Britain, July 6. Reuters

ically ill in hospital.

The poisoning in March of the Skripals with Novichok was the first known offensive use of such a chemical weapon on European soil since World War II.

Russia, which is currently hosting the soccer World Cup, has denied any involvement in the Skripal case and suggested the British security services had carried out the attack to stoke anti-Moscow hysteria.

The two Britons were taken ill on

June 30 in Amesbury, a town in southwest England, 7 miles from Salisbury, where Skripal and his daughter Yulia were attacked.

The Britons were initially thought to have taken an overdose of heroin or crack cocaine.

But tests by the Porton Down military research center showed they had been exposed to Novichok. Britain has notified the global chemical weapons watchdog, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Thai boys await resumption of rescue mission after first four freed from cave

CHIANG RAI, Thailand (Reuters) - Eight boys and their soccer coach who remain trapped in a flooded cave in northern Thailand waited for a rescue operation to resume on Monday, a day after the first four were brought out safely and whisked away to a hospital.

The daring and dangerous bid to rescue the boys - aged between 11 and 16 - was suspended by the mission chief late on Sunday to replenish oxygen supplies and make new preparations, which he said would take at least 10 hours.

Divers had to hold the boys close to their bodies to bring them out and each



RESCUED: A Royal Thai Police helicopter carrying rescued schoolboys lands at a military airport in the northern province of Chiang Rai, Thailand, July 8. Athit Perawongmetha/Reuters

had to wear an oxygen mask to enable normal breathing, authorities said.

Bursts of heavy rain soaked the Tham Luang Cave area in Thailand's north-

ern Chiang Rai province overnight, increasing the risks in what has been called a "war with water and time" to save the boys.

The story of the "Wild Boars" soccer team, who first ventured into the caves more than two weeks ago before flood waters trapped them inside, has gripped Thai and international media.

"Football's Coming Home. First Wild Boars Out," a headline on one online Thai paper said on Monday, referring to a song chanted by English soccer fans at the World Cup currently underway in Russia.

The boys were discovered huddled

on a muddy bank by British divers a week ago. A video showed one of them was wearing an England soccer shirt.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, leader of the Thai military junta that seized power in 2014, planned to visit the cave site on Monday.

Thirteen foreign divers and five members of Thailand's elite Navy SEAL unit are the main team guiding the boys to safety through narrow, submerged passageways that claimed the life of a former Thai Navy diver on Friday.

Some of the boys are not strong swimmers and none have diving experience.

GUAM BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Regular Board Meeting, Wednesday, July 11, 2018 at 4:00 PM

at the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority Board Room, 850 Carlos G. Camacho Road, Tamuning, Guam.

For more information please contact the Board office at 735-7405 thru 12. Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations may call Jimmy Sian at 735-7172 or the telecommunication device for the Hearing/Speech Impaired (TDD) at 649-1801. Executive meeting may be called if necessary.

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Bid packages may be picked up at the GPWA, Procurement Office, Room 101, 1st. Floor, Gloria B. Nelson Public Services Building, 688 Route 15, Mangilao, Guam 96913. All interested firms should register with GPA's Procurement Division to be able to participate in the bid. Please call our office at (671) 648-3054 / 3055 to register. Registration is required to ensure that all "Amendments and Special Reminders" are communicated to all bidders throughout the bid process. Procurement instructions are posted on the Authority's website at http://guampowerauthority.com/gpa_authority/procurement/gpa_current_rfps.php#.

GUAM DAILY POST • THURSDAY, JULY 5, 2018

Addiction specialist joins behavioral health center

By Jamie Ward
jamie@postguam.com

To fight the island's substance abuse addiction problems, the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center has added a new permanent staff psychiatrist to its payroll.

The position had been budgeted for previously and with five psychiatrists on staff, what makes this new individual unique, besides his background in forensic psychiatry, is the experience he brings in treating people suffering from substance abuse, specifically, his experience with prescribing addiction medicine.

That's according to GBHWC Deputy Director Benny Pinaula, who said about 400 to 450 people walk through its doors each month seeking an assessment of how bad their drug or alcohol dependency problem is.

Then there is a wait to see someone about that problem, whether it be a

physician or counselor and depending on the severity of their addiction.

"I'm thinking we have about a month or two months (of waiting), depending on the backlog," Pinaula said. He added, though, that severity can speed up that wait time, as can a court order.

Patients also come in voluntarily or may be referred by other nonprofits.

"Once we do the assessment, we have a good idea about what track they should go on," Pinaula said.

Pinaula said addiction in general is a problem no different on Guam than in the rest of the world, and that it can be caused by factors ranging from economic hardship to social issues.

"There's a number of things you can tie it to," he said, adding GBHWC treats all forms of substance abuse addiction, from alcohol to meth.

According to The Guam Daily Post and a 2017 end-of-year story, federal and local courts are clogged with a

backlog of meth cases. Between 2012 and 2017, the number of meth cases handled by the U.S. Attorney's Office grew from 26 to nearly 50 percent. In February 2017, Drug Enforcement Administration acting resident agent-in-charge Kirk Williamson said at a news conference that 95 percent of the drug cases that go through Guam's federal court involve meth as the primary - if not sole - controlled substance.

At the same news conference touting how 60 pounds alone of the drug had been confiscated in just the time since the year began, assistant inspector Kevin Rho of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service called meth "a growing and serious problem for Guam" that ruins lives and is "higher than normal," compared to stateside jurisdictions.

GBHWC Director Rey Vega said in a press release that programs and staff have been revamped over the last couple of years to help our island community

combat this insidious disease of drug addiction, and its website notes that it "currently does not charge for any of its drug and alcohol services."

Pinaula said GBHWC received the highest accreditation possible in 2017 when the Commission on Accreditation on Rehabilitation Facilities last visited, certifying it through 2020 as opposed to just one year.

He said GBHWC exists to "service the community of Guam."

"Our staff is here to assist and we deal with the whole gamut," Pinaula said. "We'd rather them come through our doors than get arrested or have hardships and encourage them that if they have questions, come and see us."

"Addiction is a disease and you want to help people get free of the disease and take back control of their lives," he continued. "When we talk about ridding our island of drugs, this type of help is a large component in that war against drugs."

Hiring more social workers to address child abuse proposed

A pair of bills introduced Tuesday would shift funding from the Guam Economic Development Authority to Child Protective Services and the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority to address the growing problem of child abuse and neglect.

The legislation's author, Sen. Régine Biscoe Lee, said, "Fiscally challenging times don't give our government an excuse to abandon our kids to a growing tide of abuse."

Vice Speaker Therese Terlaje and Sens. Telena Nelson, Mary Torres and Louise Muna are co-sponsors.

Bill 309-34 and 310-34 would transfer funds from the annual community contribution received by GEDA in fiscal year 2019 from certain investors.

During a roundtable hearing in April, senators learned that more than 2,000 child abuse cases have been referred to CPS for 2017 alone.

While CPS has done its best with the limited resources available, the Bureau of Social Services Administration says its investigations unit needs three to five additional social workers just to manage current caseloads, Biscoe Lee stated.

"The men and women of CPS are overrun and underfunded," Biscoe Lee said.

The funding would come from GEDA's receipt of at least \$1 million a year in qualifying certificate contributions from Guam Regional Medical City for the remainder of the hospital's 20-year tax break.

While GRMC has recommended that the money be spent on health care services, Administrator Jay Rojas has had full control over the allocation of all community contributions for the last five years, Biscoe Lee stated in a news release.


Biscoe Lee's measures would trans-

fer \$1 million into the Healthy Futures Fund.


Bill 310 further appropriates those transferred funds to the Department of Public Health and Social Services to hire and train additional social workers at CPS. Bill 309 appropriates the remaining \$700,000 to GMHA to correct deficiencies recently identified in the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services and Joint Commission reports.

"This measure gets our hospital a little more money without taking it from the pockets of taxpayers - and that's a good thing," Biscoe Lee said.

(Daily Post Staff)



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
GOVERNMENT OF GUAM
123 CHALAN KARETA
MANGILAO, GUAM 96913-6304



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP/DPHSS-2018-008 In-Home Services (IHS) Program

The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS), Division of Senior Citizens (DSC), is requesting proposals from qualified Service Providers to provide Island-Wide professional Title III In-Home Services in keeping with Title III Older Americans Act of 1965 as amended, 45 CFR Chapter XIII, Subchapter C, Part 1321, the Administration for Community Living's program requirements and all the grant requirements applicable to subrecipients of federal funds set forth in 2 CFR Part 200, and 45 CFR Part 75, DPHSS, DSC State Plan on Aging and all applicable policies, requirements, handbooks and the laws and regulations of the government of Guam.

Project funding provided by the Prime Award from the United States Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Community Living, In-Home Services Program, Grant Document Number 18AAGUT3SS and Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number 93.044 Title III-B under Title 45 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 92 and Sub Award passed through by the DPHSS, DSC and local government of Guam Funds.

RFP/DPHSS - 2018-008 IN-HOME SERVICES (IHS) PROGRAM

Contractor - Subawardee/Subrecipient will provide Title III compliant management and operations of island-wide In-Home Services (in the nature of Chore, Homemaker and Personal Care) to a minimum of 400 frail, homebound or otherwise isolated individuals age 60 and older, who are at risk of institutionalization due to limitation on their ability to function independently.

RFP Program Specifications are available for pickup and/or public viewing at the DPHSS, DSC, located at 130 University Drive, Suite 8 University Castle Mall, Mangilao, beginning Thursday, July 5, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time (Guam Time) and is downloadable at www.dphss.guam.gov in a pdf format. DPHSS, DSC recommends that prospective offerors/respondents register with the DPHSS, DSC to ensure that they receive notices regarding any changes or updates to the RFP. The DPHSS, DSC will not be liable for failure to provide notice to any party who does not register contact information.

A Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, July 17, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. Chamorro Standard Time (Guam Time) at the Guam Power Authority (GPA)/Guam Waterworks Authority (GWA) Procurement Office, Room 101, 1st Floor, Gloria B. Nelson Public Service Building, 688 Route 15, Fadian Mangilao. Attendance at the Pre-Proposal Conference is highly recommended, but not a prerequisite for submission of a proposal.

All inquiries, clarifications or questions must be submitted in writing no later than 3:00 p.m., Chamorro Standard Time (Guam Time), Tuesday, July 24, 2018. Contact person: Ms. Charlene D. San Nicolas, Program Coordinator. Telephone: (671) 735-7421 or (671) 735-7415. Interested offerors shall submit proposals to: Division of Senior Citizens, Attention: Mr. Arthur U. San Agustin, MHR, Senior Citizens Administrator, 130 University Drive, Suite 8, University Castle Mall, Mangilao, no later than 3:00 p.m., Chamorro Standard Time (Guam Time), Tuesday, July 31, 2018. Late submissions shall not be evaluated.

/s/ LEO G. CASIL, Acting Director

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