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1 HURT IN PLANE CRASH



Dan Melograna photos/The Daily Standard

The Ohio State Highway Patrol responded to an airplane crash Thursday morning near Guadalupe and Cassella-Montezuma Roads south of Grand Lake. Celina and Montezuma fire departments assisted at the scene. The pilot's condition was unavailable Thursday night.

Crop duster crashed in creek shortly after takeoff

By SYDNEY ALBERT
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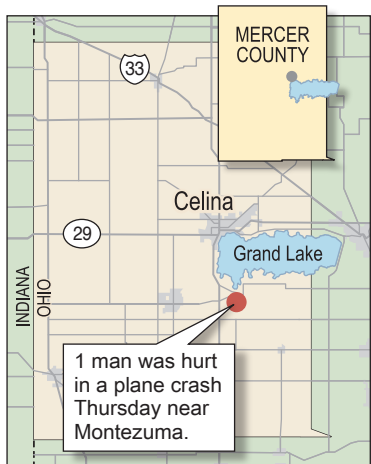
CELINA — A Defiance man reportedly suffered fuel and chemical burns after the crop duster he was piloting crashed Thursday near Guadalupe and Cassella-Montezuma Roads south of Grand Lake.

The pilot's condition was unavailable Thursday night from an official at Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton.

First responders rushed to the scene of the plane's crash landing at Beaver Creek at about 7:50 a.m.

According to information provided by the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Mark J. Gaerte, 43, had left from Lakefield Airport near Montezuma in a Grumman G-164B bi wing aircraft. Shortly after take off, the plane failed to gain altitude and went down in a marsh southeast of the runway. The plane overturned and came to a rest upside down, partially in Beaver Creek.

Gaerte was taken from the scene by a Mercer County squad to Mercer County Com-



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munity Hospital in Coldwater. He was later transported by Lutheran Care Flight to Miami Valley Hospital.

Lakefield Airport manager Steve Shinabery, who assisted at the scene, said Gaerte had managed to crawl out of the wreckage after the plane had landed on its top. Shinabery

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The tail of a crop duster rests in Beaver Creek south of Grand Lake Thursday afternoon. The plane crashed shortly before 8 a.m. not long after taking off from Lakefield Airport near Montezuma.



Montezuma firefighter Justin Stachler surveys the site of a crop duster crash after firefighters turned over the plane which came to rest upside down.



One of the tires from a crop duster rests on the ground after the plane crashed Thursday morning south of Grand Lake.

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Saturday:
Partly cloudy, showers
Low: 42 High: 62

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