

Ed Streeper, along with his wife and eight other friends, set a world record Sunday for the most sleds ever pulled behind a team of mushing dogs.

Kaysey Price / Tribune



So 'mush' fun

Area man sets world record for most sleds ever pulled by a dog team

By Kaysey Price
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The howls and yips of a pack of black dogs broke out over Shell Lake on Sunday afternoon, as Ed Streeper and a group of family and friends rigged up 20 mushing pups to a line of 10 sleds. The air was cold, a bitter -22 degree wind chill, but Streeper was determined.

"We're going to pull more sleds ever pulled in recorded history behind one team," said Streeper. "The record that we could find is at six sleds, and we thought, well, if we're going to do seven, we might as well do 10."

Streeper says he's been planning to set this record for about four

“

...This is as good as it gets for Minnesota fun. You're outside. You're with friends, the fresh air. It's just beautiful.

ED STREEPER

years, but the weather just wouldn't cooperate for him until now.

"The last three years, our winters have been kind of crazy and out of whack, and the weekends that were available, I didn't have my crew."

WORLD RECORD: Page A8



Paula Quam / Tribune

Ed Streeper used 20 of his sled dogs to break the world record of 10 sleds being pulled behind one team of dogs, a task that proved easy for these trained canines.



The couple prepares to take some wedding photos.

Submitted photo

Couple weds on Big Detroit in subzero temperatures

By Alyssa Kelly
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DETROIT LAKES, Minn. — A Lakes Country couple were just crazy enough to have their wedding outside in subzero temperatures last weekend, holding their ceremony in a tent out on frozen-over Big Detroit Lake.

It was all rosy cheeks and dripping noses inside the tent, with just two heaters to keep guests warm. After being together for almost five years, Madi Grady and Matthew Sanchez decided to have their dream outdoor wedding — in the middle of January.

"My forearms would get, like, numb and it kinda hurts," Madi Sanchez said.

The cold didn't stop her from marrying the love of her life, Madi Sanchez told WDAY News. "We're going for memorable, so I think

we're getting that."

She said they wanted a winter wedding because they didn't want to cut into time at the lake cabin this summer.

Matthew Sanchez is from California, and when he was told they were having an outdoor winter wedding, he was surprised, but not totally against the idea.

"I've never been to one, so I think it'd be pretty cool," Matthew said. The couple knew it would be chilly, but they didn't know just how cold it was going to get.

The temperature peaked at just 1 degree Fahrenheit in Detroit Lakes on their wedding day. Even with the bone-chilling weather, they still stood up at the altar and said "I do."

Mr. and Mrs. Sanchez will be spending their honeymoon in Maui.

Internal investigation faults DL police chief

By Nathan Bowe
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Detroit Lakes Police Chief Steven Todd has been suspended a week without pay

following an internal investigation into the way he handled a controversial incident at Washington Ballpark June 20.

The suspension began on Friday and will continue through Thursday, according to Detroit Lakes Mayor Matt Brenk. The patrol sergeants are handling police



Todd

matters in his absence.

On June 20, Todd mistakenly thought a 12-year-old Detroit Lakes boy was trying to steal his Trek mountain bike after it was knocked over on a grandstand ramp and the boy tried to pick it up.

Todd, who was off duty, had ridden his bike to the ballpark to watch the baseball game between Detroit Lakes and Hawley.

According to several witnesses at the scene, Todd overreacted to the situation.

"I remember thinking, huh, that's not a good place for that man to put that bike — it was right on the ramp

going up into the stands," said a witness, Sandi Davidson, who says she saw the 12-year-old boy coming down the ramp at the same time a little girl was. The little girl, she says, ran past the bicycle, and when she did, it started rolling down and fell over. Davidson says the 12-year-old boy then went to go pick it up. "I should have helped him pick it back up — I wish I had because none of this would have happened, but that's all he was doing was trying to be a good kid and put it back up," she said.

POLICE CHIEF: Page A7

Treatment court grads tend to do well in Clay-Becker County

By Nathan Bowe
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With a 78 percent success rate over 10 years, Clay-Becker treatment courts can take a bow — they're doing well.

"We've had another successful year in treatment courts in Becker County," said Don Kautzmann, Clay-Becker Drug Court and Veterans Court administrator. He appeared at the Becker County Board meeting Tuesday

“

... we give long term support, instead of just putting them in jail, releasing them, and saying 'you're on your own.'

GRETCHEN THILMONY, district judge

with District Judge Gretchen Thilmony and Becker County Attorney Brian McDonald.

Treatment court has its advantages, Thilmony said.

"We help them get jobs, we help them get a driver's license if they need one, we

COURT GRADS: Page A7

Focus on confidence

Local photographer opens 'boudoir' business
Page A5




DL wrestling

No. 5AA Greer 136-pound champ, No. 9AA Lakers capture Prowler Invite title
Page B1



Forecast

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|
|  TODAY Mostly Cloudy High: 19 Low: -7 |  THURSDAY Cloudy High: -4 Low: -19 |  FRIDAY Sunny High: -1 Low: -20 |  SATURDAY Cloudy High: 4 Low: -14 |  SUNDAY Snow Showers High: -1 Low: -6 |
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OBITUARY

Timothy Lyle Hansen

Tim Hansen, 83, passed to his heavenly home from his Fargo home, of natural causes on January 9, 2019.

Tim was born May 20, 1935 in St. Ansgar Hospital, Moorhead to Lyle and Barbs Hansen. He attended Hilder Elementary and in 4th grade, Hawley, MN. In high school he was active in sports, but his favorite sports were hunting and fishing.

He graduated in 1973, continuing his education at Moorhead Area Technical School in Diesel Mechanics where he earned his diploma in 1976.

He worked for Pathfinder Mines Corporation in Shirley Basin, Wyoming. Life took him to Macaquá-Guri, Venezuela. He learned to read, write and speak fluent Spanish. Returning to the States, he was employed by Nello L. Teer Co., Durham, NC; later the job took him to Columbia, SC. His final employment was with Brown-Roof Co. in Santiago, Panama.

Tim moved back to this area and worked for several area companies. His last employment was with Swanson Equipment Company of Fargo, ND.

He married Ginger Riley in Raleigh, NC where his only child, a son, Timothy Lyle Jr. was born.

Tim had many friends and he was a great friend to many. He was a fun-loving fellow and got along well with others. Although not perfect, he was a kind Christian man active in his church; working with the youth programs was a beautiful thing to him. For years he rang the bell for the Salvation Army Christmas drive.

Tim was an expert grill master. He built a huge barbecue grill and would prepare whole pigs for family and friends. His recipes were delicious. As an active member of the Hawley Lions, Tim grilled the sausages for "Breakfast on the Farm" and assisted with the preparation of the lutefisk for the Lions feed in November. In recent years, following a severe back injury at work, his health rapidly declined.

He is survived by his parents, Lyle and Barbs Hansen, Big SC, Comorant Lake, MN; two sisters, Tammy Piddle, Burien, Washington, Toni (Mitch) Kleber, Moorhead, MN; his son, Timothy Lyle Jr. (Brenda), Newport, Washington; and his stepson, Parker Hanson Harding, Hawley, MN; one sister, deceased, Terrie (Roger) Kujawa, Hawley, MN and one nephew, Mark Kleber, Moorhead, MN.

Memorial Service: 2:00 PM, Monday, January 28, 2019, at Atonement Lutheran Church in Fargo.

Visitation: One hour prior to the service at the church.

A private interment will be held at a later date in Hawley.

Tim loved his Lord and would often say, "Jesus loves you, so do I" or "Have a blessed day."

Memories and condolences may be shared by visiting www.hansonrunsvold.com.

Arrangements by Hanson-Runsvold Funeral Home - Fargo, ND



POLICE CHIEF

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That's when Todd rushed down the bleacher steps.

"When I saw him coming down and the look on his face, I jumped up and tried to explain to him before he even reached the boy that the kid was just trying to help, but it's like there was no comprehension there, he didn't listen to me," said Davidson, who is among the witnesses who say the chief of police was yelling at the child, accusing him of stealing his bike.

And while Todd has since stated he put his "hand on the (boy's) neck," the police incident report states that the allegations are that he "choked" the child, with Davidson saying he was the chief of police who was yelling at the child, accusing him of stealing his bike.

"I yelled at him to let go, that he was not trying to steal it, but that he was only picking it up," said Nicole Kirchner, another witness, "and so (Todd) did let go, and I could see red marks on his neck."

For his part, Todd said in a statement that he "parked my bike at the top of the ramp so that it would be visible to me and I went and talked with a family that I know. Periodically I would look to make sure my bike was still visible. At one point I looked to check on the bike and it was gone. I ran down to try and locate it and found a person with my bike a short distance from where I had parked it. I put my hand on the bike and on the person's neck. I was informed by a third party that the bike had fallen and the person was picking it up. I verified this with the person and apologized. I rode back to the scene with an officer to explain what occurred to the person's father and apologized to him as well."

Matt Carrier of Detroit Lakes knew right away by the look on his face that there was a problem when

he picked up his 12-year-old son at Subway after the incident.

Carrier called the police to report the incident, and an officer joined him, his son and Todd at the ballpark.

Carrier says he felt the responding officer was attempting to downplay the situation as a simple misunderstanding and that there was a stark difference in testimony as to how the chief grabbed the child and where on his neck. He said there were also differences in the details of the story, like which way the child was facing at the moment of contact and whether or not the bike had been moved or how far.

"I said 'Let's get the witnesses down here, and he (the responding officer) said 'No, we don't need to do that — we're going to settle it right now,'" said Carrier.

Dissatisfied with the response, Carrier later that day reported the incident to the Becker County Sheriff's Office, which turned the case over to the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension for investigation.

Carrier, who filed the complaint with the city that sparked the internal investigation, said in a statement that "we are pleased the mayor recognized that the behavior of the chief was wrong, and that the chief is being disciplined for both impulsively grabbing our son by the throat for no reason, and for his involvement during the initial investigation at the ballpark."

Although the Stearns County Attorney's Office decided Oct. 12 that no criminal charges were warranted, the internal city investigation faulted the police chief for losing control of his emotions and for the way he handled the follow up investigation into his own actions.

The city investigation

was completed Jan. 17, and the report faults the police chief for failure to provide a subordinate with appropriate guidance and control.

"You knew that officer Striebel had a conflict and could not perform the initial investigation of the call for service required by Section 600.3.1 of the policy because you, as the subject of the call, were his superior and coworker," the report states, "yet you did not insist that officer Striebel request the assistance of the Becker County Sheriff's Office to respond to the call and instead, allowed officer Striebel to respond to the call and insisted on accompanying officer Striebel. Officer Striebel's response to the call, while accompanied by the subject of the call who was his superior and coworker, was contrary to acknowledged standard protocol and presented the public with an unprofessional negative impression of the Detroit Lakes Police Department."

Chief Todd, who did not respond to an email or phone message seeking comment, was also faulted for his actions at the ballpark that day.

"In your off duty contact with the child at the Washington Park baseball field, you momentarily allowed your emotions to overcome your judgment, and as a result you behaved in a manner that has brought discredit to the Detroit Lakes Police Department," the report said in its findings.

The public has a right to expect its law enforcement officers to exercise restraint and good judgment both in their public and private matters, and the fact that this conduct occurred while you were off duty does not diminish your obligation to the public."

Todd was also faulted for putting the investigating officer in a difficult position.

"By arriving with officer Striebel at the scene and being present during his response to the call, you were no longer just the subject of a possible investigation, you were the superior officer of the officer tasked with the initial steps of that investigation," the report states. "In so doing, you created an uncomfortable environment for the complainant, made it difficult for officer Striebel to perform his duties in a professional manner and in a manner that the public would perceive as fair and unbiased. In so doing, you behaved in a manner that has brought discredit to the Detroit Lakes Police Department."

In addition to the five-day unpaid suspension, the police chief is also (within 30 months after final disposition) required to attend a minimum of six credits of POST-qualified training regarding law enforcement ethics, conflict management, and/or leadership.

The report informed Todd he has five working days to submit a written request to the City Administrator for a hearing to appeal the disciplinary action. "Also, please be aware that recurring or new employment violations could result in additional disciplinary action and/or termination," the report stated.

"Overall Chief Todd has done a very good job as police chief and he has my confidence that he will continue to do so in the future," Mayor Brenk said in a statement. "The matter has been addressed and is now closed. As a city, we need to put this behind us and move forward in a positive manner."

COURT GRADS

From Page A1

give long term support, instead of just putting them in jail, releasing them, and saying 'you're on your own.' Thilmony has been active in treatment courts since she led the Becker County Attorney's Office.

There are now 21 participants in Drug Court, which is about average, Kautzmann said.

Since the program started, there have been 88 graduates. Of the graduates, all but one are employed, and that one is a full-time student.

All have obtained their driver's license, all are current on any child support payments, and all have been sober at least one year, and many for much longer.

All have completed at least 50 hours of community service. "They do all sorts of things," Kautzmann said, "from working with animals to making park benches."

Rather than order the participant to do a community service project, "we make sure to try to do something that means something to the participant," said Thilmony.

"Something they enjoy doing."

Of the 88 graduates, 58 went through Clay County Court and 30 through Becker County Court. The mix was 56 men to 32 women, with 74 of them white, eight native, four hispanic and two multi-racial. One has since died of a preexisting condition, and 19 have recidivated.

That's a recidivism rate of 22 percent, which is much better rate than the national recidivism rate for drug offenders outside of drug court, which is 50 percent after five years, and 60 percent after 10 years, Kautzmann said.

Of the 21 people currently in drug court, 15 are in Clay and six in Becker. There are 12 men and nine women. There have been 36 people terminated from the Drug Court program for noncompliance since it started on Nov. 1, 2007.

"Supervision when someone is in special court is a little more intrusive," Kautzmann said.

Veterans Court started in 2017 and so far has not proved to be as popular: there are two graduates (neither has recidivated) and six current participants, four in Clay and Two in Becker, a mix of five

men and one woman.

One person was allowed to leave the program to accept an employment opportunity in another county, and four participants have been terminated from the program for noncompliance since Jan. 1, 2017.

"Veteran numbers are low," said McDonald. "But we don't know they're a veteran unless they somehow tell their attorney — we'd like to see more numbers in it."

According to the Becker County website, the specialty courts are problem-solving court programs that target non-violent criminal offenders who suffer from addiction to alcohol or other drugs. The programs involve close collaboration between judges, prosecutors, defense counsel, treatment providers, probation officers, law enforcement, educators, and vocational experts. Through this collaboration, Drug courts closely monitor a defendant's progress toward sobriety and recovery through ongoing treatment, frequent drug testing, and regular mandatory check-in court appearances. The programs use a range of

immediate sanctions and incentives to foster behavior change.

Clay-Becker Treatment Court has \$189,000 in funding for this year, with \$136,000 of that from the state, \$42,000 from Clay County and \$10,000 from Becker County. Another \$1,000 comes from Drug Court fees.

Expenses are set at about \$215,000, which includes two salaried positions, drug testing and a part-time surveillance agent, among other costs. The \$26,000 shortfall is expected to be covered when a state grant is renewed, Thilmony said.

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January is Glaucoma Awareness Month
an important time to spread the word about this sight-stealing disease.
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