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Prepared and paid for by Cindy for Minnesota, P.O. Box 1053, Chanhassen, MN 55317

SUN SAILOR

EXCELSIOR / SHOREWOOD

Southways

Wayzata Historical Society hosts program on Bracketts Point, recently demolished Pillsbury mansion.

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Clutch win

Minnetonka soccer team plays 100 minutes scoreless, wins in shootout.

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Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018

Volunteers help restore Mitten Pond



(PHOTO BY LYSSA CAMPBELL)

Curtis Geldert and Nick Ruehl cut buckthorn Oct. 13 in the Mitten Pond area. Curtis is the new Interact Club advisor at Minnetonka High School. The club, with about 30 students, meets twice a month before school to plan and participate in service projects in the area.



Seven volunteers, including students from Minnetonka High School's Interact Club, spent time Oct. 13 removing the invasive species buckthorn around Mitten Pond in Excelsior. Restoration at the pond, which is near the intersection of Oak and Water streets, just across the street from Excelsior Elementary School, is in its fourth year.

"The first year, the Mitten Pond area was totally taken over and you

could hardly walk through here. Now, we can almost walk around the whole pond," said volunteer Amber Brosserd.

Ross McGlasson of the Excelsior/Lake Minnetonka Rotary Club spoke about the pond's history.

"This area is really Excelsior's back door," McGlasson said.

He hopes the area can eventually be utilized by the elementary school students.

No charges in Amorosi shooting

Force used by deputies deemed necessary by county attorney

By PAIGE KIEFFER
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Archer Amorosi

Carver County Attorney Mark Metz announced Oct. 11 that no charges will be filed against the two Carver County Sheriff's deputies who shot and killed 16-year-old Archer Amorosi July 13 at his home in Chanhassen.

The office said Deputy Travis Larson and Cpl. Jake Hodge will not face charges "because the use of deadly force under the facts of the case is justified under Minnesota law," according to a press release from the attorney's office.

According to the report, in the midst of a mental health crisis, Archer Amorosi charged at deputies while wielding a hatchet

and what was later found to be a BB gun, threatening to kill them.

The attorney's office reviewed material from an investigation conducted by the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. The BCA concluded its investigation Sept. 17.

The attorney's office review included all reports, transcribed statements, autopsy and toxicology findings, squad videos, related audio statements and

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OPENS 10/26

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Amorosi

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a 40-minute South Lake Minnetonka Police Department body camera video from the incident.

In a statement after the announcement, the Amorosi family expressed disappointment that the deputies were not charged.

“Today’s decision, however, does not change anything from a civil standpoint. It does not mean the responding deputies’ conduct was proper, in accordance with police practices, or beyond reproach. The burden of proof in a criminal case is the

most rigorous in our justice system,” according to the statement.

The boy’s father, Don Amorosi, said that his son struggled with mental illness, but was getting treatment and was reluctantly seeing a psychologist and was not regularly taking his anti-depression and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder medication.

Don and Kara Amorosi both expressed that their son’s death could’ve been prevented if he had been taken in for a mental health evaluation after a July 12 incident or if mental health professionals were called to assist on July 13. “This could’ve all been prevented,” Don Amorosi said after the decision was announced.

Their statement went on to say, “No

parent should have to hesitate to call law enforcement to help their child during a mental health crisis because of fear that an officer may kill their son or daughter. That should not have happened here.”

History of events

According to a sheriff’s office report, Don Amorosi called the department on July 12 for a domestic disturbance being caused by his son at his ex-wife’s home in Chanhassen.

Before calling 911, Don Amorosi first attempted to call Carver County Crisis Team, but they told him the situation did not meet their requirements for a medical transport and encouraged him to call 911.

He said Archer had become upset and was kicking garbage cans and flower pots around after learning he’d be losing his driving privileges.

The father told officials that his son had a history of mental illness and anger management issues and had not been taking his medication as prescribed.

Don Amorosi told officials that the family had recently come back early from a vacation in Delaware after Archer had a three-hour long incident where he stated that if law enforcement was called, he would get into a “standoff” with them and that his son had a fantasy to “go

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UCare Medicare Meetup

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— Debby, Medicare de-complicator

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Amorosi

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out” in a “standoff” similar to Bonnie and Clyde.

Cpl. Josh Baker, who used his stun gun against Archer on July 13, responded to that call on July 12.

Don Amorosi told officials that the crisis team should have taken his son in to have a mental health evaluation. He also mentioned that the only weapons at the home were a BB gun and kitchen knives. The deputies eventually determined that Archer did not meet the criteria for transport, which they determined was if he was a danger to himself or others. They determined he wasn't.

Don and Kara Amorosi both said that deputies told them that if they called the following day, the deputies would take their son in for treatment.

On July 26, Kara Amorosi said in an interview with the BCA that she called 911 the day Archer was shot because she was very worried for her son.

“I thought, based on the night before, they were gonna come and they were gonna take Archer and do a medical exam on him,” she said.

Archer had punched a hole in the bathroom wall and Kara Amorosi feared he wanted the police to hurt him.

The July 13 incident began when deputies were dispatched to a home on the 6400 block of Oriole Avenue in response to the 911 call when Kara Amorosi said that her son was suffering from a mental

health crisis and needed assistance.

The 911 dispatcher asked if she thought her son would hurt the officers and Kara Amorosi replied, “Yes I do. He wants them, he wants them to shoot him.”

A few minutes after Kara Amorosi, who had been locked in the garage, made the 911 call, Archer sent text messages to his father and sisters saying “goodbye” and “I love you.”

Larson was the first deputy to arrive at 10:04 a.m. He approached the home and saw Archer Amorosi standing inside a bay window in the front of the house. Larson told investigators that Amorosi pointed a gun at him and yelled repeated threats that he would kill the officer.

More law enforcement officers arrived at the home, freed Kara Amorosi from the garage of the home and turned their attention back to the teen.

While Larson was attempting to kick in the service door to free Kara Amorosi, Archer appeared at a rear window that overlooked the garage service door and pointed what appeared to be a gun at the deputy. Larson said he couldn't see Archer clearly so he broke the window with his baton.

Upon breaking the window, Larson said he saw Archer standing near the kitchen counter. In an attempt to incapacitate the teen, Larson shot his pepper spray through the broken window but missed.

Larson heard other officer's statements on the radio that Archer ran out of the home with a gun and a hatchet.

The parents both claim that Archer fled the home when he was gassed out.

This was not confirmed in the report.

The report states that the teen was standing on Oriole Avenue holding the alleged gun and hatchet. Archer was shirtless, had no shoes on and only wore a pair of shorts.

Larson said he could not determine if the gun was real because it was black in color and didn't have an orange cap typical of toy guns.

The investigation determined that the gun was a Daisy Powerline 340 BB pistol .177 caliber and the hatchet weighed 2 pounds and was 14 inches long.

As confirmed by the body camera footage, several deputies, including Larson and Hodge, gave repeated, loud commands for Amorosi to drop the gun.

In the footage they said, “Drop it, drop it, stop, get your hands in the air, drop it, drop it!”

In the footage, Archer can also be heard saying, “Shoot! Shoot!”

In the report, Hodge described the boy as a “very strong, strong individual, very ripped, muscles.” Larson thought the teen was 25 years old.

According to the report, Archer ran toward Hodge while yelling, “I'm gonna kill you.” Larson said the boy had the gun in his left hand and the hatchet in his right hand and that he was concerned that Archer would kill him with the hatchet.

Both deputies fired their guns simultaneously.

“If you were to remove the firearm from the situation, he still had the (hatchet) and (Archer) was charging at my partner saying he was gonna kill him,” Larson told officials. “There's no

speculation on that.”

The hatchet was found laying on the ground and the BB gun was found in pieces on the ground nearby. Officials said they would not determine where exactly where Hodge and Larson were when they shot their weapons, but Larson estimated he was about 20 to 25 feet away and Hodge was 15 feet away.

Officials also didn't release details on how many times Archer was shot or whether he was shot in the front or the back – details the Amorosi family wants to know.

The Amorosis have requested the complete file from the investigation and after review will decide on further legal action.

The attorney's office statement did say, “The number of shots is less significant than the fact that all shots were fired in two seconds. Because the decision to use deadly force was reasonable, firing multiple shots in rapid succession does not change the reasonableness of the decision.”

Larson was armed with an AR rifle and Hodge had a pistol.

Paramedics did chest compressions on Archer, but he was later pronounced dead at the scene.

“Regardless of what happens from a legal standpoint, more needs to be done to help the children of our community and the families that battle with mental health issues,” the Amorosi family said in their statement. “Law enforcement needs to treat and respond to these calls differently and with compassion.”

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ABOUT LAURIE

Like many of us, Laurie and her husband Jon moved here to ensure that their kids would receive a great education. Laurie has been an active volunteer in our community for nearly three decades now.

As our State Representative, Laurie has worked with Democrats and Republicans to find common ground and advance the interests of Minnetonka and Eden Prairie residents.

Prepared and paid for by the Laurie Pryor for State House Committee, 14180 Stonegate Ln Minnetonka, MN 55345