

# Speed on ice



Aurora Wier, of Osseo, Wisconsin, races her Arctic Cat snowmobile, topping out at speeds of 101 mph.



Photos by Hannah Davis

The National Straightline Snowmobile Racing brought snowmobile racing enthusiasts from around the region on Saturday, Feb. 9, to the first lake of Forest Lake after the Battle of the Bay races that were supposed to be held in Green Bay, Wisconsin were canceled due to thin ice conditions. The top speed of the day was clocked at 192.06 mph, an apparent world record for the 1,000-foot race.



Scott Kostman, from Wilson, Wisconsin, races in the 1,000-foot race that was held just off the shoreline of First Lake.

# Assault, swindle are recent local cases

**Ryan Howard**  
News Editor

A Minneapolis man has been charged with felony domestic assault in Washington County after allegedly attacking a woman in Forest Lake last month.

According to court records, Ryan Robert Baker, 31, was arrested the morning of Jan. 12. Around 4:15 a.m., police were called to a residence in the 1200 block of Fourth Street Southeast on a 911 hangup. Dispatch later learned that a domestic incident was occurring at the home, but by the time officers arrived there, the man, later allegedly identified as Baker, had left the house.

Upon arrival, police spoke to a woman, who alleged that she and Baker got into an argument about Baker's alcohol use. Baker allegedly hit the woman in the face, pushed her around and threatened to kill her. At one point, some children in the home came to the room and asked them to stop fighting because they could not sleep.

After officers left the home, the woman reported hearing someone tapping on her window. Police returned, located Baker and arrested him.

Baker has three prior domestic assault convictions in the last decade.

## Swindle

A 41-year-old Forest Lake woman has been charged with theft by swindle after allegedly skimming \$20,761 from Gaughan Companies' rent payments.

According to court records,

police received a report of the wrongdoing Jan. 10. An account manager at Gaughan's Forest Lake office alleged that Kelly Kay Czeck, a property manager for the company, had altered money order rent payments from 14 renters to Gaughan. She then allegedly cashed the money orders. Gaughan had noticed the renters had not paid their rents in full but then later found that all the renters had paid rent in its entirety.

In a police interview with Czeck, she allegedly admitted to the crime and said she used most of the money to support a bad gambling habit.

## The following are other recent court cases related to the Forest Lake area:

- Roy Kenneth Voss Jr., 47, of Aitkin, was sentenced Oct. 29 for financial transaction card fraud related to an investigation by the Forest Lake Police Department.
- Troy Matthew Dorsher, 18, of Tower, made a first appearance Nov. 5 for a fifth-degree drug charge related to an investigation by the Forest Lake Police Department.
- Jason Michael Dixon, 26, of Columbus, was sentenced Dec. 3 for a fifth-degree drug crime.
- Nicholas Todd Pastorius, 32, of Forest Lake, made a first appearance Dec. 7 for a fifth-degree drug charge.
- Lance Aaron Reid, 32, of Chisago Lake, made a first appearance Dec. 7 for a fifth-degree drug charge related to an investigation by the Forest Lake Police Department.
- Cassandra Jeraldine Mc-

Cloud, 28, of Centurai, Wisconsin, was sentenced Dec. 10 for financial transaction card fraud related to an investigation by the Forest Lake Police Department.

- Cody James Blakey, 30, of Willow River, was sentenced Dec. 12 for violating a no-contact order related to an investigation by the Forest Lake Police Department.

- Anoulack Noradeth, 38, of St. Paul, made a first appearance Dec. 12 for check forgery related to an investigation by the Forest Lake Police Department.

- Nicolle Lynn Lozier, 29, of Forest Lake, made a first appearance Dec. 21 for a fifth-degree drug charge.

Charles Anthony Belland, 52, of Centerville, was sentenced Jan. 2 for a fifth-degree drug crime related to an investigation by the Forest Lake Police Department.

- Ashley Rose Nelson, 26, of St. Paul, was sentenced Jan. 3 for a fifth-degree drug crime related to an investigation by the Forest Lake Police Department.

- Maria Armida Rockhold, 35, of Minneapolis, made a first appearance Jan. 11 for a fifth-degree drug charge related to an investigation by the Forest Lake Police Department.

- Neal O'Brien Gaalaas, 28, of an unknown address, made a first appearance Jan. 14 for violating registration requirements as a predatory offender related to an investigation by the Forest Lake Police Department.

- Nolan Matthew Germundsen, 19, of Forest Lake, made a first appearance Jan. 18 for a fifth-degree drug charge.

# Eye poke highlights recent police reports

**Ryan Howard**  
News Editor

The following are recent reports from local law enforcement.

## Eye poke

A man suffered a bruised eye Jan. 25 after a strange confrontation outside of Madsen Fixture & Millwork.

According to police, the man, who works at Madsen, called police after a man he did not know approached him in the business's parking lot. The victim had pulled into the lot to go to work around 6 a.m. Shortly after he pulled in, he said, another vehicle pulled into the lot, and a man he did not know got out of the vehicle and knocked on the victim's car window. The victim rolled down his window, and the man said: "You [expletive] with the wrong guy. I spent 14 years in prison." The Madsen employee did not understand why the man had approached him and asked for clarification, but the man would only repeat what he'd already said and then poked the employee in the left eye, leaving a bruise and temporarily hindering the employee's eyesight. The man then walked behind the car, read the employee's license plate, and drove away.

The assailant's identity is unknown. The employee did not recognize him and did not recall any activity on the way to work that resembled road rage.

## Burglary

Forest Lake police are investigating a burglary to a pole barn in the 20500 block of July Avenue.

The break-in was reported Jan. 26. An aluminum trailer, a John Deere riding lawnmower and a clam portable ice tent were taken from the barn sometime in the few days prior. The thief or thieves forced open the overhead door to the barn to gain access, and they may have damaged the driver's side wheel fender to the trailer while removing it.

## Gym bag theft

Police are looking into a theft of a gym bag from an unlocked vehicle parked at Flyaways Gymnastics in Forest Lake on Jan. 31 between 11:15 a.m. and 12:20 p.m. Items in the bag included cash, a wallet, tennis shoes and earbuds; the total value of the stolen items was approximately \$400. Security footage of the theft was captured; the thief is a white man with a white baseball cap, black jacket, and blue jeans. The man drove up to the car in a gray four-door sedan shortly before 12:20, grabbed the bag out of the victim's car and drove away.

## Bike stolen

A black, Schwinn 18-speed mountain bike was stolen from an unlocked apartment garage in Forest Lake between Jan. 27 and Feb. 2. The bike is worth about \$350.

# Progress made on Scandia stormwater retention pond repair

## Council also discusses committee appointments

**Alyson Sood**  
Scandia Reporter

Wendy Greene from BHE Renewables attended the Scandia City Council work session Feb. 6 to give the council an update on the stormwater retention pond at the Argo Navis

Community Solar Gardens. The retention pond failed and overflowed after heavy rain in October. Located near the intersection of St. Croix Trail North and Scandia Trail North, the site is adjacent to the St. Croix River and has the potential to impact wetlands and public waterways.

BHE Renewables is developing a plan to prevent any future overflow problems. The plan was submitted to the Carne-

lian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District on Feb. 8 and includes additional holding areas and increased holding capacity in the existing basins, among other improvements.

"According to the modeling, there would be no discharge even with two consecutive 100-year events," Greene said.

## Committee appointments

Greg Zauner and Dustin

Hegland were appointed to the Parks and Recreation Committee, and Terry Gorham and Dominic Mitchell were appointed to the 2024 Capital Improvement Plan Committee.

The council did not receive any applications for the Wastewater Advisory Anderson Erickson system representative and will re-advertise the opening.

Other items discussed include the following:

- Andrew Knudson's interest in purchasing outlot B in the Rockin R Ridge subdivision. The council requested additional information and input from the adjoining landowner.
- A policy to provide financial assistance for recreation programs.
- An amendment to Ordinance 202 regulating the 201 Community Sewage Treatment System.