



Raining TDs

Magic's first football win was a big one!

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Making a splash

Monti swimmers get a big win at Princeton.

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MONTICELLO Times

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Family of fatal crash victim seeks support for highway changes

BY JEFFREY HAGE
MONTICELLO TIMES

Last week Aimee Rogers came to a startling realization as she rode the bus on the first day of school.

"I realized every single day for the rest of my school year I have to sit in a seat and drive right past where my brother had the accident," Aimee said.

She was referring to the August 21 crash in which her brother, 17-year-old Ian Rogers, was killed when hit by a car on Highway 25 while riding his bike to his home in the Kjellberg mobile home park.

Aimee and her mother Christina "Kiki" Rogers appeared before the Monticello City Council Monday, Sept. 10 to ask for the City's support in petitioning MnDOT to make changes to the stretch of Highway 25 that has now claimed two lives.

Christina Rogers recalled the night

her son died.

At 11 :30 p.m. on Aug. 21, Christina and her husband were awoken by a loud knock on their door.

"At first, we thought it was our son Ian, because being 17, we knew he was out that evening," she said. "But he was supposed to be home by 10."

The Rogers were surprised when they opened their door.

"We found four sheriff's (deputies) there asking to speak to us," Christina Rogers said.

"They came into our home and lowered their hats to their chests. They proceeded to tell my husband and I that our son had been killed that night on Highway 25," she said.

Ian Rogers had been at Sturges Park in Buffalo spending time with friends. He had nearly completed the 10-mile bike ride home when he was hit from behind by a vehicle close to where a median begins to separate the north and

south lanes of Highway 25 near the mobile home park.

It's the same median that Aimee Rogers says she and her brother Ian used to cross.

"I remember my brother and I going across the median and having to wait so we didn't go when a car was about to approach and him telling me to always be careful going on it," she said of the median.

"I don't understand why the median was put there when most of the community said they didn't want that there anyway. I just hope something can be done..." Aimee Rogers told members of the City Council.

Christina Rogers says it was a mistake from the beginning when MnDOT installed the median with a u-turn a few years back during a Highway 25 reconstruction project.

She says a crosswalk with a stoplight would have been far more safe and ap-

propriate.

"It would have provided what's missing now, a safe crossing path for our children, residents, and disabled persons," she said.

Christina Rogers also called for reducing the speed limit through the residential area that is home to about 300 mobile homes.

After the reconstruction of Highway 25, the speed limit was increased to 60 mph from near Kjellberg's mobile home park and south towards County Road 106.

"I fell the 60 mpg speed limit is dangerous. I request reducing it to 45 mph to County Road 106," Christina Rogers said.

Ian Rogers was a good kid who loved to make people laugh, had dreams of becoming an EMT, going to college, joining a fraternity and going to busi-

Highway 25 / See page 16

Hospital emergency department is online

BY JEFFREY HAGE
MONTICELLO TIMES

Brian Bauck, co-administrator of the Centra-Care-Monticello health campus, has referred to the renovation of the hospital as a gem.

That gem is now shining bright as the estimated \$5.8 million renovation project has come to a close.

While parts of the new emergency department opened as early as this past spring, the project was completed in its entirety in late July - less than a year after its Aug. 27, 2018 groundbreaking.

They highlight of the new emergency department is nine patient rooms that are part of

Emergency / See page 16

First day of school memories



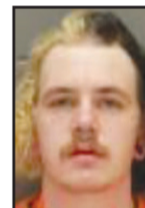
It was a happy first day of school at Little Mountain Elementary School where Alexis Vargas and Caleb Chavez posed for a pix with Principal Gabe Hackett before classes started Thursday morning, Sept. 5.

Photo by Jeff Hage / Monticello Times

Arrest made in graffiti case

BY JEFFREY HAGE
MONTICELLO TIMES

A graffiti artist who vandalized a wall in Monticello Monday, Sept. 2, was apprehended by Wright County deputies after crashing his vehicle near his home on Meadow Oak Avenue.



Mitchell Gott

Now 22-year-old Mitchell Gott of Monticello is charged with first degree damage to proper-

Graffiti / See page 16

Lockout ends for power plant security supervisors

BY JEFFREY HAGE
MONTICELLO TIMES

Security shift leaders at Xcel Energy's Monticello nuclear power plant will be returning to work on Monday, Sept. 9.

The United Security Professionals Local 2 has come to a 3-year agreement with G4S, the firm that provides security workers at the power plant under contract to XCel Energy. The agreement was reached early Friday, Sept. 6.

The workers were locked out by their employer, G4S at 12:01 a.m. on September 1.

According to Local 2 President Josh Haider, members of Local 2 and G4S have a temporary 16-day agreement in

place that will allow the 25-30 union members to vote on the proposed 3-year contract in the next two weeks.

The agreement was announced at 8:10 a.m., about 45 minutes before a Local 2 press conference where area lawmakers were scheduled to support the security supervisors employed by Xcel Energy security subcontractor G4S.

Instead, the press conference was a celebratory affair where union members announced they would be returning to their jobs at 5:40 a.m. Monday, Sept. 9 with their insurance benefits intact. Insurance was the main sticking point in contract negotiations between Local 2 members

Lockout / See page 16



Jeff Hage / Monticello Times

Josh Haider, president of United Security Professionals Local 2, announces Friday, Sept. 6, 2019 that security contractor G4S has come to an agreement with the union to end a lockout at the Monticello Nuclear Power Plant in Monticello.

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