

BEAR NECESSITIES: Dragon hockey gets big response for Teddy Bear Toss. P12

Woman meets rescuers after rollover crash

BY MIKE GAINOR
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On Thursday, Nov. 21, at Rush City Fire Hall, Patrice Palmer had an emotional reunion with a group of men and women who, just a few days earlier, saved her life after her car rolled over leaving her injured and trapped inside.

'PLEASE HELP ME LIVE'

Palmer was on Interstate 35, driving north on the cold, wet night of Nov. 8, heading back home to Pine City. Sometime after 11 p.m., just north of North Branch, she hit the point where the water on the road had turned to ice.

Palmer was still wearing a neck brace as she sat next to her husband and spoke to the

firefighters and first responders.

"I had slowed down ... and there was a semi," Palmer told them. "I went past him, and then as I was moving over the car just spun in a circle. Then I was facing him, going backward. Then I just drifted off into the ditch backwards. Then I just felt all of this rough tumbling."

The car had rolled completely over. "I didn't black out or anything, but I just called out to God, and said, 'Just help me God, help me God, help me God.' And then I stopped and I was real cattywhompus, with the car hanging over."

Her vehicle came to a stop about two car lengths from the highway. She knew she was injured, but she didn't know



MIKE GAINOR | THE PIONEER

Still in a neck brace, Patrice Palmer (second from right) recounts the events of her crash and rescue with (l-r) State Trooper Kendra Rock, her initial rescuer Austin Gardner and her husband Mike Palmer.

how badly.

"Everything hurt," she said. "And I said, 'God, I want to live with you when I die, but I'm not ready to die right now, so

please help me live.'"

'I FIGURED I SHOULD STOP'

Austin Gardner was driving up from his home in Blaine to

visit his parents in Pine City. "I didn't see it happen," Gardner said. "I was just driving by.

SEE RESCUERS, PAGE 6



LANCE FURBER | THE PIONEER

Snowflakes fill streets at parade

The streets of Pine City were lit up for Holiday Madness this past Saturday. More Holiday Madness fun on Page 20.

Man run over by van on Pokegama Lake Road

STAFF REPORT
NEWS@PINECITYMN.COM

A reported road-rage incident has led to a criminal charge after a man was run over by a vehicle following a fight on Pokegama Lake Road.

According to the criminal complaint filed in Pine County Court, on Dec. 3 a Pine County Sheriff's Office deputy re-

sponded to the report of a fight on Pokegama Lake Road west of Pine City.

When he arrived, the deputy observed a Honda Pilot in the ditch. A male, later identified as Max Schantzen, was hunched over next to the front of a passerby's vehicle. He said he had been run over by another vehicle.

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Family calls 911 after man approaches girls in Hinckley

STAFF REPORT
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On Saturday, Nov. 23 two 10-year-old girls were playing outside on Main Street in Hinckley, throwing snowballs and being kids when they were allegedly approached by a man who asked them if they wanted to go somewhere with him and listen to music or get candy. These girls did the right thing - said no, then ran

across the street to their house and told an adult, who then called the police.

According to the criminal complaint, deputies located and spoke to the suspect. Deputies noted the suspect appeared to be under the influence of drugs. The suspect was identified as Demitre Leonard Minich of Hinckley. Minich was arrested and charged with one misdemeanor count

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