

With honors.
These and other Nicollet students made the honor roll.
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Rollover on State Route 111



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This vehicle went off the road on State Route 111, roughly 3 miles north of Nicollet, at about 2:45 p.m. Feb. 12. There was no one in the vehicle by the time law enforcement arrived. There were no injuries or fatalities. Very heavy winds that afternoon may have pushed the vehicle off the road, where it overturned in the ditch. No further information was available.

Lafayette OKs solar farm on ag property

By Cassandra Masters
Ledger staff writer

Lafayette approved solar panels for a town ag property.
The City Council met March 10 to discuss approving a conditional use permit for a solar farm. Brian Martens, with Novel Energy, and Sam Falk, with the solar farm, submitted the permit.

The solar garden would be at the intersection of State Route 15 and 350th Street, north of State Route 1. Facing a solar garden in the agricultural district requires a conditional use permit from the city.

Falk said the solar garden will not affect neighbors. The garden will have little to no impact on soil and water and will serve as a form of land conservation. A perimeter fence will secure the system.

To reduce the visual impact, the solar garden will include a pollinator seed mix as well as natural grasses. At the end of the solar panels' life, typically 25 years, everything is easily removed, and the property can return to its original use, he said.
The construction period should last six to eight weeks. Construction will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. The driving of the piles will create the most disturbance, but should take only seven to 10 days. Upon completion of construction, visits to the garden occur only once a month once vegetation is growing, Falk said.

The 11-acre solar garden will provide energy for about 200 homes. When questioned about selling the solar energy, Falk said, "It goes directly out of the grid. Pretty much after we build it, the power is in Xcel's hands. We just maintain the site."

Solar energy is competitive with conventional energy. Falk said many businesses use solar energy, but some residents also subscribe to receive solar credits.

The solar garden will not increase traffic hazards or congestion, and each solar panel has an anti-glare coating, with the majority screened from the roads. Solar gardens reduce carbon emissions and shift energy focus to more renewable and sustainable forms of energy, he said.

Dog ordinance

Nicollet County Sheriff Dave Lange discussed the proposed countywide dangerous dog ordinance with the Lafayette City

Council. The new ordinance helps clear confusion with the Minnesota dangerous dog statute.

"As a county, we are trying to implement a countywide dangerous dog ordinance so that we can better handle any complaints on dangerous dogs that we may get out in the county," Lange said.

Currently, Nicollet County follows the state statute concerning dangerous dogs. The state created the dangerous dog statute in 1988 to define what makes a dangerous dog and establishing requirements for owning a dangerous dog. In 2001 an amendment allowed owners to appeal the dangerous dog designation and required implementing microchips to identify dangerous dogs.

Changes in 2008 included increasing the amount of insurance owners must have to compensate injuries from the dangerous dog, and moved authority from counties to animal control authorities.

The state statute defines the difference between a potentially dangerous dog and a dangerous dog. The state says a dog is potentially dangerous if it bites a human or domestic animal unprovoked, or if it chases or approaches someone off of the owner's property in an aggressive manner when unprovoked. A dog can be considered potentially dangerous if it has a natural tendency or disposition to attack unprovoked and threaten the safety of humans or domestic animals.

A dog is considered dangerous if it inflicts serious bodily damage or kills a domestic animal without provocation off of the owner's property, or if it bites, attacks, or endangers the safety of humans or domestic animals after being declared potentially dangerous.

State residents can own a dangerous dog if they meet several requirements. The owner must register the dog with the local animal control authority and pay a yearly fee of \$500 in addition to regular license fees. The owner needs to have a proper enclosure that is securely confined and from which the animal cannot easily escape. It must have a warning sign identifying the dangerous dog. Also, the owner needs insurance of at least \$300,000 to cover any personal injuries inflicted by the dog. Finally, the dog must be microchipped.

Lange said that each city adopts the

same procedure, rather than his needing to know individual city ordinances. The new ordinance gives more guidance on the process for the dog's owner and lays out specific timelines. The owner has responsibilities, and this new ordinance would let the owner requirements for keeping or disposing of the dog.

Lange has a provisional contract with a local veterinarian from St. Peter to oversee the process as the hearing officer in charge of determining the dog's status upon appeal. One council member questioned whether having one person decide might not be better than using a panel or city council.

"From my perspective, I think I trust a vet's opinion on determining whether a dog is a danger to the public or not," Lange said.
Nicollet County Attorney Michelle Zehnder-Fischer, who was also at the meeting, agreed.

"It's a relatively short time frame to get everything in place and the more people you add to it the more cumbersome it gets to get them all into place," she said.
Lange and Zehnder-Fischer brought the proposed ordinance in areas without public protection, such as Lafayette, Courtland, and Nicollet. Lafayette can pass this ordinance once the county adopts it, they said. Lafayette requires a public hearing before the city can agree to adopt the new ordinance. The sheriff's office requires an agreement from the city, stating that the sheriff enforces the ordinance if approved.

Other news

• The council approved the consent agenda, with bills totaling \$56,153.41.
• Accepted a \$3,300 donation from the Lions Club for dogpups.

• Resident Jen Hartley asked the City Council to change the ordinance on utility payments. Hartley received a late fee for not having his December payment on time.

Residents have the option making utility payments online, by mail, in person, or in the drop box. The current city ordinance requires everyone to have utility payments in by 7 a.m. on the 25th each month. Hartley asked the city to change the time to the end of that business day.

The City Council will discuss the matter at its next meeting. The March 9 meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. rather than 7 p.m.

On top of spaghetti



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Alan Youngblom scoops up the pasta, and Andrew Hartley ladles on the sauce, during the spaghetti feed Sunday at the Lafayette Community Center. The event, sponsored by Fields of Grace, is one of several fundraisers that will help purchase two or more GoServ Global Safe T Homes for Haiti. GoServ Global is a nondenominational, faith-based organization that has served Haiti since 2011. In the wake of a devastating earthquake there, GoServ Global partners with Sukup Manufacturing to make grain bins into homes for the most vulnerable families. About 70 percent of Haitians live in the countryside, and most live below the poverty line on \$2 a day. They are vulnerable to continuing global natural disasters. Sukup Safe T Homes modified grain bins provide secure and spacious shelter for rural families.

Crus-Raiders have three-game winning streak, but lose to MVL

By Beth Kleisner

The Nicollet/Loyola girls picked up a pair of wins last week Monday and Tuesday — pushing their win streak to three straight. The weekend ended with a loss to a strong MVL team on Senior and Fan Appreciation Night.

New Ulm Cathedral

The Raiders took a 10-0 lead to open the game at New Ulm Cathedral Monday night, but allowed the Crus to tie the game. Coach Jordan Rudnick said, "The girls did a really good job sticking with the game plan and grinding this one out."

He went on, "Hayley Selby and Megan Frutiger led our rebounding, and Kendall Robertson did in the reality nice job making lute plays. Marah Hiltz was being punting points — with 12 in the first half."

| Nicollet Raiders | | WEEKLY WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE | | | | | Home Away | |
|--------------------|------|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|--|
| Day | Time | Thursday 20 | Friday 21 | Saturday 22 | Monday 24 | Tuesday 25 | Thursday 27 | |
| Sec 2A Individuals | | | | | | | | |
| Blue Earth Area | | 4:30 pm | 4:30 pm | | | | | |
| MVA | | AB 5:45 | | | | | | |
| GFB | | | | | | | | |
| NUC | | AB 5:45 | | | | | | |
| GFW | | AB 5:45 | | | | | | |
| Medford | | AB 5:45 | | | | | | |

the board with her assists and getting other teammates looks at the basket — we need her on the floor as much as she can be. I'm happy with how the girls are buying in and continuing to work hard late in the season."
Frutiger led the Raiders with 17 points — with 12 in the first half.

JWP
The Raiders won their third straight Tuesday night, defeating RWP 58-40 on the road. Nicollet/Loyola led 34-13 at the half as the Raider pressure caused problems for the Bulldogs.
"Our pressure in the half court gave them some trouble, and we were able to capitalize on the opportunities offensively," Rudnick explained. "Defensively, our effort was where we want it to be. We have some things to clean up on the

Nic./Lor. 45, NUC 35
NUC led 23-22 at the half

Stats vs. NU Cathedral

Shooting:
2-PL: N-18/39 (46.2%)
3-PL: N-2/7 (28.6%)
FT: N-12/17 (70.6%)
Points:
Megan Frutiger 17, Hayley Selby 9, Zoey Walker 8, Marah Hiltz 6, Kendall Robertson 4, Josi Hansen 2
Three-Pointers: Nicollet 2
Rebounds: Nicollet 42
Selby 14, Walker 10, Hiltz 7, Hansen 3, Robertson 3, Sam Rist 3
Steals: Nicollet 11
Hiltz 4, Frutiger 2, Selby 2
Blocks: Nicollet 5
Hiltz 1, each by Frutiger, Hiltz & Walker
Assists: Nicollet 16
Hiltz 9, Selby 4
Turnovers: Nicollet 18

Nic./Lor. 58, JWP 40
Nic./Lor. led 34-13 at the half

Stats vs. JWP

Shooting:
2-PL: N-16/31 (51.6%)
3-PL: N-4/18 (22.2%)
FT: N-14/24 (58.3%)
Points:
Megan Frutiger 21, Hayley Selby 17, Marah Hiltz 6, Kendall Robertson 3, Zoey Walker 3, Josi Hansen 3, Sam Rist 2
Three-Pointers: One each by Walker, Hiltz, Hansen and Robertson
Rebounds: Nicollet 44
Selby 15, Walker 8, Hiltz 6, Rist 5, Frutiger 4, Hansen 3, Robertson 2
Steals: Nicollet 5
Walker 3, Hiltz 3, Selby 3, Robertson 3
Blocks: Nicollet 5
Hiltz 2, Walker 1, Hansen 1, Selby 1
Assists: Nicollet 22
Hiltz 6, Frutiger 3, Walker 3, Robertson 3, Selby 2
Turnovers: Nicollet 18

MVL 53, Nic./Lor. 41
MVL led 27-15 at the half

Stats vs. MVL

Shooting:
2-PL: N-14/28 (50.0%)
3-PL: N-3/19 (15.8%)
FT: N-4/7 (57.1%)
Points:
Zoey Walker 11, Megan Frutiger 10, Hayley Selby 8, Josi Hansen 8, Kendall Robertson 4, Marah Hiltz 2, Sam Rist 2
Three-Pointers: Nicollet 3
Walker 3
Rebounds: Nicollet 33
Selby 9, Hiltz 5, Robertson 5, Walker 4, Rist 4, Marah Hiltz 2, Megan Frutiger 2
Steals: Nicollet 9
Arndt 2, Frutiger 2, Walker 2, Hiltz 2
Blocks: One each by Frutiger, Hiltz, Arndt & Selby
Assists: Nicollet 17
Hiltz 6, Hansen 4, Walker 2, Arndt 2
Turnovers: Nicollet 15

defensive end before next game."
He added, "Offensively, we shared the ball really well, which is fun basketball to watch. Megan and Hayley had really nice rebounds — rebound-

ing and being a physical presence down low. Marah is continuing to distribute the ball and getting her

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