

Good luck is not just for Irish

T.A. LEBRUN
For the Union-Times

Living up to his nickname of “Lucky 7,” Cory Carlson brought some good luck to a stranded plane owner on Mille Lacs Lake.

On Saturday, March 13, Cory Carlson, who owns Lucky 7 Storage and Lucky 7 Bear Bait (on Highway 95 east of Princeton) and is otherwise known as “Lucky 7,” was headed out fishing from his cabin at Twin Bay to the tullibee hole about a mile out from Da Boathouse in Isle.

He and his buddies, Glen Adams and Brad Aufenthie, noticed a plane sitting out on the lake. The men approached the plane and its owner, a man flying in to have breakfast at Da Boathouse.

The pilot and plane had been flying in for years to the annual Ice Port on Mille Lacs. The ice landing strip had been in good shape when the pilot flew in the weekend before for the event, but with the warm temperatures, the ice had changed and become slushy. When the plane landed on Saturday, it became stuck in some slush and wedged up against a snow bank.

Luckily for the pilot, Carlson and his friends had an ATV with tracks and other equipment to pull the aircraft and pilot to safety. After giving the plane a jump, it was up and running and headed back home.

Carlson has been a firefighter for 17 years in Cambridge (and Dalbo) where he lives and runs the two businesses with his wife, Jenny. This experience prepared Carlson to help out in these types of situations.

The man who was rescued sent Carlson a friend request on Facebook after seeing his social media post. The man offered Carlson some cash, but Carlson said, “no



On Saturday, Cory Carlson, Glen Adams and Brad Aufenthie came to the rescue of a stranded plane and side by side on Mille Lacs Lake. (Photo provided).

thanks.” He did, however, take the man up on his offer for a float plane ride this summer, Carlson quipped.

As luck would have it for another stranded man, while Carlson and his friends were heading back to the tullibee hole, they noticed a man and his son on a Ranger also stuck in some slush. The men helped them out as well.

Though Carlson didn’t have much luck with the tullibee bite that day, he said it was a beautiful day out on Mille Lacs but warned those coming out, “The ice is still doable, but be prepared.”

When asked about his day overall, he said, “It’s all good, and I try to help out where needed. I know I’ll need a hand someday and hopefully a good person comes along.”



March WAITING CHILDREN MINNESOTA

A partnership of Adams Publishing Group and MN ADOPT to find homes for kids seeking adoption or foster families.

Samuel (Sam), 16, is a teen who loves everything associated with video games - Xbox, PlayStation and handheld games. He loves them all. Sam also enjoys watching YouTube videos about gaming, reading, does well academically and can be creative and artistic.



Sam presents as somewhat quiet, but he won’t hesitate to belt out a country song that he loves. Sam would like to live on a farm where he could do chores and help take care of animals. He is caring and would benefit from being around pets.

Sam needs a family with a strong positive male role model. An ideal family would be patient, nurturing, calm and low key. A family that can provide structure, clear expectations and is open to using outside services would be beneficial for Sam.

If you would like more information on adopting or fostering a Minnesota waiting child, please e-mail info@mnaadopt.org or call 612-861-7115.

Budget: Board makes the cuts

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pects there are further opportunities for the last approximately \$30,000 the district needs to cut, but this is what the district can cut now.

Milaca Schools has faced a declining enrollment and a shrinking unassigned fund balance for several years.

Milaca’s enrollment has shrunk every year since the 2013-2014 school year, when it had 2,073 pupil units. In 2019-2020 the district had about 1,903 pupil units, according to Wedin’s presentation to the board. The district’s fund balance has shrunk over roughly the same period of time. In 2013-14 the unassigned fund balance was just over 16% of operating costs, but that has declined to just 1.87% in the 2019-2020 school year, according to Wedin’s presentation.

Part of what hurts the fund balance is the declining enrollment, which is tied to funding from the state. On top of that is funding for the special education cross subsidy, which in broad terms is the gap between the actual cost of special education funding and the amount the state reimburses school districts, which has also pulled money out of the fund balance, according to Wedin.



Carter Petersen - Art



Donovan Brown - CTE



Bailey Thiel - English



Logan Mollet - Math



James Kohl - Music



Ethan Stewart
Phy-Ed/Health



Samantha Couch -
Science



Alisa Pinard -
Social Studies



Emma Berry -
World Language

Princeton High School December Students of the Month

Treatment: The chemical is either very strong or entering the system in a large quantity, it’s believed

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The City Council approved sending notification letters out to local businesses during a March 4 study session, reminding them that only water, human waste and biodegradable toilet paper should be put into the system. Based on the volume of water in the facility, the city is assuming whatever chemical is being dumped is either particularly strong or there’s a large amount of it, according to Klinghagen.

“That’s why we assume it’s probably a business,” Klinghagen said.

Klinghagen said the city just wants to help whoever is dumping the chemical properly dispose of whatever it is that’s hurting the treatment facility’s bacteria. He urges anyone who is uncertain if they can dump something down the drain to contact the wastewater treatment plant

and ask. The facility can be reached by calling 763-389-3574.

Repairs and upgrades

The City Council also recently approved a couple of improvements to the wastewater treatment system during a March 11 meeting, including new roofs and changing communications services at pump stations.

Council members approved a \$22,549.28 repair to two roofs of the buildings at the wastewater treatment plant. Glue holding the membrane of the roof on is deteriorating.

Princeton had about \$26,000 budgeted in the Capital Improvement Plan for the repairs. The low bid allowed the city to

use some of that money for upgrading all nine lift stations in the city. Lift stations are pumps in the wastewater system that raise water to a higher elevation so it can continue to flow down sewage pipes.

The lift stations will be switching their communications services from Verizon to FirstNet with AT&T, which was approved by the council March 11 for a cost of \$3,053, according to City Clerk Shawna Jenkins. The stations had been connected using Verizon, but with the installation of a new AT&T tower, the switch will save the city money and, hopefully, maintain better connection, according to Klinghagen.

Princeton currently pays \$225 per month for all nine lift stations, but that will drop to \$170 per month with the switch, Klinghagen said during the meeting. The connection is important for monitoring the well-being of the wastewater system.

“If there’s a problem, the lift stations call out,” Klinghagen said. “Like if there’s a sewer backup, these lift stations call out and tell us that there’s a high level, or a pump has failed, or something like that.”

The switch may come as soon as the end of the month, but the installation should not interrupt any services to residents.



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FAVORITE ICE FISHING PHOTO CONTEST

VOTE ON YOUR FAVORITE PHOTOS BETWEEN March 1st through March 22nd (1 vote per day)

WIN PRIZES for voted photo and voting

Be sure to visit www.hometownsource.com to check out this contest.

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