



Two teens injured in collision

Top picture: According to the Minnesota State Patrol, on May 21, at 1:31 p.m., a Chevy Malibu was traveling southbound on County Road 11. A semi, driven by John Glen Klimek, 42, of Sauk Centre, was traveling westbound on Highway 210. The vehicles collided. The driver and passenger in the Malibu, both 17-year-old females, were taken to Lakewood Health System. Both were wearing their seatbelts. Klimek was not injured. Assisting at the scene were the Todd County Sheriff's Office, Staples Fire Department and Staples Ambulance.

Four vehicles involved in crash on Highway 71



On June 1, at approximately 11:40 a.m., the Minnesota State Patrol responded to and investigated a multi-vehicle crash. Three vehicles were southbound on Highway 71: a 1997 Chevrolet pickup, driven by Brian Crider, 59, of Clarissa; followed by a 2019 Indian Chieftain motorcycle, driven by Trent Fore, 33, of Hewitt; followed by a 1999 Chevrolet Monte Carlo, driven by a 16-year-old female from Eagle Bend. A 1999 Chevrolet Silverado pickup, driven by a 16-year-old male from Sebeka, pulled out in front of the three vehicles after making a left turn from westbound County Road 100 onto southbound Highway 71. As Crider and Fore attempted to avoid the hazard, the 16-year-old female rear-ended the motorcycle, ejecting Fore. Fore was transported by ambulance for injuries sustained in the accident. The 16-year-old driver of the Chevrolet Silverado was cited for "fail to yield right of way (making a left turn)". The 16-year-old driver of the Chevrolet Monte Carlo was cited for "duty to drive with due care".

Singing seniors led by the Souths



The Verndale Senior Citizens Club held their monthly meeting on June 1 at the Verndale Fire Hall. After business was discussed and treats and coffee consumed, a music festival was held which was led by R and S Express (Ray and Sandy South). They led the group in a sing-a-long of various songs, including: *Roses Are Red My Love* by George Morgan; *Could I Have This Dance* by Anne Murray; *Hello Mary Lou* by Ricky Nelson; *Welcome To My World* by Jim Reeves and many more.

Wadena County Commissioners

Waste designation ordinance discussed at length

by Trinity Gruenberg
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The Wadena County Commissioners held their regular meeting on June 1.

Waste Designation Ordinance Public Hearing

Chris McConn, solid waste director, again brought forth the solid waste designation ordinance for Wadena County for the Prairie Lakes Municipal Solid Waste Authority. The five county plan would ensure county generated solid waste would help cover the cost of their portion of the PLMSWA ownership and prevent competition bringing waste elsewhere.

The ordinance was prepared with the MPCA and has been discussed with the local haulers. This is the third public hearing for this as questions arose at previous meetings, such as can there be an exemption to take the waste to a different county if

they are closer?

The attorney, Kevin Johnson, sent a memo that would give an exemption to those who are closer to another facility. Also, should residential residents be susceptible to the same penalties as haulers for taking waste elsewhere? They were told by the MPCA they cannot change that.

Commissioner Murlyn Kreklau asked if this ordinance was something they needed? What if they decide to change or get rid of the ordinance in the future do they need to go through the MPCA again?

Kyra Ladd, county attorney, said that was what this public hearing was for and it is within the commissioners' power to change it.

Johnson explained if they wish to amend the ordinance they have to seek approval from the MPCA. Removing the ordinance is up to the commission-

ers and they should consult with the MPCA and the PLMSWA.

Kreklau asked if there was a way for haulers to efficiently cover boarder areas and still find a way to ensure Wadena County gets their share?

McConn said Otter Tail has this ordinance and a town in the county has some that is hauled elsewhere. The hauler agreed to bring a few loads a year to the PLMSWA to ensure they receive the needed tonnage.

Commissioner Bill Stearns added they are doing that now in some areas and some is credited to the county.

McConn said they are not going to split loads.

Stearns added they are in a surplus position, bringing more to PLMSWA than the contract requires as some is going to Gwinner, ND.

Commissioner Jon Kangas read parts of the ordinance

that said this was to ensure the financial success of the PLMSWA. And if this was approved it is binding. And records can be inspected at any time without a search warrant. This included self haulers. Kangas noted this is where the danger lies. The MPCA won't change it and it is believed they won't allow it to be changed if the ordinance is approved. It could result in an individual being prosecuted. He recommended the ordinance not be passed.

Commissioner Mike Weyer understood Kangas' concerns, as well as the risk of losing the waste and not meeting the tonnage due to the PLMSWA.

The county ordinances don't differentiate commercial from individual. Kangas believes this creates a monopoly which they don't do with any other busi-

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Wadena County COVID-19 Update:

- Total confirmed positive cases: 1612
- Total cases reported last week: 1598
- Total COVID-19 related deaths: 21
- People with one vaccine dose: 5825
- People with complete vaccine series: 5454

Todd County:

- Total confirmed positive cases: 2852
- Total cases reported last week: 2846
- Total COVID-19 related deaths: 32
- People with one vaccine dose: 7280
- People with complete vaccine series: 6807

Poems of hope and reassurance on The Poetry Walk at Green Island

A new selection of "Poems of Hope and Reassurance" are being featured on The Poetry Walk at Green Island in Wadena. The poets featured in June include Wayne F. Albertson, Donna Isaac, Carol Masters, Randall D. Shelley, David Winkelman and Mark Vinz.

Green Island is a 60-acre parcel of land within the city of Wadena owned by Kent Scheer and Vicki Chepulis whose stewardship of the land includes making a space where people are invited to enjoy the peace and beauty of a carefully cultivated space for experiencing nature.

Like the gardens of Europe, there are places to stroll through the woods, to sit under a tree and read or enjoy a picnic lunch with a friend.

The land also includes a working orchard, gardens of rare herbs, wild deer, and white doves who coo softly from their dove-cote.

Dotted throughout the park-like atmosphere are sculptures created by Kent.

The Poetry Walk compositions are posted alternately on the 12 small information stations along Green Island trails. These alternate with educational texts providing

information on the purpose and function of Green Island's new forest.

Each month a different selection of poets will be featured on the Poetry Walk from the project "More Poems of Hope and Reassurance".

This project was created by Lina Belar, a fiscal year 2021 recipient of a Creative Support for Individuals Grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board.

Green Island is located at 850 Scheer Drive, Wadena. It is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.