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Montgomery

Messenger

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Local news 24/7 at montgomerymnnews.com

Fire destroys home

Residents unharmed, but pet perishes

Wade Young

Montgomery Messenger

gomery escaped an earlymorning fire on Wednesday, Jan. 6, but sadly, a pet dog did

The fire broke out at the single-family two-story, home at 201 Boulevard Ave. NE. The Montgomery Fire Department responded to the scene just before 1 a.m. When

Fire Chief Kenny Pavek arrived, he found the house Two residents in Mont- fully engulfed in flames, and the police officers with owner Mitchell Dappen and his roommate, Sean Passe safely outside.

> It was at that time, Pavek called the New Prague Fire Department for mutual aid.

> "Firefighters had to fight the fire mainly from the outside of the structure due to the



Montgomery and New Prague firefighters work to put out a fire early Wednesday morning, January 6 at 201 Boulevard Ave. NE in Montgomery.

conditions inside," he said. I put on my clothes and headdifficult to control the fire the smell was coming from. and get at hot spots, but the fire was under control within a few hours. New Prague on main floor," he explained. cleared around 3:45 a.m. The extinguishing the fire."

Dappen has owned the trol. property for almost five years. He was about to go to office and the fire was out bed that night when he no- the door within 15 seconds or ticed a smell when the fur- so," he said. nace kicked on.

"I decided to check it out. his roommate, Sean Passe to

"This makes it much more ed downstairs to see where house. That's when I saw the fire in my office, in the SE corner

> Dappen tried to put out blaze quickly got out of con-

"I checked back near my

He started screaming for

wake up and get out of the

'We both made it out only moments before the flames were at the back door," Dappen said.

He believes an old laptop Montgomery crew remained the fire with a bucket on the he was using for work caused on scene until 6:30 a.m. fully counter in the kitchen, but the fire, however it is being investigated by the Minnesota State Fire Marshall and the Montgomery Police Department.

> "The laptop was completely dead when I put it on the charger a few hours earlier,

Fire to 4



A jet of water blasts from the Montgomery Fire Department's ladder truck at a fire at 201 Boulevard Ave. NE in Montgomery last week.



TCU Montgomery Fourth Grade Teacher Jared Van Dorpe had a classroom full of students on Monday when school districts were allowed to return its youngest learners back in the classroom.

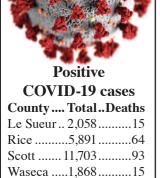
Titans return to classroom

Wade Young

Montgomery Messenger

tary schools were full of students on Monday, Jan. 11.

Not since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic began in mid-March, 2020, have the schools had full



State.....438,867.....5,724

Information from Minnesota

Department of Health 1-12-2021

Following guidance from to in-person learning for elementary students in pre-k to grade six.

students in grades 7 to 12 returned to the classrooms after learning remotely, which had the school year.

change as well. Starting on contacts. Thursday, Jan. 21, regular will return to the hybrid modlearning model last fall.

Superintendent Lonnie Seifert said, "Families will at asladek@tcu2905.us.

need to review the details of our plan to determine what Tri-City United elemen- Governor Tim Walz's Safe instruction model they feel Learning Plan, TCU schools is best for their student(s). laid out its plans for a return I would ask that if you are considering a learning model change to full-time distance learning that you have a con-In communication from versation with the principal the district, those students, of your child(ren)'s building along with special education prior to making a final deci-

Based on advice from Le Sueur Public Health, Seifert been changed from the hy- said the TCU District will brid model used at the start of continue to use only a 14-day quarantine period for indi-Older students will see a viduals identified as close

Seifert added the district students in grades 7 to 12 continues to track case information for staff and request el used before the distance that families share confirmed cases of TCU students with school nurse Amanda Sladek

It's a girl!

Lynden James is New Year's Baby

Lisa Ingebrand

Montgomery's Year's Baby arrived just seven days into 2021 at Mayo Clinic Health System in New Prague. Little Lynden James, a girl, claimed the honor. She is the daughter of Peter Clark and Madisen Ziebell of Montgomery.

Lynden is the couple's second child. Her big sister, Eden, will be two years old in February.

Peter and Madisen met while studying at Mankato State University in 2017. He was pursuing a degree in Construction Management. She was working towards a Business Management de-

The couple welcomed their first child just a couple months before Peter's graduation and began their life together in an apartment in Mankato. Later, they moved into a townhome in St. Peter where they lived for a year.

In May 2020, the family relocated to Montgomery.

"We were looking to buy a home instead of renting and stumbled across a house we liked here after looking at many, many houses," Peter explained. "We like the smaller town feeling."

Shortly after they moved into their new home, the couple found out Madisen was pregnant with their second child.



Montgomery residents Peter Clark and Madisen Ziebell's daughter, Lynden James Clark, is Montgomery's 2021 New Year's Baby! Lynden was born at 6:19 a.m. on Thursday, January 7, at Mayo Clinic Health System in New Prague, weighing 8 pounds, 11 ounces and is 21-inches long. Lynden's big sister, Eden, who will be turning 2 in February, was excited to welcome her home.

"good," but admits there ter about things since we'd was concern regarding CO-VID-19.

"Right away I had hopes baby, it (the pandemic) would be done, but that didn't happen. We actually all got COVID the first week of September," she shared. "I got sick and was monitored for a few days. My oxygen levels were low Madisen describes her a couple of days, but after I pregnancy with Lynden as got over it I almost felt bet-

have some immunity for the birth."

About a week before that by the time I had this Christmas, Madisen started having contractions and her mom threw out the idea of the new family member being a New Year's Baby.

Baby to 10





Two Worship Services Sundays at 8:45 AM & 10:45 AM 830 4th Ave. SW, New Prague, MN 56071

Join us in person or live stream on our website