



Montgomery

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Wade Young Photo

Utility workers and other personnel were at the scene of the Saturday explosion at Aric Holicky's residence in Lexington Township. The victim, Kailey Mach, is pictured at right.



Photos courtesy of TCU Schools

Tri-City United will be sending four wrestlers to the state tournament. Pictured from left are Makenna Belling, Caden O'Malley, Caleb Whipps, and Carter O'Malley.

TCU sends four wrestlers to state

The Tri-City United wrestling program is sending four wrestlers to the state tournament March 3 to 5 at the Xcel Energy Center.

The Titans advancing after the Section 2AA tournament are Carter O'Malley (138 pounds), Caleb Whipps (152 pounds), Makenna Belling (152 pounds - Girls Division), and Caden O'Malley (170 pounds).

According to Coach Shaun Timmerman, the results of the tournament are:

- Allen Krenik (106 pounds) 5th
- Riley Skluzacek (113 pounds) 6th
- Eli Viskocil (120 pounds) 6th
- Chris Johnson (126 pounds) 3rd
- Brant Lemieux (132 pounds) 3rd
- Carter O'Malley (138 pounds) 2nd
- Cole Franek (145 pounds) 3rd
- Caleb Whipps (152 pounds) 2nd
- Caden O'Malley (170 pounds) 1st
- Marco Reyes (195 pounds) 3rd
- Robert Bastyr (285 pounds) 5th

Young woman dies in house explosion

Investigation underway

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A young woman has died in a house explosion, Saturday, Feb. 26, according to Le Sueur County Sheriff, Brett Mason.

While the woman's identity has not been released, Facebook posts indicate it was Kailey Mach, 20.

Her mother, Vicki Mach, posted around 8 a.m. Sunday morning: "It is in bitter shock, that I come to tell you our baby girl, Kailey Mach

was involved in a house explosion and did not survive. Our hearts are shattered and mine is still numb in shock ... We are asking for our time and immediate family only at this time. Fly high baby girl ... you were an angel here on earth to us and we will never be the same."

Mach, the daughter of Charlie and Vicki Mach, was Kolacky Days Miss Congeniality 2018-2019, and a 2109 graduate of Tri-City United High School.

Investigation to 8

Mach remembered

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Kailey Mach was voted Miss Congeniality in the 2018 Kolacky Days Pageant. This coveted title is given to the girl whom her peers see as the most friendly, helpful, genuine, and outgoing candidate in the pageant.

Kailey, daughter of Charlie and Vicki Mach of Le Center, was attending Augsburg University with the dream of becoming a kindergar-

ten teacher. She worked with kids at TCU schools.

Mach's family, her friends, and students, are mourning the 20-year-old after she died in a house explosion Saturday night in Le Sueur County.

Maggie Trnka, who was in the Kolacky Days court with Mach spent nearly every weekend of 2018 and 2019 with her, attending appearances and representing Montgomery. Trnka said Mach was

Mach to 8

Montgomery embraces Masopust again

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After the pandemic shut down Masopust, the Czech version of Mardi Gras in 2021, the party returned in a big way on Sunday.

With warm temperatures and clear skies, hundreds of people attended the annual event that begins the Lenten season of abstaining from eating meat, junk food, alcohol and other vices.

"I think we had seats for 150 or so. That was all full, so we had to put up more," said Jim Mladek, one of the organizers. "It's one of the biggest ones we've had."

The 22nd annual festival, featured a silent auction and the final feast of pork, dumplings and sauerkraut and pastries. Mladek said they planned for 125 dinners and were running out of food in the first hour.

A new king

Of the many events at Masopust, a new ambassador was chosen to promote the festival for the next year. Tri-City United junior Austin Testerman was crowned Masopust King.

Testerman, the son of Rachel Horejsi and Ben Danielson, said he wanted to be the festival's ambassador mostly for his grandparents, Marsha and Dallas Horesji because Dallas is 100 percent Czech. He's the first in his family to hold the position.

"I'm doing it mainly for them and myself. This is something I've never done. I think it will be very different from what I normally do. I normally don't do big things like this - expressing myself to people," he said.

Testerman said he knows about the Czech music, and of course, Kolacky Days, but he hopes to meet a lot more people and try to build more confidence being in the public eye.

"I hope to try to express myself more and meet more people," he said.

Outside of school at Tri-City United, Testerman focuses on work at Coborns and school. After high school he plans to pursue a career in engineering



A large crowd said, "Goodbye to Meat" as they celebrated Masopust and the start of Lent at the Revival on Main and Rustic Farmer on Sunday, Feb. 27. (Right) Austin Testerman was crowned the new Masopust King on Sunday.



and/or biology.

The event featured the traditional skit where the community asks permission from the mayor to permit a party, which he usually agrees to, especially since the party has already started. Live polka music by George's Concertina Band also had people on the dance floor.

The event also featured Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for MN, IA, ND, SD, making a special presentation to Eva Kubrova from Prague, the Czech Republic.

Kucera presented Kubrova with her new Czech passport after hers had expired. According to Kucera, Czech people return expired passports, unlike Americans who get to keep them. The presentation needed to happen in an approved place,

like the Honorary Consul Office in Chicago, however Kucera received special permission to present it to her at Masopust.

Kubrova has lived in Rochester for three years. She works for Mayo Clinic Health System. She said Masopust is less common in cities, but still thrives in rural areas of the country.

"I've been to only three Masopust celebrations in my life," she said. "This is pretty cool. I like it."

Council OKs park improvements

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As part of its consent agenda on Tuesday, Feb. 22, the Montgomery City Council approved a recommendation by the Park Advisory Board for improvements to Memorial Park.

According to information provided by the city, the improvements call for the south shelter in the park to receive a metal ceiling and new lighting at the cost of \$8,500. The same is also planned for the north shelter in the amount of \$10,900 if funds are available. Mach Construction and Ruhland Electric will be doing both projects.

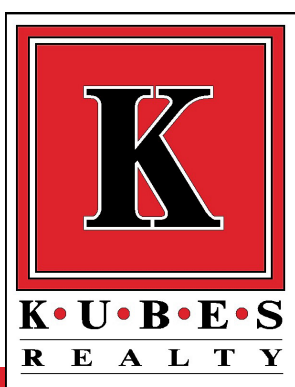
City Administrator Brian Heck said improving the shelters is part of the city's Park Improvement Plan.

The council also authorized the staff to apply for a \$50,000 T-Mobile Hometown Grant. If successful, the money would be used for improvements to Northside Park, including tennis court rehabilitation, hockey rink installation and shelter improvements.

Other business

- Police Officer Nicholas Borowski was sworn in.

- The council awarded the bid to J.R. Stelzer Co. for cleaning, repairing and painting of Montgomery's 500,000-gallon elevated water tower. J.R. Stelzer Co.'s low bid came in at \$597,900, with the high bid of \$811,000 coming from TMI Coatings, Inc.



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