

STEELE COUNTY Times



A LOVE STORY A3

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY B5



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022

A church in turmoil

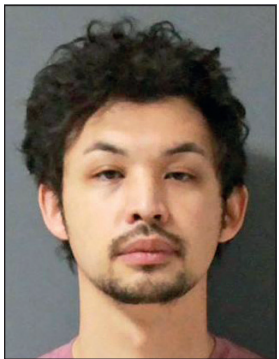
Report: Former pastor fired 3 years after alleged abuse

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

A former youth pastor at a church in Owatonna has been accused of having a relationship with a minor who was part of his youth group.

The case also calls into question the issue of mandatory reporting – and has resulted in the resignation of the long-time minister.

Sean Patrick Masopust, 32, of Owatonna, is charged with one felony count of fourth-degree criminal sexual con-



Sean Masopust

duct. He was arrested at his home last week, then released from custody in lieu of \$5,000 conditional bond. A settlement conference has been set for April 21.

According to the criminal complaint, Masopust initiated a sexual relationship with a girl who worked at the daycare in the church basement – and was also a student youth leader under the direction of Masopust and his wife, who is listed as a “staff member” on the church’s website, overseeing the youth ministry.

His father-in-law, Mark Perryman, was listed as the minister of Northridge Church. He resigned Sunday, according to former members of the church.

Masopust’s mother-in-law, Tammy Perryman, resigned Friday as the director

See **CHURCH** on A12 ▶



Minister among those to resign

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

For three years, at least three adults knew about alleged inappropriate contact between a former youth pastor and a member of his youth group.

In that time, no one went to police, no one

See **MINISTER** on A14 ▶

Former church youth face off with leadership

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

Sexual allegations against a former Owatonna youth pastor have resulted in criminal charges and the resignation of the entire ministerial staff – in a case reminiscent of the biblical story of David and Goliath.

The first public whisper of wrong-doing

came on Dec. 21, when Kayla Mollenhauer, a former member of the youth group at Northridge Church, wrote a Facebook post detailing what she called her “religious trauma” at the hands of Felicia and Sean Masopust.

Two months earlier, Sean Masopust had been removed as an associate pastor at the

church, for “conduct unbecoming a pastor,” but no details were shared.

In Mollenhauer’s post, she described signing a “contract” for the youth group leadership team. It included being prohibited from dating until age 18 and required tithing every paycheck, as well as being “encouraged to tell Felicia everything we knew about” other

members of the group.

Mollenhauer said Mark Perryman, the pastor of the church and Felicia Masopust’s father, “berated her” because her mother worked too much “and this was not honoring God. He would tell this to me, a 14-year-old girl, who knows her single mother is just trying to make ends meet.”

See **FORMER** on A10 ▶

DQ video goes viral; employees respond

(EDITOR’S NOTE: Three former employees of Dairy Queen who are embroiled in the controversy of a viral video agreed to interview with the Steele County Times on the condition they remain anonymous. While The Times typically doesn’t allow this, we made an exception in this case only because there have been threats to their personal safety.)

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

In this age of social media and instant feedback, there lies a message. More than one, maybe.

Nowhere was it more obvious than a video that went viral last week after an altercation at Dairy Queen in Owatonna. The video shows just seven seconds of what happened during the Jan. 30 incident, but

that seven seconds was more than enough for thousands of people to weigh in.

The video shows an employee tossing a bag of food out the door of the business; the bag lands on the sidewalk, spilling open, at the feet of a woman standing in front of a vehicle. The woman takes a step forward, plants one foot and attempts to kick the bag of food back toward

See **DQ VIDEO** on A10 ▶



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

The Dairy Queen in Owatonna is temporarily closed pending an investigation by its owners into an altercation between employees and a customer.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Kymerly Glaser, 21 months, holds her baby brother Connor, who was the first baby born within the Blooming Prairie School District when he arrived Jan. 25. Mom Emily Glaser, left, is the executive director of the Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce.

First baby in BP school district arrives

BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

So far, Connor George Glaser has had pretty good timing.

His mom’s pre-planned maternity leave started Jan. 24 – Connor arrived at 6:28 p.m. Jan. 25.

And even though he wasn’t a New Year’s Day baby, he is the first baby born in the Blooming Prairie School District – earning him a nice little keepsake for his baby book.

Connor is the son of Ryan and Emily Glaser; big sister Kymerly will be 2 in May.

Emily, who is the executive director of the Blooming Prairie Cham-

ber of Commerce, said the 8-pounder arrived at Mayo Clinic Hospital, Methodist Campus, in Rochester after less than 12 hours of labor.

His middle name is “after quite a few grandfathers on both sides,” she said.

Meanwhile, Kymerly “was unsure of him at first, but now she wants to be near him, helping out all the time,” Glaser said.

So what does his mom – one of the city’s biggest cheerleaders – hope Connor learns about his hometown?

“We want him to know that Blooming Prairie is a great community,” she said. “He’ll love growing up here.”



Keith Hiller

Police chief to retire

Owatonna Police Chief Keith Hiller announced on Friday that he will be retiring on June 30 after 35 years in law enforcement.

For more on Hiller’s announcement and his decision to retire, please see Page A5.

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AREA DEATHS

Richard Asseth, 75, Ellendale
Diane Mundt, 74, Owatonna
Gladys Smith, 96, Owatonna
Thomas Voracek, 91, Owatonna
Melanie Maki, 51, Owatonna
Gary Sell Sr., 61, Owatonna
Diane Riebe, 78, Alden

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