

TODD COUNTY'S LARGEST NEWS SOURCE

Independent News Herald

EST. 1893
 Wednesday, December 29, 2021
\$1.00



Building in Hewitt destroyed by fire on Christmas Eve

At approximately 3:30 a.m. on Christmas Eve, a fire was reported at the Jason Motl residence/mechanic business (former Denim and Diamonds Bar). The Hewitt Fire Department was assisted by Bertha, Wadena, Verdale and Staples fire departments to fight the blaze. A power pole was also burned, causing the town to be without power from approximately 4 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. as a new pole had to be erected. A backhoe was brought in to push the building down to extinguish the fire as the front portion of the structure had two attics that made extinguishing the blaze difficult. The cause of the fire is under investigation. No injuries were reported.



Bertha and surrounding ambulance services need more EMTs

by Trinity Gruenberg
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A lengthy discussion was held during the Bertha City Council meeting on December 13 about the future of the Bertha Ambulance Service. Ambulance Director Russ VanDenheuvel had planned to retire at the end of December. He decided to stay on the crew through February in hopes of finding a new director and recruiting more EMTs.

VanDenheuvel and a few others will be leaving Bertha's service, putting the ambulance in a tough position. They met with the state and other surrounding area services are in the same boat, struggling to get EMTs and coverage. Some have had to go out of service for some shifts as there was no coverage. Bertha

has not had to do that but it has come close.

The last meeting with the ambulance crew still left half of the calendar empty for coverage.

VanDenheuvel explained he is speaking with Tri-County, Staples, Parkers Prairie and others to help cover day shifts. He proposed to do what Parkers Prairie is doing, getting a full-time paid EMT for day time coverage.

"If we don't get enough EMTs by February, we may not have a service. It's that critical," explained VanDenheuvel.

The state allows one EMT and one EMR (emergency medical responder) also called a first responder. VanDenheuvel proposed also recruiting EMRs to help drive the ambulance.

They discussed this idea with Bertha and Eagle Bend and Eagle Bend offered 12 EMRs to assist on shifts.

It is difficult to have one EMT in the back with the patient. VanDenheuvel would like an EMR in back with the EMT and another EMR driving.

"We're going to need EMRs on our ambulance service from here on forward, in my opinion," noted VanDenheuvel.

While there are EMRs on local fire departments, they would recruit for just medical calls with the ambulance.

"It's not easy but our community needs EMTs," he added.

They are looking to recruit 15 people to become EMTs with hopes classes could begin

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Pursuit leads to arrest

On December 25, at approximately 2:44 a.m., Todd County deputies attempted a traffic stop for a speeding violation on County Road 2 near County Road 99.

The vehicle, a 1997 Chevy truck, accelerated in an attempt to elude deputies. Deputies pursued the suspect vehicle on County Road 2 and then north on US 71. Deputies used a Stop Stick (tire deflation device) at the intersection of US 71 and State 27.

The suspect vehicle continued north on US 71, a second set of Stop Sticks were used on US 71 near County Road 10 by a Long Prairie police officer. Both deployments of the Stop Sticks were successful.

The pursuit continued through the city of Long Prairie. As the suspect vehicle turned south onto Lake Street from 4th Ave. S., Todd County deputies used a PIT (Pursuit Intervention Tactic) maneuver, causing the vehicle to spin out and come to a stop. At this time, the driver/ lone occupant, Taylor Huston, of rural Long Prairie was arrested.

Huston is being held at the Todd County Detention Center pending charges. The Todd County Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Long Prairie Police Department and the Minnesota State Patrol.



Taylor Huston

~ 2021 — The year in review ~



Broadband coalition moves forward with Accelerate program

Brady takes another team to the Super Bowl
 Cousins remain "fans no matter where Tommy plays"

City of Hewitt has a new clerk

Kathy Wiirre
 City of Hewitt hired by clerk. Her name reemwaldt and she rural Hewitt with sand Travis. They children, along ur grandchildren on

"THIS VACCINE WILL SLOW THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS, PROTECT THE VULNERABLE, AND HELP US ALL MOVE ON WITH OUR LIVES."

—Christine Albrecht, MD



Another accident plagues County Road 11 and 14 intersection

The after-effects of COVID-19

Botello's Mexican Market brings a different flavor to Browerville

Lady Tigers head to State Tournament

Shooting in Long Prairie leaves one dead and two fighting for their lives



by Karin L. Nauber
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 David Botello from Long Prairie has always been a hard worker.

Farmers feeling the effects of the ongoing drought

Chauvin sentenced to 22.5 years in prison

Riot on Capitol Hill