

Independent vs Herald

Wednesday, December 29, 2021 \$1.00



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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, Verndale 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 trintity@inhnews.com 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 re-cruiting 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.

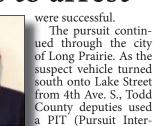
It is difficult to have one EMT in the back with the patient. VanDenheuvel would like an EMR in back with the EMT and another EMR driv-

"We're going to need EMRs on our ambulance service from here on forward, in my opin-

Pursuit leads to arrest

On December 25, at approximately 2:44 a.m., Todd County deputies attempted a traffic stop for a speeding vio-lation on County Road 2 near County Road 99. The vehicle, a 1997

Chevy truck, accelerated in an attempt to



Taylor Huston

vention Tactic) maneuver, causing 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.

ion," 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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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

