



## Two injured in rollover

On Wednesday, February 9, at 12:48 p.m. the Todd County Sheriff's Office responded to a one vehicle rollover crash on County Road 21 near County Road 20. The Browerville Fire Department and Browerville Ambulance responded to the scene. The driver, Tina Wortham, 54, and passenger, Jay Bjerke, both of Browerville received minor injuries as a result of the crash. Both were transported to CentraCare - Long Prairie to be treated for injuries sustained in the accident.

## Long Prairie man killed in 3M accident in Alexandria



Dale Skillings of Long Prairie was killed in an industrial accident in Alexandria.

authorities and OSHA on the investigation. The plant was closed Tuesday and reopened Wednesday. No details have been released as to what caused the fatality. "At 3M, the safety and health of all our employees is our top priority. We are working closely with the authorities as they conduct their investigation," continued the statement. The 3M plant provides abrasives, adhesives and microreplication to industrial customers. According to an obituary from the Williams Dingmann Stein Funeral Home in Long Prairie, Dale Skillings of Long Prairie "died suddenly Tuesday from injuries received in an industrial work accident in Alexandria." The obituary went on to say that Skillings, 63, served in the National Guard and worked at Camp Ripley from 1976-2012. He married his wife, Mary, in 1983. He began working at 3M in 2013. He doted on his grandchildren and attended many of their events. He also enjoyed hunting, fishing and camping. His funeral was held on February 14 at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Long Prairie.

On Tuesday, February 8, around 3:44 a.m., a man was caught in a machine and killed at the 3M plant in Alexandria. The Maplewood-based 3M issued a statement: "We are deeply saddened to confirm that one of our 3M Alexandria team members died overnight at the plant. We are reaching out to the employee's family to offer support, and our thoughts are with the employee's family and friends." 3-M officials are working with

## Todd County creates a local Adopt a Highway program



Volunteering for Adopt a Highway in Todd County is a two times a year commitment over a two year period. It's a great way for a church group, service organization, family or individual to show their community they care.

by Karin L. Nauber  
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 Many of us are familiar with the Adopt a Highway program that is operated by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). We have seen the signs along state highways throughout Min-

nesota and other states, too. The Adopt a Highway Program is made up of volunteers who pick up litter along Minnesota's state highways. There are several benefits to this program because it enables residents who are environmentally conscious to make contributions to a cleaner environment. It also was worth an approximate value of \$7 million in 2019. According to MnDOT, it works like this: Community groups, churches, individuals or businesses adopt a highway by picking up litter on both sides of a road at least two times per year for at least two years. You have undoubtedly (unless you never leave your home) seen groups out cleaning the ditches during the spring and fall. You may even be a part of one of the groups. There are also many other benefits to this volunteer program. **Benefits of volunteering** • Keeps roadsides beautiful and free of litter • Public service project for groups and families • Shows that Minnesotans care about their state • Saves taxpayers money There are also a few different volunteer options including: • Adopt a Highway or Rest Area: Volunteers sign an agreement with MnDOT to adopt a section of state highway or designated rest area and commit to pick up litter at least twice a year. • Pick a Highway: Pick a highway is a one-time litter picking activity on an assigned segment of state highway. Also import to note is that MnDOT will provide bags, approved safety vests, training and bag retrieval. You contribute approximately four hours of labor. Contact an Adopt a Highway coordinator for details. Now you also have another option for volunteering locally! At their January 18 work session, the Todd County Board of Commissioners heard from



Now you can "adopt a highway" in Todd County and help keep your favorite road ditch clean.

## Families mourn loved ones as Minnesota reaches highest number of traffic deaths since 2007; 497 lives lost in crashes in 2021

**Fatality Breakdown**  
 Out of the 497 fatalities on Minnesota roads, 72 percent are male.

10 and under	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71+	Unknown
7 (1.4%)	48 (9.7%)	84 (16.9%)	86 (17.3%)	59 (11.9%)	71 (14.3%)	67 (13.5%)	74 (14.9%)	1 (0.2%)

**Minnesota Traffic Fatalities 2007-2021**

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
510	455	421	411	368	395	387	361	411	392	358	381	364	394	497

\*\*\*2021 497 preliminary

Yes, 497 is the highest number of traffic fatalities since 2007 when there were 510 traffic deaths, according to preliminary figures reported by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety. Minnesota averaged 378 traffic fatalities a year from 2016-2020. Minnesota reported the first traffic fatality of 2022 on New Year's Day when a 51-year-old unbelted male driver was killed in Goodhue County. Alcohol and driving too fast for the conditions

## Bertha-Hewitt BPA heading to state



The Bertha-Hewitt BPA chapter participated at the Region 7 competition in Alexandria on January 28 with 10 BPA members qualifying for State BPA in March. Front row: Emma Hubbard, Elizabeth Hubbard, Rochelle Dean, Taylor Lloyd and Ella Banister. Back row: Ashley Warren, Carissa Winscher, Jorja Weishalla, Isaac Blashack, Nathan Blashack and Gavin Brown. Not pictured, Mike Bauck, BPA advisor.

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