

YEAR IN REVIEW TOP 10 STORIES

2 Prior Lake woman among six charged in Bloomington murder

Prior Lake resident Briana Marie Martinson and five others were charged in Hennepin County District Court in May for the murder of Bloomington resident Corey Preston Elder. Martinson was charged with two counts of second-degree murder, and one count each of first-degree burglary and second-degree assault.



Briana Marie Martinson

3 Fatal motorcycle crash Halloween night

A fatal motorcycle crash took place on Panama Avenue in Spring Lake Township on Halloween, close to 8 p.m. The motorcycle was attempting to pass another vehicle when it was struck by a vehicle headed the other way.

4 Prior Lake area native killed in snowmobile accident on Wisconsin lake

Todd Kane, 42, grew up in Prior Lake but lived in Rice Lake, Wisconsin. Kane died in a snowmobile accident in January. Kane was remembered for being a "Broncos fan, car enthusiast, dog lover and Coors Light connoisseur" according to a post from his employer at the time of his death.

5 Prior Lake High School student suffers fatal aneurysm

Prior Lake High School senior Matthew Millenacker, 18, died of a cerebral aneurysm in April. Millenacker was remembered in his obituary as having an "upbeat disposition" and being a "fun-loving, kind person."

7 Man who helped save Prior Lake homes from flood waters dies boating accident

Bill Pearson, 69, died in a boating accident in Carleton Place, Ontario, Canada, on August 18. Pearson had made sure his company donated tons of sand for protective sandbags during the flood to protect Prior Lake homes.



Charlie, one of the dogs who came from a cruel backgr that foster l

8 Foster homes found for dogs

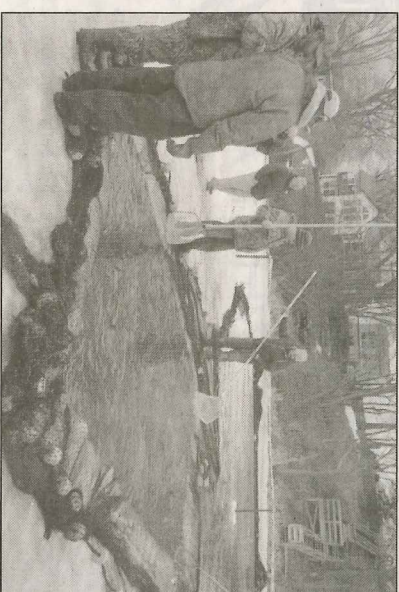
About 10 dogs found last-minute homes in Dubuque, Iowa, after being euthanized. They were Labrador, Collie and Golden Retriever mixes from a cruel backgr. Animal organizations across the state worked to find the dogs temporary homes in less than 48 hours.

9 Man gets 20 years for drive-by shootings in Scott County

Luke Mackenzie Campbell pleaded guilty in Scott County to drive-by shooting incidents in Shakopee and Prior Lake. The shooting incident in Shakopee took place in 2016, where a bus passenger was injured. Campbell pleaded guilty in relation to a shooting near Mystic Hotel Casino.

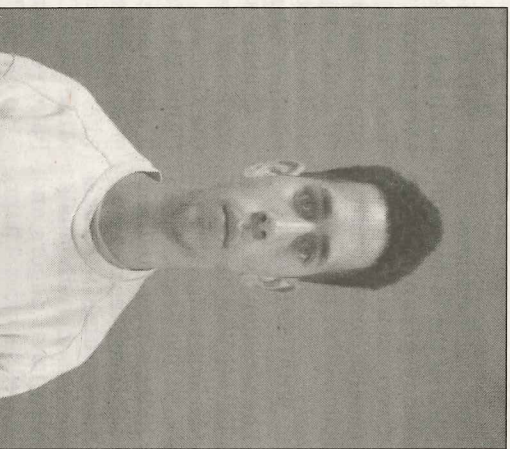
10 A record carp haul on Spring Lake

Commercial fisherman pulled in 1,000 pounds of carp in January. The haul was coordinated by the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office to reduce the population in Spring and Prior lakes. Carp destroy is essential to native fish.



Commercial fishermen catch carp through a hole in the ice on Spring Lake.

The mugshot of Donte Zemaits-Thomas, who was arrested for an alleged rape at a party in Mankato. Zemaits-Thomas was a 2016 graduate from Prior Lake High School.



COURTESY OF THE BLUE EARTH COUNTY JAIL ROSTER.

1 Prior Lake High School grad charged with rape

Donte Zemaits-Thomas was charged with two counts of criminal sexual conduct and false imprisonment in November for an alleged rape that took place in Mankato. Both charges are felonies in Blue Earth County Court. Zemaits-Thomas graduated from Prior Lake High School in 2016.

PRIOR LAKE VFW

- Saturday 12-30 Full Menu 5-9
- Sunday 12-31 Steak Fry 5 to 8:30 Record High Band 8:30-12:30 Champagne Toast at Midnight
- Monday 1-1 Happy New Year Bar Opens at Noon Bloody Mary Bar
- Tuesday 1-2 Taco's and More 4:30-7
- Wednesday 1-3 Bar Menu 5pm Bingo 6pm
- Thursday 1-4 Meat Raffle 5pm Limited Bar Menu 5pm
- Friday 1-5 Full Menu 5 to 9
- Prior Lake VFW Post 6208
- Downtown Prior Lake www.vfwpost6208.com 952-226-6208

St. Michael Catholic Church

- 16311 Duluth Avenue SE Prior Lake, MN 55372 952-447-2491 www.stmichael-pl.org
- Weekend Mass Times: Saturday 5:00 p.m. Sunday 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.
- Weekday Mass Times: Tuesday 6:00 p.m. Wednesday 8:00 a.m. Thursday 8:00 p.m. Friday 8:00 a.m.
- Communion Service: Monday at 8:00 a.m.

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Serving: Carver, McLeod, Scott, Wright, and Western Hennepin

- Packet of helpful information including maps, and civic and county resources
- Local merchant gift certificates
- Answers to your new-to-town questions
- No sales



RENEE Your local greeter 952-447-2977



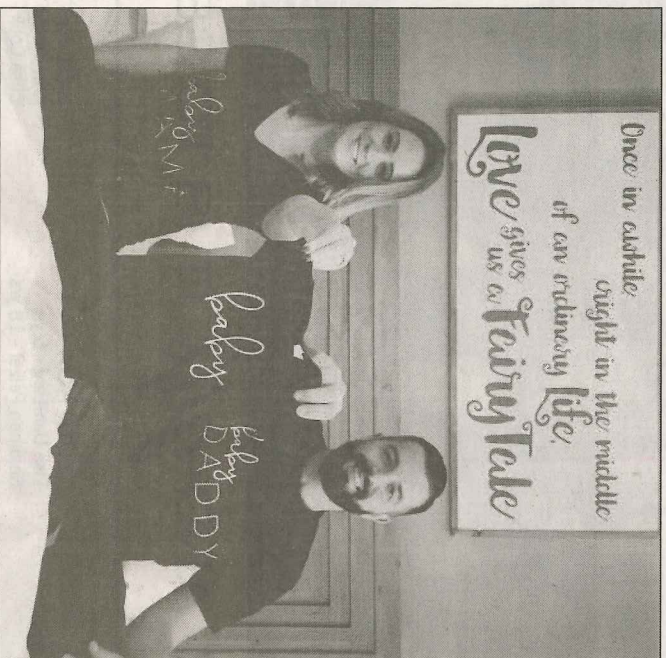
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6 Celebrating Zach: benefit set for man's bereaved family

Zach Caruso of Savage died in March. A benefit and silent auction was held in April in Prior Lake to make sure his family was taken care of. Caruso died of angiosarcoma cancer just nine weeks and five days after his diagnosis.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

6 man's bereaved family

Zach Caruso of Savage died in March. A benefit and silent auction was held in April in Prior Lake to make sure his family was taken care of. Caruso died of angiosarcoma cancer just nine weeks and five days after his diagnosis.

MORE ONLINE

TO SEE A LIST OF POSITIVE NEWS STORIES FROM 2017, COMPILED BY STAFF OF THE PRIOR LAKE AMERICAN, VISIT plamerican.com