

TIGERS STUN CARDINALS

Girls basketball pulled off a
last-minute win Saturday / A6



GET READY TO VOTE

Did you know there is a
special election Feb. 8? / A4

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022

Oh baby, what a new year!

Local couples deliver first babies of 2022 in Hutchinson and Glencoe



Jaxon Miller is Hutchinson Health's first baby of 2022. He's pictured with his parents, Sami and Nathan.

Jaxon joins a growing family

Hutchinson Health's
first baby of the year is
also his parents' first

BY JEREMY JONES
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Following Christmas and New Year's Eve, the family of Sami and Nathan Miller of Hutchinson still had one more big day to celebrate: The Jan. 3 birth of their son, Jaxon.

Weighing in at 8 pounds, 2 ounces, and 20 inches long, the child born at 9:04 a.m. is the couple's first. He's also Hutchinson Health's

first baby of 2022.

Sami, 24, and Nathan, 25, first met when they were in their late teens living in Illinois. Their first introduction was on social media.

"He added me on Facebook," Sami said. "We started chatting. I found out he lived in a town near where I did. I was working at a Taco Bell and he'd come through the drive-thru to talk to me. That's where he asked me to be his girlfriend. So that was kind of cute."

"I thought she was beautiful," Nathan said. "And just really nice. She was funny, too."

"I thought he was pretty funny when we were talking, and he knew how to make me smile," Sami said.

Jaxon to A4 >



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Parents Shawn and Fiona Smith of Hutchinson hold their new daughter, Cedar. She was born Jan. 5 at Glencoe Regional Health and was Glencoe's first baby of 2022.

Cedar brings new year surprises

Hutchinson couple's
daughter is Glencoe's
first baby of the year

BY STEPHEN WIBLEMO
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Everyone likes a good surprise. On Jan. 5, Fiona and Shawn Smith of Hutchinson got two: they found out they had a new daughter, and that she was the first baby born at Glencoe Regional Health in 2022.

"We were told a little after she was born, so we had no idea," Fiona said about her little

girl, Cedar Elowyn Joy Smith, being Glencoe's first baby of 2022. "I thought for sure there was already a baby born. She was actually due on (Jan. 3), so she was a little late."

Cedar was born 6 pounds, 12 ounces and 20 inches long in what Fiona described as a "really fast and really intense" delivery that took less than an hour. It went so quickly that only two nurses were present when the baby arrived.

"It came so fast that the doctor wasn't able to get in the room and Shawn didn't make it because he was at home with our dog," Fiona said. "We expected it to go longer. (The nurses) were like, 'Don't push, don't push!' and I said, 'I can't not push, the baby's coming!'"

Cedar to A4 >

Meyer called to serve at Trinity Episcopal

The Rev. Kerri Meyer of
Good Courage Farm has
accepted new pastoral role

BY BRENT SCHACHERER
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Litchfield's oldest church has a new pastor. And both Trinity Episcopal Church members and the Rev. Kerri Meyer are optimistic about the match.

"I feel pretty lucky," said Meyer, who was called in late December to serve as part-time priest-in-charge at Trinity Episcopal. "I am so moved by the history, commitment to the parish, commitment to the community. ... We said yes to this invitation to the spirit."

Trinity Episcopal Church, founded as a mission church in 1871, marked its 150th anniversary this past May. Church membership has risen and fallen during the past century and a half, from a high of about 150 to a current congregation that numbers about 20 on any given Sunday.

As parishioners celebrated the church's

anniversary, they looked to a future of re-invigorating the congregation. Mary-Anne Olmsted-Kohls, the church's senior warden, said leadership was working with the diocese "to develop our future course."

Served by so-called "supply priests" for several years, the church looked to add a pastor who could provide a more local presence. Meyer turned out to be that person.

"Trinity's new priest looks forward to being a regular and neighborly presence in Litchfield, and to counting herself among the friendly and hospitable group of faithful Christians who call Trinity their church home," Olmsted-Kohls said in a written release announcing Meyer's call. "Her preaching brings a uniquely Episcopalian voice to the community, focusing on Jesus' steadfast example of justice-seeking love that embraces strangers and those whom society casts aside."

Meyer was born and raised in Michigan, but she lived in St. Paul for several years while helping to start a church. She then spent six years in California, where she was ordained a priest, before moving back to Minnesota.

Meyer to A4 >



The Rev. Kerri Meyer accepted a call late last year to serve as part-time priest-in-charge at Trinity Episcopal Church in Litchfield. She moved back to Minnesota about two years ago after six years in California, where she served as associate rector of St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church in San Francisco.

STAFF PHOTO BY
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