

BOOKS HIGHLIGHT
BLACK HISTORY
Children's collection includes
titles that honor culture / 5



WHERE COUNTY
GOT ITS NAME
Terry Shaw shares
local history / 6



Anglers stand at attention and cover their hearts during the singing of the National Anthem before the start of the Wintercade ice fishing contest Saturday on Lake Ripley.

Fishing for prizes, community support

Wintercade fishing tournament brings hundreds to Lake Ripley

It was cold Saturday, but it didn't seem to matter to the hundreds of people gathered on frozen Lake Ripley. In fact, recent history indicates that if temperatures aren't hovering around the 0-degree mark, with subzero windchills, it just wouldn't be the Wintercade Veterans Appreciation Ice Fishing Contest. And with thousands of dollars in prizes — and

Fishing to 2 >



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRENT SCHACHERER

Brady McGraw sits among the hundreds of others working their lines in pursuit of a prize winning fish during the Wintercade ice fishing contest Saturday on Lake Ripley.

Man fatally shoots himself following police chase

Brainerd man died of single shot to the head, medical examiner says

BY BRENT SCHACHERER
schacherer@hutchinsonleader.com

A Brainerd man involved in an exchange of gunfire with police early Saturday morning died of a self-inflicted gunshot to the head. The Midwest Medical Examiner's Office in a statement released Sunday afternoon identified the man as Stephen Chris Poissant, 34, and his cause of death. According to a Minnesota Department of Public Safety news release, Poissant exchanged gunfire with Eden Valley police officer Evan Borscheid, and suffered a "graze injury" to his knee during the incident west of the city. The news release did not say at what point Poissant shot himself. Borscheid, who has been in law enforcement for five years, according to the news release, was not injured. He has been placed on administrative leave, which is standard procedure in such cases. The incident began at approximately 2:20 a.m. in Eden Valley when Borscheid attempted a traffic stop for speeding and a headlight violation. But when he tried to pull over the vehicle Poissant was driving, Poissant took off on Highway 55. The chase ended when the vehicle drove into a ditch about one mile west of Eden Valley, Meeker County Sheriff Brian Cruze said in a statement.

Chase to 2 >

Agreement on capital plan proves difficult

Projects compete with concern over rising taxes

BY BRENT SCHACHERER
schacherer@hutchinsonleader.com

Charting the city's financial course continues to spark disagreement among Litchfield City Council members. The philosophical divide between rising taxes and capital investments played out again during a more-than-one-hour discussion of the city's Capital Improvement Plan that was part of the City Council's Feb. 7 meeting. In the end, the CIP received unanimous approval from the five Council members at the meeting. The resolution included Commercial Street stormwater improvement, Memorial Park parking lot and exterior repair of the Litchfield Library for 2022. In addition, the fate of a wellness/recreation center will be left up to voters if the city proceeds with a referendum on a local option sales tax this fall. But those decisions only came after some tense moments of disagreement. At one point, Mayor Keith Johnson responded with raised voice to questions from Ward 2 Council member Darlene Kotelnicki, who said she was concerned about



Darlene Kotelnicki



Keith Johnson

Council to 8 >

CELEBRATING AN OVERTIME SHIFT



STAFF PHOTO BY BRENT SCHACHERER

Litchfield/Dassel-Cokato girls hockey team members celebrate in front of the student section following their dramatic 2-1 win over Minnesota River in the fourth overtime of their section semifinal contest Saturday at Litchfield Civic Arena. With the win, the Dragons advanced to the Section 2A championship game against Mankato East Thursday at Mankato. See additional coverage on Page 12.