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SPORTS, 1B

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Criminal cases move ahead in Layson Davis shooting

Corey Schmidt
St. Cloud Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Criminal cases stemming from a shooting in St. Cloud’s east side this February are making their way through Benton County District Court.

Three individuals involved have pleaded guilty to their respective charges. Meanwhile, the two suspected shooters have yet to enter a plea. The two shooters have court appearances scheduled for Nov. 19.

Layson Davis, 17, died in the shooting. He was an uncle and an aspiring rapper.

Meanwhile, Victor Diaz, 19, was severely injured. Here’s what you need to know about the cases:

Bernard Bowens

Bowens is accused of killing Davis. He faces a felony charge of second-degree murder, according to the criminal complaint.

The suspected shooter was on the run for nearly four months. Investigators arrested Bowens on May 27 in Minneapolis. St. Cloud police were onto Bowens after he allegedly reached out to

Gov. Tim Walz’s office through an online contact form, leaving contact information for his friends, according to a search warrant application.

An omnibus hearing is scheduled for Nov. 19. The hearing is typically when parties can file pre-trial notions or potentially resolve the case with a plea agreement. He is currently held at the Benton County Jail.

Kevon Washington

Washington is accused of shooting

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Layson Davis enjoying the outdoors. He was killed on Feb. 2 in St. Cloud.
PROVIDED BY KRISTIN DAVIS

Chefs, ciders and charm



Erin Lucas, the owner of Flour & Flower in St. Joseph, teaches Cory Hepola how to bakes baguettes during an episode of ‘My Town.’ PROVIDED BY CORY HEPOLA

‘My Town’ series to showcase the City of St. Joseph on Nov. 23

A.J. Kaufman Special to the St. Cloud Times | USA TODAY NETWORK

The City of St. Joseph will be featured Nov. 23 during the second season of the series “My Town.” The episode will air at 6:30 p.m. People can watch shows for free at “My Town Series” on YouTube. • Additionally, there will be a red-carpet premiere in St. Cloud on Nov. 20, where host Cory Hepola will be conducting a question-and-answer session. The VIP Reception runs from 5 to 6 p.m. at StageWorks, with a screening and Q & A from 6 to 8 p.m. at Pioneer Place.

Hepola, a former Twin Cities television and radio anchor, is the program’s director and host. The show positively portrays rural America and aims to accurately explain the local lifestyles. Hepola believes many people rely on “long-standing negative stereotypes,” which are inaccurate.

The St. Joseph episode is titled “Cory Gets Healthy in This Small College Town” and has a description that reads:

“Growing up just a couple of hours from small town St. Joseph, Minnesota, Cory never really thought much about it. Forced to train for a triathlon, Cory swims in a popular lake, bikes through the woods, and runs on an

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Milk and Honey Ciders in St. Joseph grows about 30 different apple varieties. TEAGAN KING/ST. CLOUD TIMES

Cold Spring City Hall remodel faces rifts over designs

Teagan King
St. Cloud Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Cold Spring’s plans for its city hall remodel are still in the works, after opinions were divided on the design.

The Cold Spring City Council tabled the discussion on city hall design plans at its Nov. 12 meeting, following a heated public hearing and disagreement among the council members.

Construction on the proposed remodel is estimated to cost about \$4.2 million, for a total of about \$4.7 million, including additional costs, according to Donlar Construction representatives who presented at the meeting. There would also be a tax levy to help pay for the project, which would be determined in the future.

Multiple community members spoke during the meeting’s public hearing, expressing mixed opinions. Some said they think the larger building is needed, while others worried that the city might take shortcuts on the remodel or questioned whether or not the city is truly growing fast enough to warrant the project.

“If we’re going to spend all that money inside, I don’t want to see any cutting corners for the taxpayer, who’s partial owner of this building, on those important things,” resident Derek Hoi-um said during the public hearing. “We have to do everything to make sure this is going to last.”

Prospective city hall renovations come as Cold Spring’s population nearly doubled since the current city hall was built in 1984, when the population was about 2,300 people, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The proposed designs include expanded spaces for the police department in anticipation of a growing staff in the future, as well as expanded city council meeting chambers and other city government spaces, according to designs presented by HMA Architects and Wold Architects.

The building’s exterior would also

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