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Media Release

St. Croix County Traffic Fatality
Occurred 01-13-2015 1926 hrs.

On January 13, 2015 at approximately 7:26pm Deputies responded to a report of a two vehicle crash at the intersection of CTH "T" and CTH "G" in the township of Erin Prairie. To this point the investigation shows that a 2003 Ford truck was northbound on CTH "T" being driven by Cody A. Stephenson, age 27, of Lonsdale, MN. The Stephenson vehicle failed to stop at the stop sign for northbound traffic on CTH "T" at CTH "G" entered the intersection and collided with a 2000 Cadillac Eldorado that was eastbound on CTH "G". The Cadillac was operated by Deborah Merlin Bugni, age 54, of Woodville, WI.

Deborah Merlin Bugni suffered fatal injuries as a result of the crash and was pronounced dead at the scene by the St. Croix County Medical Examiner's Office. Cody Stephenson was transported to Regions Hospital in St. Paul with non-life threatening injuries. There is evidence of alcohol being a possible contributing factor in the crash on the part of Mr. Stephenson.

Deborah Merlin Bugni was wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash.

Assisting in the investigation and scene response were the New Richmond Fire and Ambulance Services, the New Richmond and Hammond Police Departments and the St. Croix County Medical Examiners Office.

The crash remains under investigation by the St. Croix County Sheriff's Office. This is St. Croix County's 1st traffic fatality of 2015.