

Photo of the Week



Ron Larson took this photo of his dog, Jax, greeting a deer in their back yard on May 1. The deer walked up to the dog to check him out. If you have a great photo, email it to Lowell Anderson at landerson@echopress.com.

No charges filed in fatal pedestrian crash in Alexandria

By Al Edenloff
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No charges will be filed against the driver who was involved in a fatal crash with a pedestrian on South McKay Avenue in Alexandria on June 5.

Douglas County Attorney Chad Larson reviewed the results of the investigation conducted by the Alexandria Police Department and wrote a letter to Chief Rick Wyffels on July 28 saying that no charges will be filed.

The crash happened just after 10 p.m. when Maya Ayala, 18, of Alexandria, attempted to cross McKay Avenue just north of 6th Avenue. "There were no street lights in that area, nor did Ayala use a crosswalk," according to Larson. She was struck by a 1994 Mercury Marquis driven by Andrew Lindner, 19, of Alexandria.

Lindner, who was traveling approximately 30 miles per hour in the 30 mph zone, didn't see Ayala until the collision, Larson said.

"Subsequent investiga-

tion revealed that Ayala was under the influence of a controlled substance at the time," Larson said. He added there is no evidence that Lindner was criminally negligent or under the influence of any illicit substances.

Larson said there was also no evidence indicating that Lindner was using his phone at the time of the collision.

Lindner immediately stopped and called 911 for assistance, according to police. He stayed at the scene until authorities arrived and was fully cooperative in the investigation, according to the police department.

Ayala was transported to Alomere Health by North Ambulance and was later airlifted to the St. Cloud Hospital. She died while at the St. Cloud Hospital.

"This appears to be a tragic accident," Larson said.

Ayala was originally from Long Prairie and attended the Runestone Regional Learning Center in Alexandria.

Three people injured in a two-vehicle crash near Alexandria

By Jasmine Johnson
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Four people were involved in a two-vehicle crash on Highway 29 in Lake Mary Township Tuesday, July 28.

Greta Reichmann, 19, of Villard was driving a 2010 Ford Edge southbound on Highway 29 near County Road 88 around 2:30 p.m. when she stopped to make a left turn, according to the State Patrol.

Sara Raugutt, 27, of Paynesville hit the back end of the Ford in her 2019 Dodge Caravan, pushing Reichmann's vehicle across the northbound lane where it stopped in the turn lane, according to the report.

Raugutt, Reichmann and Reichmann's passenger, 11-year-old Grady Suchy, had non-life-threatening injuries and were transported to Alomere Health in Alexandria. Another passenger in Reichmann's vehicle, Kennedy Suchy, 14, was not injured, according to the State Patrol.

Both drivers and passengers were wearing seat belts.

North Ambulance and the Douglas County Sheriff's Office assisted at the scene.

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