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Karen Tolkkinen / Echo Press

Baihly Styer looks over garbage left behind after tenants moved out of her Villard home on Aug. 10.

All can play a role in abuse prevention

Editor's note: This occasional series sheds light on the various organizations and people in the community who are helping in the effort to put an end to domestic violence.

By Celeste Edenloff
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Everyone can play a role in preventing abuse, including those who work at Horizon Public Health, which serves not only people in Douglas County, but also those in Grant, Pope, Stevens and Traverse.



Stehn

Ann Stehn, Horizon Public Health administrator, said her staff members receive training in developing relationships with those who may be victims so that they can feel safe to report abuse. She said staff have access to screening tools so that they can help identify someone at risk.

"Our staff become experts in community resources and helping people access the help and services they need,"

PREVENTION: Page A12

Mayor front runners talk about their campaigns

By Al Edenloff
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Bobbie Osterberg and Todd Jensen have big leads in the race for Alexandria mayor after the Aug. 11 primary ballots were counted in all seven city precincts.



Jensen

However, additional absentee and mail ballots that were post-marked Aug. 10 or Aug. 11 will be received and counted by the Douglas County Auditor's Office on Aug. 12 and Aug. 13, which could change the vote totals.



Osterberg

As the votes stood Tuesday night, Osterberg is in the lead with 720, followed

by Jensen with 685, Shannon Berns with 327 and Aaron Schultz with 58.

MAYOR: Page A10

HOME AGAIN AFTER RENTAL WRECK

Eviction ban kept woman from returning

By Karen Tolkkinen
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Baihly Styer was home at last. "So gross," she said, looking around at the piles of garbage in the garage, the hole in a bedroom wall and a broken window. After months of trying, Styer had finally obtained a court order evicting the tenants who had refused to leave her Villard home.

The single mother, 26, and her 7-year-old daughter have been living in her mother's two-bedroom apartment in Alexandria while her case languished in the Pope County courthouse, on hold for months after Gov. Tim Walz blocked most evictions during the coronavirus pandemic.

Walz's orders to stop evictions

“There may be literally a race to the courthouse by landlords to file evictions.”

SARAH K. MOORE, Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota.

were intended to prevent a destabilizing wave of homelessness in the wake of the massive job loss related to the coronavirus pandemic. Since March, landlords have not been allowed to evict tenants because they didn't pay. Until this month, the only grounds they could use for eviction was if the tenant seriously endangered the safety of other tenants.

Styer said the effects of Walz's

order on her and her daughter were "huge."

"Left me and my daughter homeless," she said. "Gave somebody the right to my home and they didn't deserve it."

Rent payments dip slightly

As the economy ground to a halt in March, employers began laying off employees at the highest levels since the Great Depression. Tens of thousands of workers each day were filing for unemployment in Minnesota.

The executive order on evictions was one of a number of orders Walz issued as the coronavirus death toll mounted in the state.

EVICITION: Page A11

Big smiles from small scale model

Knute Nelson resident creates miniature fair

By Celeste Edenloff
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COVID-19 has caused a lot of events to be canceled this year, including the Douglas County Fair, which would have been opened next Wednesday.

To help put smiles back on people's faces, a resident at a Knute Nelson facility recreated a miniature fair — complete with a couple of ferris

wheels, a schoolhouse and barnyard animals.

Evelyn Peterson said it's one of the favorite craft projects she's made.

According to Laura Kremer, Knute Nelson life enhancement coordinator, some of the items were handmade out of recycled milk containers and duct tape.

And Kremer said that Peterson is already thinking about a scene she can make for September.

Peterson said she likes to make something for each

month or at least each season.

She starts with a cookie sheet and builds whatever she plans on making right on the sheet as it makes it easier to move and for storage.

For the fair scene, she used duct tape to hold down the animals, some of which, she said, came from inside a Cracker Jack box from way back. Others she collected over the years.

One of the ferris wheels came from a friend of hers who knew she was looking for one.

MINIATURE: Page A12



Because the Douglas County Fair was canceled this year due to COVID-19, Evelyn Peterson, a resident of a Knute Nelson facility, created this miniature fair in hopes of putting smiles on people's faces.
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