



INSIDE
CAN CARP DISEASE IN AREA LAKES
CONTROL THE INVASIVE FISH?
OUTDOORS, A9

Alexandria ▶▶▶

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Boaters feeling squeezed

Expanding Geneva, L'Homme Dieu channel has support but needs funding

By Karen Tolkkinen
 ktolkkinen@echopress.com

A group of lakeshore owners is asking the state to enlarge the channel between lakes L'Homme Dieu and Geneva, saying the 1956-era passageway is too small for today's wakeboard boats and pontoons.

"We were pleasantly surprised at the support for this idea," said Craig Loos, president of the Lake Geneva Area Association. "We're optimistic that something might happen."

Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen said he supports the idea "absolutely," but also said it's a "long shot" to gain funding this year. The Legislature will meet in special session Friday to consider bonding bills, but there will be about \$5 billion in requests for about \$1.5 billion or so in available money.

"Sometimes they make you wait a year," he said. "That's probably what's going to happen."

He also said he expects the lake group to contribute financially to the project.

The group has presented its plan to local and state officials, and said they have gotten support from every group they have met with.

CHANNEL: Page 13



Karen Tolkkinen / Echo Press

A boat navigates the narrow channel between Lakes Le Homme Dieu and Geneva on June 5. A lakes group is hoping the state will widen the channel to allow pontoons, wakeboard boats and other larger vessels greater access on the Chain of Lakes.



Photos by Celeste Edenloff / Echo Press

Jon Treece, a Douglas County inmate, stands by a portion of a mural he painted in the rec center at the Douglas County Jail.

A recovery through paint

Douglas County inmate paints elaborate murals inside jail

By Celeste Edenloff
 cedenloff@echopress.com

Jon Treece has always believed he wasn't good enough.

The 38-year-old, who was born and raised in Flint, Mich., but has lived in Alexandria the last couple of years, said he hasn't lived a good life.

He's spent plenty of his adult life in and out of jail and is currently in the Douglas County Jail booked on drug charges.

Art has been an outlet for Treece and while in the Stillwater prison awhile back, he participated in an art program. At the time, though, he said he wasn't wholeheartedly into it but he did learn a few things.

When he got out, he



The Story of Two Wolves is depicted in a mural drawn and painted by Jon Treece, an inmate at the Douglas County Jail.

became a tattoo artist. However, his artistry never really went anywhere because once again, he didn't believe he had any

talents. But that is slowly changing as he is spending his time in the Douglas County Jail.

"It has always been in my head that I wasn't good enough," said Treece. "It's always been a battle and something I am working on."

Staff, specifically the jail programmers who have been working with Treece, noticed his artistic talents and provided him an interesting canvas to showcase his abilities.

They let him paint murals within the walls of the programming space – two in the recreation area and one in the meeting room/classroom area.

The paintings are exceptionally detailed and all come from the heart with each drawing having special meaning for Treece.

ARTIST: Page 14

ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL

Report shows building activity buzzing along in Alexandria



Projects top \$55 million last year

By Al Edenloff
 aedenloff@echopress.com

Alexandria enjoyed another year of robust building activity.

That's according to the 2019

building report from Alexandria Building Official Lynn Timm. She headlined her report, "Prosperity Persists."

During 2019, the building department reviewed, pro-

cessed and issued 953 permits within its jurisdiction, which includes the city and parts of Hudson, LaGrande and Lake Mary townships. Of that total, 487 were for building, 208 were plumbing permits and 258 were mechanical permits.

The estimated value for all the work was \$55.17 million, compared to \$59.97 million in 2018.

When Alexandria Township, which is served by the building department, is included the valuation jumps

to \$60.9 million.

The single-biggest project last year was Calvary Lutheran Church's 10,680-square-foot addition and renovation – a \$3.39 million undertaking.

COUNCIL: Page 5

18-year-old dies after being struck by car on McKay Ave.

By Al Edenloff
 aedenloff@echopress.com

An 18-year-old Alexandria woman died from injuries she suffered when she was struck by a car while crossing South McKay Avenue on foot Friday night, June 5.

She's been identified as Maya Laina Ayala.

The Alexandria Police Department responded to the pedestrian accident on South McKay Avenue between Third and Sixth Ave-

nue shortly after 10 p.m. Andrew Lindner, 19, of Alexandria was the driver of a 1994 Mercury Marquis, according to the Alexandria Police Department.

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.

PEDESTRIAN: Page 13

Markings on the road across from the Lincoln Apartments in Alexandria indicate where a fatal pedestrian crash happened on South McKay Avenue Friday night, June 5.

Al Edenloff / Echo Press

