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A ROAR OF SUPPORT



An F-16 fighter jet flies over Alomere Health in Alexandria Wednesday as a way to show support for medical personnel and others who are dealing with the covid-19 pandemic.

ATCC adds program on cyber security

Beginning fall 2020, the Alexandria Technical and Community College will begin offering a new cybersecurity certificate program.

The rigorous 30-credit program will prepare students with the skills needed to evaluate, secure and remediate at-risk computer and networked systems. Graduates will be prepared for employment in computer security related careers, including cybersecurity, network security, information assurance and incident investigation, which are all deemed high-demand fields.

The certificate can be completed online in one year.

With the recent rise in unemployment across the country, many are looking for new opportunities in stable fields, and cybersecurity is an ideal option, according to Jeff Wild, ATCC vice president of advancement and outreach.

"The only program requirement is basic knowledge of computers, which can be learned through additional coursework if needed, making this a great option for working or underemployed adults looking to grow their skills or break into a new field of work," said Wild.

Virtual open house

On Tuesday, May 19, at noon, the ATCC will be hosting a virtual open house. The event will allow students of all ages to learn more about ATCC's School of Business and Information Technology programs, including the new cybersecurity certificate program.

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Photos by Lowell Anderson / Echo Press

Ashley Rambow, along with her children (left to right) Arlo, August and Ava, watch from their car in a parking lot as a fighter jet flies over Alomere Health in Alexandria Wednesday. The flyover, which was conducted by the Minnesota National Guard and the 934th Air Wing of the Air Force Reserve, was designed to show support for medical personnel and others on the frontlines of the fight against covid-19. Flyovers were also conducted at several other locations across the state.

A new look for graduation

Ceremonies reflect social distancing

By Celeste Edenloff
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In a typical year, preparation work would be happening right in most high school gyms or athletic fields as schools across the nation gear up for high school graduation. But for the Class of 2020, this is not a typical year.

The coronavirus pandemic and governor's stay-at-home orders have changed the look of graduation for this year's high school seniors.

School district officials have been consistently monitoring the governor's guidelines and are in constant contact with the Minnesota Department of Education.

For some of the smaller area schools, plans have finally been able to be

finalized. For larger districts, such as Alexandria, the decision is expected to come sometime next week after the regular school board meeting, which is set for Monday, May 18.

As of Wednesday, May 13, here's a look at what graduation will look like for area students of the Class of 2020:

► **Brandon-Evansville:** The graduation ceremony is set for Saturday, June 27, at 1 p.m. at the B-E High School. District officials said in the next coming weeks, they will focus on putting together a ceremony that will meet guidelines and directives as outlined by the state. More information will be forthcoming.

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Jared Rubado / Echo Press

Mike Sieve stands in his empty restaurant, The Brass Lantern. Sieve drafted a letter to Gov. Tim Walz about the idea of reopening restaurants with social distance guidelines.

Ready to serve: Local restaurants plead to reopen

By Jared Rubado
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The Brass Lantern has been in Mike Sieve's family for nearly 40 years. The cozy restaurant inside of the Viking Plaza Mall is one of many area businesses feeling the hit from the spread of the COVID-19 virus and the Minnesota shutdown. However, Sieve is ready to open his doors now. He's just waiting for the call.

When Gov. Tim Walz ordered the

state shutdown in March, Sieve had no choice but to close his doors. After a few weeks of no business, Sieve decided to stand up and write an open letter to Walz asking for the state to allow restaurants to reopen with social distance guidelines.

On May 4, Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen and Senate Republicans shared ideas with Walz in the hope of allowing restaurants to reopen following the May 18 shutdown date.

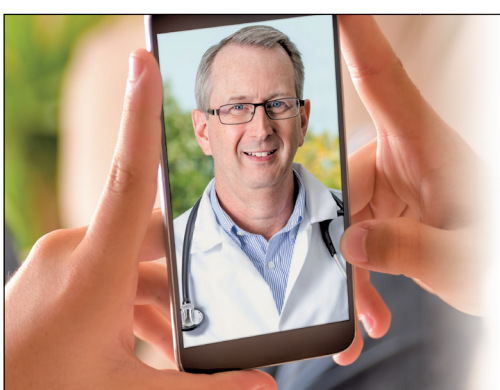
His release included an open letter from Sieve talking about the struggles of Alexandria businesses.

"I think we are at the point where there isn't a one-size-fits-all phrase; it's become a one-size-hurts-all," Sieve said. "This isn't about people going at this helter-skelter, but instead seeking the advice from peers and medical professionals about opening safely."

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“When we shut our doors, I initially thought that we would have 20% of our usual business. Right now, we've been getting about 50%, which is incredible.”

KENT KOPP,
Pike and Pint Grill



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