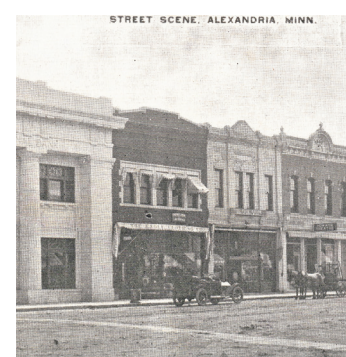


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DOUGLAS
COUNTY BOARD

Frisell hired as finance director

By Celeste Edenloff
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Douglas County has a new finance director. At their Tuesday, March 2, regular board meeting, Douglas County commissioners hired Jill Frisell for the role.



By hiring her as the director, that makes the finance office its own department and Frisell the department head.

Frisell has worked for the county for 10 years, starting as a fiscal supervisor in February 2011. In 2016, when central finance was formed, she transitioned into a strategic finance accounting analyst supervisor. After more changes in 2018, Frisell changed positions again and became the assistant auditor/treasurer/finance director.

Frisell said she is looking forward to working on the budget for the county and working with the other departments. Her predecessor, Char Rosenow, she said, was very instrumental in making sure the employees focused on cross-training in the finance department.

"My goal is to make sure we have cross-training in place and people to back each other up should an emergency situation arise," she said.

The finance director position was opened after the retirement of Rosenow, who was not only the finance director but also the auditor/treasurer. County commissioners decided to move the finance office into its own department and did an internal recruitment for the finance director position.

Frisell, who previously served as the assistant auditor/treasurer/finance director was the only person who applied for the position.

FRISELL: Page 9



Photos by Lowell Anderson / Echo Press

St. Mary's School first graders (left to right) Jaxon Heiser, Aristeia Wagner, Logan Larum and Gabriel Jasken enjoy warm weather and sunshine as they climb on the ropes at the school's playground in Alexandria on Wednesday. Temperatures are expected to be in the 40s and 50s through the middle of next week.

IN LIKE A LAMB...



By Al Edenloff
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March came in like a lamb in Douglas County, treating residents with plenty of sunshine and temperatures that felt balmy compared to the big chill in mid-February.

Temperatures only hit 19 degrees on Monday, March 1 but quickly climbed to a high of 46 degrees on Tuesday, March 2. That's 74-degrees

Darrin Mahn and his children, Emmitt (left) and Quinn, walk on the trail at Big Ole Central Park in Alexandria on Tuesday afternoon while temperatures were in the mid-40s.

warmer than the 28-below-zero day on Feb. 15, and well above Alexandria's average March 2 high temperature of 29.7 degrees.

Symptoms of spring fever continued on Wednesday when temperatures once again rose into the 40s.

Get ready for the warm weather to continue this weekend. The forecast from the National Weather Service calls for 40-degree temperatures on Friday and Saturday and then peaking to 54 degrees on Sunday, March 7.

But we may not be through with winter yet. Remember the old saying about March, "In like a lamb, out like a lion." And then there's April ...

COVID patient calls vaccine 'a no-brainer'

Alexandria woman dealt with
COVID effects for months

By Celeste Edenloff
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A worldwide prayer chain plus knowledgeable doctors and a caring nursing staff are just a few of things Sandy Buckner is thankful for and gives credit to for her being alive today.

And, she is now a huge supporter of the COVID-19 vaccine as the after effects of the vaccine pale in comparison, she said, to what she went through and is still going through after a nearly four-month long bout with COVID-19.

Buckner, 73, of Alexandria and her husband, Bill Buckner, called Sandy a "walking miracle" as sev-

eral times throughout her ordeal Bill said he thought he'd be planning a funeral.

Her story begins last year in November. After not feeling really well, not sleeping good and losing her appetite, Sandy decided it was time to finally go in to see her doctor. That was Nov. 17, which was a Tuesday. The following Saturday, she learned she tested positive for COVID-19.

Throughout the next few weeks, she laid low and didn't do much of anything except wait for things to get better.

COVID: Page 9



Contributed

Sandy Buckner (right) of Alexandria smiles for a photo with her occupational therapist, Mallory Thang, while baking a cake. Her therapy included trying to stand for longer periods of time, which is why she was baking the cake.

Cool School Plunge makes a big splash

By Jasmine Johnson
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In the first two years of Discovery Middle School's Cool School Plunge, more than \$60,000 was raised.

The middle school has broken the Cool School Plunge record twice, beat its own record last year, and is on track to do so again this year.

Similar to fundraising, the highest number of students and staff will be participating in this year's jump.

The average turnout for the first two school plunges was around 225 students and staff members. This year's count was up to 269 participants as of Wednesday, March 3.

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