

# VENISON

From Page 1

Eischens said he processes deer in a garage with a cement floor and tin ceilings and walls. He has a walk-in cooler, but he doesn't have running water in the garage.

"Make too many regulations then a guy like me isn't going to do it," he said. "Say I have to spend \$15,000 on upgrading, obviously I'm going to quit doing it."

The regulations were included in the 2020 omnibus agriculture policy bill that passed the Minnesota Legislature and was signed into

law by Gov. Tim Walz. They took effect Aug. 1.

The changes came into effect because three years ago, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Food and Feed Safety Division, which inspected wild game processing at the time, adopted more stringent regulations passed down from the federal government, said Levi Muhl, Meat Inspection Program manager for Minnesota.

The Minnesota Association of Meat Processors, which represents meat lockers, found those regulations so burdensome that they asked to be covered by the meat and dairy inspection program within the ag department instead. Lawmakers agreed, and they also extended licensing requirements for the first time to the processors who were working out of

their garage, a move the meat lockers supported, Muhl said.

"The guy down the street is processing venison and not having any of those responsibilities," he said. "So they wanted to level the playing field."

What nobody realized, he said, was that the coronavirus pandemic would hit, shutting down meat packing plants across the country. Farmers started sending what livestock they could to the small mom-and-pop meat lockers, which weren't equipped to meet the sudden onslaught of demand. Busy processing cattle and hogs, and concerned that a positive COVID test could shut them down and ruin venison carcasses, many lockers announced they would no longer process whole venison carcasses, although they will turn trimming into sausages.

He added that even though the timing might not be great, requiring the guys in a garage to get licensed carries some positives. It means more oversight over how they dispose of deer bones, which is a concern because of the presence of chronic wasting disease in some deer populations in Minnesota.

Also, the law change means that garage processors can now participate in the state's venison donation program, sending meat to local food shelves.

Plus, the license will allow those small-time processors to also work on hogs and cattle, which could expand their businesses while also helping farmers get their meat to market.

This year, meat inspectors are working to educate the garage guys about the new

law, Muhl said. Next year, they'll begin enforcing it.

"We're just trying to get a handle on how many are out there and where they're located," he said. "I'm sure at some point we'll run into resistance."

Sen. Torrey Westrom, R-Elbow Lake, chairman of the Senate committee that passed the bill including the provision, replied briefly to an Echo Press request for comment on Wednesday afternoon.

"This issue is an unintended consequence resulting from policy changes brought to the legislature from Governor Walz that impact small processors of wild game," Westrom said. "We are actively pursuing solutions to fix this problem immediately, up to and including legislative action."

# VIOLENCE

From Page 1

Jealousy played a large part in the relationship, but interestingly in the beginning, Prussia said she viewed his jealousy as love. She thought she meant that much to him and that the attention was because of his love for her.

"It wasn't love and jealousy, it was control," she said. "He was holding me back from my own personal growth. When I look back, I can see the signs now."

She recalled a time she was gone for a weekend to play sports with her team of women and she received well over 200 texts and calls from him in the two days she was gone. She said he thought if she wasn't with him, she must be

with another man. But, she wasn't. She was with her friends, her teammates.

From there, it escalated and things started being thrown at the wall or at mirrors, which would break.

She recalled a time when he wrapped his hand around her throat and she could feel her feet lift off the ground.

"I thought to myself, 'Is this actually happening?' I just froze," she said.

When those things happened, which weren't every day, she said, they would just get swept under the rug and it was like they didn't happen.

He wouldn't let her be around her friends anymore. It was as if he was trying to keep her secluded.

"I became isolated from my friendships because I wanted his love and his approval,"

Prussia said. "It came to a point where a friend sat me down and asked me how many friends I had. I said one or two. She then asked how many I had a year or two before that and it was in the double digits. It was really eye-opening."

But she said it wasn't as eye-opening as after the couple had children. Her husband raised his hand to her while she was holding their son and she knew she needed to stop the cycle or her boys would fall into the same cycle as their dad and his dad, their grandpa. She remembers hearing stories of her ex-father-in-law and how abusive he was.

### Finding herself

She finally got out of the relationship, noting that it takes on average seven attempts for a woman to leave

an abusive relationship. And although she was on her own, he would still stalk her, oftentimes circling around her home at night. She said he would show up with guns and tell her that if he saw a man entering her home, he would shoot him and he would shoot her.

she lived in fear for two years before he finally stopped and when she let her faith become stronger than her fear.

Shortly after, she met with a life coach, which she said brought the biggest change in her life. "I was finding out who I was and who I was wanting to be. I saw the beauty," said Prussia. "It was a true epiphany."

When the stalking finally stopped and her healing began, Prussia said she actually called her ex-husband and thanked him.

"When he asked 'why?', I told him that if I wouldn't have had those experiences, I wouldn't have been able to connect to myself," she said. "I told him that he helped me empower my voice and the ability to help people in the same situation."

She loves to be able to help women, children and men to be able to see the light inside the darkness and to teach them to not stay in the fight, but to release and grow.

"You are strong enough and you will always find the light," she said. "It is empowering and will arm you for the future. You should fear nothing and stand for something."

Prussia provided some tips that included using your words to empower, not take power. She said to be patient in the

journey. People need to find their worth and establish boundaries..

And one of the most important pieces of advice she had was to reach out and ask for help. Call someone for help because, she said, "Your life is essential."

### Taking a stand

On Tuesday evening, Oct. 13, the 14th annual Take a Stand Against Domestic Violence event took place. Participants gathered at Big Ole Central Park before walking down Broadway Street. Walkers then took a stand on Broadway Street between Sixth Avenue and Seventh Avenue, holding up signs advocating against domestic violence.

The event was sponsored by Someplace Safe and United Communities Advocating Non-Violence.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**Public Notice**  
Publish October 9, 16, 2020  
**NOTICE OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITY MEETING JOINT COUNTY DITCH #2 - DOUGLAS & TODD COUNTIES**  
**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE,** the Drainage Authority for Joint County Ditch #2 - Douglas & Todd Counties, will be meeting October 22, 2020, at 8:30 A.M., in the meeting room at the Douglas County Public Works Center, 526 Willow Dr., Alexandria, Minnesota, to address repair and maintenance issues on JCD #2 and to set the levy amount for JCD #2's ditch assessment on the 2021 tax statement.  
Tom E. Anderson  
Douglas County  
Drainage & Ag Inspector  
(320) 762-2999  
2861348

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**Public Notice**  
Publish October 16, 23, 2020  
**NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 206 (ALEXANDRIA) STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,** that the general election has been called for Independent School District No. 206 (Alexandria), State of Minnesota and will be held in conjunction with the state general election on Tuesday, the 3rd day of November, 2020, for the purpose of electing three school board members for terms of four years. The ballot shall provide as follows:  
Instructions to Voters:  
  
To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this:    
  
School Board Member  
Vote for One for Each Position  
  
**Position #1:**  
 Pamela Carlson  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
  
**Position #6:**  
 David P. Anderson  
 Judd Hoff  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
  
**Position #7:**  
 Angie Krebs  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The combined polling places for this election and the precincts served by those polling places will be as follows:  
 • Alexandria Ward 1, Precinct 1: Lake Community Church, Alexandria  
 • Alexandria Ward 1, Precinct 2: Lake Community Church, Alexandria  
 • Alexandria Ward 2: Reach Church, Alexandria  
 • Alexandria Ward 3: New Life Christian Church, Alexandria  
 • Alexandria Ward 4: Cornerstone Church, Alexandria  
 • Alexandria Ward 5, Precinct 1: Alexandria City Hall, Alexandria  
 • Alexandria Ward 5, Precinct 2: Alexandria City Hall, Alexandria  
 • Carlos City: Carlos City Hall, Carlos  
 • Carlos Township: Carlos Township Town Hall, Carlos  
 • Forada City: Forada City Hall, Alexandria  
 • Garfield City: Garfield City Hall & Community Center, Garfield  
 • Holmes City Township: Holmes City Town Hall, Farwell  
 • Lake Mary Township: Lake Mary Town Hall, Alexandria  
 • Leaf Valley Township: Leaf Valley Town Hall, Garfield (Primary polls open at 10 a.m.)  
 • Miltona City: Miltona Community Center, Miltona  
 • Miltona Township: Miltona Community Center, Miltona  
 • Nelson City: Nelson City Hall, Nelson  
 • Osakis Township: Ed Pollard Community Center, Osakis  
 • Reno Township in Pope County - Lowry Community Center, Lowry

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**Public Notice**  
Publish October 16, 23, 2020  
**NOTICE OF ELECTION CITY OF ALEXANDRIA**  
Tuesday, November 3, 2020  
Polling Hours 7:00 a.m. -8:00 p.m. at each polling location  
  
WARD 1 - PRECINCT 1  
Lake Community Church  
490 Voyager Drive, Alexandria, MN 56308  
  
WARD 1 -PRECINCT 2  
Lake Community Church  
490 Voyager Drive, Alexandria, MN 56308  
  
WARD 2  
Reach Church  
1310 North Nokomis, Alexandria, MN 56308

## PUBLIC NOTICE

WARD 3  
New Life Christian Church  
1910. CR 82 SE, Alexandria, MN 56308  
  
WARD4  
Cornerstone Church  
202 7th Ave E, Alexandria, MN 56308  
  
WARD 5 - PRECINCT 1  
Alexandria City Hall  
704 Broadway, Alexandria, MN 56308  
  
WARD 5 - PRECINCT 2  
Alexandria City Hall  
704 Broadway, Alexandria, MN 56308

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**Public Notice**  
Publish October 9, 16, 2020  
**NOTICE OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITY MEETINGS FOR JOINT COUNTY DITCHES 3 & 4 DOUGLAS & POPE COUNTIES**  
**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE,** the Drainage Authority for Joint County Ditches 3 & 4 - Douglas & Pope Counties, will be meeting on October 22, 2020, in the meeting room at the Douglas County Public Works Center, 526 Willow Dr., Alexandria, Minnesota. Joint County Ditch 4 will meet at 10:00 A.M. and Joint County Ditch 3 at 11:00 A.M. The meetings are for the purpose of addressing repair and maintenance issues pertinent to each ditch and to set the levy amount for the special ditch assessment on the 2021 tax statement for each ditch respectively.  
Tom E. Anderson  
Douglas County  
Drainage & Ag Inspector  
(320) 762-2999  
2861351

The image shows several ballot forms for the City of Alexandria. Each form has a header 'City Offices' and 'City of Alexandria Vote for One'. The forms are for different precincts: Alexandria W3, Alexandria W1 P1, Alexandria W1 P2, Alexandria W2, and Alexandria W4. Each form lists candidates for Mayor (Todd A. Jensen and Bobbie Osterberg) and Council Member (Scott J. Allen for W3, Andrew Wiener and Charles Funk for W5). There are also forms for Council Member for Alexandria Ward 5. Each form has a 'write-in, if any' section and a 'Vote for One' instruction.

**Think inside the box.**

Advertise here.

320.763.3133  
225 7th Ave. E.  
Alexandria

Alexandria ECHO PRESS

Request Ballot Form/Return Ballot To:  
Douglas County Auditor-Treasurer Office  
305 8th Ave W, Alexandria, MN 56308  
**Election Day Polling Place:**  
(Former) First Lutheran Church  
822 Douglas St, Alexandria, MN 56308  
Use WEST entrance off of Cedar St parking lot  
**Any eligible voter residing in the school district may vote at said election at the polling place designated above for the precinct in which he or she resides. The polls for said election will open at 7:00 o'clock a.m. and will close at 8:00 o'clock p.m. on the date of said election.**  
**A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in this election. An unregistered individual may register to vote at the polling place on Election Day.**  
**Dated: September 28, 2020**

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD  
/s/ Robert Cunniff  
School District Clerk  
2862794

**UPCOMING EVENT? LET US KNOW!**

Alexandria ECHO PRESS  
320.763.3133