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Alexandria

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Meeting about kidnapper's release set for June 9

Holby convicted for 2017 Alexandria crime

By Travis Gulbrandson
Alexandria Echo Press

ALEXANDRIA — A community notification meeting has been scheduled for 5 p.m. on Thursday, June 9, in relation to the release of a level three offender.

Joshua Lee Holby, 36, will be released from prison on June 14 to intensive supervised release.

He will be residing within the 700 block of Nokomis Street, Alexandria.

The meeting is set to take place at Alexandria City Hall.

Holby was convicted of kidnapping in January 2019, a charge for which he was sentenced to be committed to the commissioner of corrections correctional facility in St. Cloud for 86 months, with 491 days credit for time served.

He was also sentenced to pay \$1,988.36 in fees and must register as a predatory offender.

The maximum possible sentence for his charge was 40 years imprisonment and/or a \$50,000 fine.

Other charges against Holby — kidnapping and false imprisonment — were dismissed at the time of his conviction.

The charges against Holby stem from his

participation in the kidnapping of an Alexandria girl, Jasmine Block, who was 15 at the time. She was taken from her Alexandria home in August 2017 and held for several weeks. Two other men were also charged in the crime, Thomas Barker and Steven Powers.

According to the notification of release, Holby "gained access to the victim while aiding his co-defendants as an accessory to their sexual and physical assaults. He and his accomplices used violence, fear and mood-altering substances to maintain control."

The statement of probable cause in the case reads that the girl escaped from her captors in September 2017 after swimming across a lake and getting a ride from a passing driver.

Barker pleaded guilty to kidnapping, criminal sexual conduct in the first degree with a dangerous weapon and criminal sexual conduct in the first degree causing fear of great bodily harm. All are felony-level charges.

In November 2018 Barker was sentenced to 98 months for kidnapping, 156 months for one criminal sexual conduct charge and 300 months for the other

KIDNAPPING: Page 15



Photos by Lowell Anderson / Alexandria Echo Press

Alexandria Area High School principal Chad Duwenhoeffer congratulates senior Kaci Trosvig during the commencement ceremony at the school Friday evening.

HATS OFF TO THE CLASS OF 2022

Students graduate from Alexandria Area High School, Kalen Prep Academy

More than 300 high school students in Alexandria schools took their first step into their futures at graduation ceremonies last weekend. Schools with graduation ceremonies included Alexandria Area High School and the new Kalen Prep Academy.

Alexandria Area High School

Almost 300 students graduated from

Alexandria Area High School at a ceremony at the high school gymnasium on Friday, June 3. The commencement ceremony started at 5:30 p.m. and was also available to watch through live streaming in the school's Performing Arts Center or online through the school's website.

GRADUATE: Page 15



Grant Moen, left, is congratulated by Kalen Prep Academy board member Quinto Lotti during the school's first graduation ceremony on Sunday.

Viewing storm's destruction

Congresswoman Fischbach and local legislators tour Forada in wake of May 30 tornado that ravaged the community

By Celeste Edenloff
Alexandria Echo Press

FORADA — On Thursday evening, June 2, U.S. Rep. Michelle Fischbach, congresswoman for the 7th Congressional district in Minnesota, along with several other legislators, toured portions of Forada that were ravaged by an EF-2 tornado.

While walking along Maple Lake looking at all the damage that was done by the May 30 tornado, Fischbach, along with State Rep. Mary Franson, R-Alexandria; State Sen. Torrey Westrom, R-Elbow Lake; and State Rep. Paul Anderson, R-Starbuck, spoke with residents, Forada City Council members, including



Celeste Edenloff / Alexandria Echo Press

A Forada resident, gray shirt, speaks with U.S. Rep. Michelle Fischbach, black jacket, in what used to be his living room. A tree fell on his house after a tornado ravaged through the area on May 30.

Mayor David Reller and Clerk Jo Kliver, and two Douglas County commissioners, Tim Kalina and Jerry Rapp.

AFTERMATH: Page 14

Details released about path of Forada tornado

By Al Edenloff
Alexandria Echo Press

FORADA — The tornado that touched down near Forada on Memorial Day, May 30 also went through Nelson. Other tornadoes moved through at least eight other nearby counties in Minnesota, according to new information from the National Weather Service.

The tornado was part of a bowing line of severe thunderstorms that lifted northeast through western Minnesota into central

Minnesota during the late afternoon and early evening on May 30, the NWS said.

The following four tornadoes were in the NWS coverage area in the Twin Cities. Meanwhile, other parts of the state were also hit by tornadoes, according to the NWS. A total of 14 tornadoes were confirmed as of June 4.

Here's what happened, according to the National Weather Service's office in the Twin Cities.

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Ceremony will light up new Andria marquee

By Celeste Edenloff
Alexandria Echo Press

ALEXANDRIA — The Andria Theatre is hosting a lighting ceremony for its new marquee this Thursday, June 9.

The event will take place in front of the theater, 618 Broadway Street, from 8 to 10 p.m. Broadway Street will be closed

off for the ceremony.

Popcorn, candy and root beer floats will be served. During the two-hour event, guests can take a tour of the Andria Theatre. Old marquee letters (cash only) and T-shirts will also be for sale.

The lighting of the new marquee, which is estimated to cost about

"The community has been incredibly supportive with donations for this project from the start.

DAVE CHRISTMAN, THEATER ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

\$330,000, will take place at approximately 9:20 p.m. Andria Theatre has been raising money for more than five years for the new marquee.

In a March 31, 2022, Echo Press online article, Dave Christman, artistic director for the theater, said it started with bringing back the Andria spire in 2017 that was destroyed by a storm in the 1970s. Dave and Marsha Campbell made that purchase

possible, he said.

He also said that Bruce and Kathleen Pohlig, Brenton and Sally Smith and Geneva Capital have been among some of the largest donors for the new marquee project. He added in the article that "The community has been incredibly supportive with donations for this project from the start."

Email reporter Celeste Edenloff at cedenloff@echopress.com.

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The official newspaper of Douglas County
Alexandria, MN 320.763.3133
News tips 320.815.0834

