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## Diving for debris

Tornado clean-up on Maple Lake makes progress

By Celeste Edenloff  
Alexandria Echo Press

FORADA — A May 30 tornado that ravaged through parts of Douglas County left a trail of debris in its wake — not only along the lakeshore of Maple Lake near Forada but also in the depths of the water.

Clean-up efforts were halted a couple of times because of weather conditions — winds and high temperatures — but finally started this week.

Members of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office Dive and Rescue Team were on Maple Lake Tuesday, June 21, doing some preliminary work for the recovery teams, which were on the water Wednesday, June 22 and expected to be back on the water Thursday, June 23.

Art Vinson, leader for the Dive and Rescue Team, said divers didn't find anything of substance. He said there were rumors of a vehicle or two that had been tossed into the lake by the tornado, but that the dive team didn't find any.

The sheriff's office had four boats with a total of 11 team members on the water for



about four hours using sonar technology as they scoured the shoreline looking for debris. Areas with an abundance of debris were marked for the recovery teams so they would know where to go.

Four of the Dive and Rescue Team members, Lacey Grinager, Sasha Schmidt, Cameron Cordes and Justin Gothier, were in the water, but didn't do any diving. Instead, they were pulled along the surface with tow ropes from a pontoon as they laid face-first in the water using goggles and a snorkel, scanning for debris.

Most of what they found, said Vinson, was normal construction debris, along with large chunks of trees and pieces of docks.

Julie Anderson, Douglas County Emergency Management director, said that on Wednesday, June 22, the weather finally cooperated and as of 1 p.m., the recovery

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Celeste Edenloff / Alexandria Echo Press  
Members of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office Dive and Rescue Team on Tuesday were on Maple Lake scanning the lake for debris.



Photos by Thalen Zimmerman / Alexandria Echo Press

Applause surrounds Tim Urness as he hears his name announced as the recipient of the Alexandria Sertoma Club's Service to Mankind award.

## 'Good for nothing' wins Sertoma award

Urness was honored at 2022 Service to Mankind luncheon

By Thalen Zimmerman  
Alexandria Echo Press

Alexandria Tim Urness, 44, of Alexandria, was honored on Wednesday, June 22, at the Broadway Ballroom, with the Alexandria Sertoma Club's highest honor to non-members — the Service to Mankind Award.

The award recognizes outstanding community service by a non-Sertoman. Recipients are nominated by the community and determined by a Sertoma committee. At 44, Urness is the second youngest recipient.

Emcee Kevin Kopschke introduced Urness by listing his community involvement. He's been a host of Jingle Bells for several years, a weekly volunteer at Woodland Elementary, taught



Tim Urness poses with his family after receiving the 2022 Service to Mankind Award from the Alexandria Sertoma Club. From left, his son Christian, Urness, his daughters Nora and Gracie and his wife, Carrie.

cribbage at the Senior Center, emceed the Matt Kjelland Memorial 5K Run, youth basketball

coach and more. "This person is not one-dimensional," said Kopschke before

announcing the award winner. "You look at the role he has played in the

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## Band festival marches onto Broadway Sunday

By Celeste Edenloff  
Alexandria Echo Press

ALEXANDRIA — It is once again time to strike up the bands as marching bands from across Minnesota gather in Alexan-

dria this coming weekend for the 38th annual Vikingland Band Festival.

The festival, scheduled for Sunday, June 26, at 1:30 p.m., will feature more than 1,100 perform-

ers in 17 marching units walking down Broadway.

The parade travels south on Broadway from Fourth Avenue to 15th Avenue. For the best viewing, specta-

tors are invited to gather in four performance zones where every band is expected to play. These zones are along Broadway near Sixth, Eighth, 11th and 14th Avenues.

The performance order for this year is as follows: Alexandria, Richfield, Winona Cotter, Fergus Falls, River City Rhythm, Two Rivers, St. Michael-Albertville, Das-

sel-Cokato, 728 Cadets, Sauk Rapids-Rice, Sartell-St. Stephen, Milaca, Annandale Drumline, Hibbing, Waconia, **FESTIVAL:** Page 16

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## Man dies after tree falls on camper

His wife said it was like they were in a tornado

By Al Edenloff  
Alexandria Echo Press

ALEXANDRIA — A man from Miami, Arizona died after a tree fell on the camper that he and his wife were stay-

ing in near Lake Mary on Monday, June 20.

The victim is Mark Edward Bunney, 72. His wife, Debra Lynn Bunney, 66, was injured but survived the ordeal.

Shortly before 11:45 p.m., the Douglas County Sheriff's Office received a call from the resort with reports of people screaming for help from

a camper that a tree had fallen on.

Prior to that, shortly after 11 p.m., the sheriff's office had received multiple reports of storm damage from a system that had moved through the area.

When deputies from the Douglas County Sheriff's Office responded to Elmwood Resort, they located the camper with Mark and Debra Bunney trapped inside.

The Alexandria Fire Department helped extricate both of them from the camper and Debra Bunney was transported by North Ambu-

lance to Alomere Health.

Mark Bunney died on scene, according to the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. The incident is still pending further investigation, according to a news release from the sheriff's office.

Wind gusts of 62 knots or 71 miles per hour were recorded at the Alexandria Airport between 11 p.m. and midnight, according to manager Kreg Anderson.

12 News TV, the NBC affiliate in Phoenix, which is about 80 miles west of the couple's **DEATH:** Page 6

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