



INSIDE
TEACHER,
STUDENT DIE IN
1902 STORM,
LIFE 7

Alexandria

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AMERICAN LEGION
SOFTBALL DEBUTS,
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Thalen Zimmerman / Alexandria Echo Press

Twisted trees, dented metal and debris are scattered near a home on South Maple Lake Road SE after a tornado moved through the Forada area on Monday.

REELING AND RECOVERING

'It makes your stomach drop,' says Forada fire chief

By Celeste Edenloff
 Alexandria Echo Press

Forada

"It was quite something," said Stephen VanLuik. "It's a mess."

VanLuik, Forada fire chief who has been with

the department for 33 years, was referring to the tornado that ripped through his town Memorial Day Monday, May 30, around 4:30 p.m.

According to the National Weather Service from the Twin

Cities, the tornado, which was about a half mile wide, was labeled as an EF-2 with max wind speeds of 120 miles per hour. After hitting Forada, which has a population of 199, the tornado continued to the northeast across

Douglas County. Storm damage has also been reported near Nelson and Osakis, with several farms receiving extensive damage.

A farm that Joel Dahlheimer grew up in along Genes Barn Road (County Road

17), about a mile and a half southwest of Nelson, received quite a bit of damage. Fortunately, the house on the property, which Dahlheimer recently sold, appeared undamaged.

However, the house

across the road, owned by Dahlheimer's son and daughter-in-law, Tyler and Amber Dahlheimer, had several trees on the roof and there were lots of trees down on the property.

TORNADO: Page 9

No bad injuries

Only minor injuries reported despite 120 mph winds

By Celeste Edenloff and Al Edenloff
 Alexandria Echo Press

FORADA — Despite there being about 100 homes hit by the tornado that ripped through Douglas County near Forada Monday afternoon, May 30, there have

only been reports of minor injuries like cuts and bruises, according to Julie Anderson from Douglas County Emergency Management.

This is the second time in 18 days a destructive storm caused extensive damage in the county. The first storm, on Thursday, May 12, produced an EF-1 tornado that touched down on the south side of Lake Darling in northwest Alexandria.

Shortly before 8:30 p.m. Tuesday evening, May 31, the U.S. National Weather Service out of



Thalen Zimmerman / Alexandria Echo Press

A man rakes a yard at a residence on South Maple Lake Road SW near Forada while a woman looks through what would have been the wall of the garage after a tornado ripped through the area Monday.

the Twin Cities posted on its Facebook page that the Forada tornado was

rated as an EF-2 with winds up to 120 mph.

INJURIES: Page 9

Response fund activated after weather damages

ALEXANDRIA — The Alexandria Area Community Foundation announced today that they have activated the Alexandria Response Fund to help those who were affected by the May 12 storm and this past weekend's severe weather.

If you are interested in making a gift via credit card to the fund, you can visit [\[nitygiving.org/donate\]\(http://nitygiving.org/donate\) and select "Alexandria Response Fund" from the dropdown menu, or checks can be sent to AACF c/o Community-Giving 101 7th Ave S., Suite 100 Saint Cloud, MN 56301. Please specify Alexandria Response Fund on the memo line.](http://www.commu-</p>
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The AACF will work with local agencies to disseminate charitable

FUND: Page 9



Anderson

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New liquor law helps Alexandria breweries

By Celeste Edenloff
 Alexandria Echo Press

ALEXANDRIA — Local brewery owners are excited about a new bill recently signed that allows them more options for selling their beer on site.

What is known as the "Free the Growler" bill was signed into law by Gov. Tim Walz on Sun-

day, May 22. It increases a production cap from 20,000 to 150,000 barrels so the state's largest breweries can sell 64-ounce growlers on site and still operate a taproom.

In addition, the law gives smaller breweries in Minnesota — like Copper Trail Brewing Company and 22 Northmen Brewing Company

in Alexandria — more options for selling their products to those who want to take them to-go.

Although there are some limitations, it does allow the smaller breweries to sell to-go products like standard-size bottles of liquor and four and six packs of 12-ounce or 16-ounce cans of beer and hard seltzers.

"We are extremely excited that the bill finally passed," said Adam Graf, who owns Copper Trail with Dave Gibbons. "It has been a long road and a lot of hard work, but it has finally paid off. For us, we will be able to start selling beer



Graf

in 16-ounce cans as another off-sale option for the consumer."

This is something that every state in the country has been able to do for years now, Graf said, adding that 16-ounce cans are a better vessel size than a 750-milliliter crowler and it has a longer shelf life due to the way they are filled. He said it just makes sense as it is the same beer.

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