INSIDE SADLEMYER GETS DREAM JOB WITH SILVERSTREAKS SPORTS, 13

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ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL

Runway project cleared for takeoff

\$5.8M project would also replace electrical system

By Al Edenloff Alexandria Echo Press

ALEXANDRIA - Big improvements almost ready to take off at the Alexandria Air-

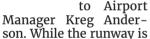
At its Monday meetthe Alexandria City Council approved a grant agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration to reconstruct runway 13-31 and replace the airfield's electrical system. Runway 13-31 is the main runway at the

airport. The total cost of the project, including \$320,300 in design work, is estimated at \$5.8 million. Most of the cost, 93%, will come from federal and state grants. The city will cover the remaining 7%, which will come out of the city's Airport Development Fund.

The project, if bids are approved, could begin next fall, 2023, and the reconstruction of the

runway

will have a "significant impact" at the airport in the summer 2024, according



and planes with turbo engines won't be able to long enough, he said.

ment project.

cation was approved. By accepting the grant,

According to the engifirm said.

under construction, jets



ranked the 13th busiest among all 134 public

The Alexandria Airport, owned by the city, was

land on the other runways because they're not

"I'm looking forward to the project but it will be a bit of a turbulent summer," Anderson told the council. He added that local businesses might be affected, and he'll be keeping them in

Back in March, the council authorized staff to submit a grant application to the FAA and the Minnesota Department of Transportation that allowed the design work to begin for the 2023-2024 airport improve-

The city has since found out that the appli-

the city is committing to completing the project within three years. If it doesn't meet the timeline, it's possible that the FFA and MnDOT would request the return of their share of the design phase improvements, \$298,700.

neering firm for the city, TKDA, the existing runway pavements and electrical systems have reached the end of their service life and need to be replaced. Also, runway safety area grading and removing obstructions – which are also part of the project - are necessary to meet current FAA standards, the

PROJECT: Page 8



Fairgoers enjoy an exciting ride on the Dragon Wagon roller coaster at the Douglas County Fair in Alexandria

A curious sheep looks up at the photographer in the sheep and goat barn at the Douglas County Fair in Alexandria Friday.

day forecast looked like it might make a huge impact on attendance, the only day that was really impacted was Thursday, Aug. 18.

By Celeste Edenloff

Douglas County

he attendance at

in the last 10 years.

22, the preliminary

As of Monday, Aug.

numbers indicate that

about 50,400 people

enjoyed the four-day

Aug. 17 through Aug.

Alexandria, according

Although the four-

20 at the Douglas

to Molly Maudal, fair board member and communications

supervisor.

the 2022 Douglas

According to Accuweather, Wednesday's high reached 83 degrees, while Thursday, Friday and Saturday were a

little cooler with 75, 76, 78 degrees respectively. Maudal said the

circus was canceled on

Thursday because of rain, but that didn't stop people from still having fun at the fair. She said the people who stayed were troopers

and that not a lot of people flooded the gates to get out during the rain.

FAIR: Page 8

Photos by Lowell Anderson / Alexandria Echo Press

2 level-3 predatory offenders moving to Alexandria area

By Travis Gulbrandson

airports in the state in 2019.

Alexandria Echo Press ALEXANDRIA — Two level-three predatory offenders will be moving to the Alexandria area on Sept. 1, according to press releases from local law enforcement.

are considered to be at in rural Alexandria, a the highest risk of reoffending.

The first offender is Joshua Lee Holby, 36, who will be moving to the vicinity of Maple Drive Southeast and Golden

press release read.

A community education meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 29, at the Douglas County Public Works meeting room

public safety.

Holby was convicted served.

Level-three offenders Gate Avenue Southeast at 526 Willow Dr. Rep- of kidnapping in Januresentatives from the ary 2019, a charge for Douglas County Sheriff's which he was sentenced Office and the Minnesota to be committed to the Department of Correc- commissioner of corrections will be available to tions facility in St. Cloud provide information on for 86 months, with 491 days credit for time

Holby pleaded guilty to the 2017 kidnapping of Jasmine Block, who was 15 years old when she was taken from her Alexandria home and held captive for 29 days.

OFFENDERS: Page 8

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School leader addresses safety, security, facilities Unlike other areas,

enrollment is up in Alexandria

By Celeste Edenloff Alexandria Echo Press

ALEXANDRIA — In moving from the pandemic to an endemic, Alexandria Public Superintendent Rick Sansted says through the Alexandria



information about the "state of the school district" during a Listen and Learn event Aug. 17

along with safety and Sanstshared security.

to not only

communi-

also

with

with

the public.

More elbow room

Commerce.

The newest addition at Discovery Middle School, a 30,000 square-foot addition, provides space for physical education curriculum and Alexandria Community Education youth and adult recreation. It is expected to

but he also shared infor-

he wants Lakes Area Chamber of host larger youth athletic tournaments. Sansted He not only providsaid the district contined information about the ues to have extremely parents, but upcoming school year, high numbers for middle school activities, as well mation about facilities, as high school activities. And, from a chamber impact, the district will be able to host outside events, which brings money into the community through restaurants, hotels, etc.

> The cost of that project is roughly \$8 million.

Another facilities update Sansted talked about was the new addition at Woodland Elementary for the Early

offers the potential to **LEADER**: Page 16

of Douglas County Alexandria, MN 320.763.3133

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open in November. He said the new space