



# Alexandria ECHO PRESS



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Photos by Thalen Zimmerman / Alexandria Echo Press

Jason Surface, program director for professional truck driving at Alexandria College, demonstrates a new trucking simulator.

## High-tech trucking

Alexandria College truck driving program receives new simulators

By Thalen Zimmerman  
Alexandria Echo Press

Students in the Alexandria Technical and Community College's truck driving program will have a new way of testing their skills, without hitting the road. The Alexandria College professional truck driving program recently received a \$120,000 truck driving simulator with a second one on the way, funded by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act. The simulator prepares students for

"It is a kitten's whisker away from a real truck."

JASON SURFACE,  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

a real truck by using realistic shifting and braking, motion technology that mimics a real truck and hundreds of driving scenarios; weather conditions, various road terrains, wildlife, construction sites and other variations.

"Today's youth are used to learning visually as far as gaming and things like that," said Jason Surface, program



Jason Surface (left) and Tom Weller look forward to ways they will implement their new trucking simulator at Alexandria College.

director for the truck driving program, "That being said, we do stress that once students are in

the real truck, it is not a game."

**SIMULATORS:** Page A10

## 2 Campuses, 1 Vision website launched by B-E School District

By Travis Gulbrandson  
Alexandria Echo Press

The Brandon-Evansville School District is doing what it can to educate people about its upcoming referendum vote for funding a school expansion.

On Monday, Sept. 21, an open house took place at the Evansville gym before the regular school board meeting, and about three weeks ago, a website with information about the referendum was launched.

The website — [www.2campuses1vision.org/](http://www.2campuses1vision.org/) — covers such topics as the district's needs, the plan, voting information and the cost, including a tax calculator users can access to find their estimated tax impact.

"It's a comprehensive site dedicated specifically to the referendum," said Superintendent Don Peschel.

The plan for the Evansville school includes the addition of more classrooms, a parent drop-off area and new parking lots. In Brandon, the plan includes a new gym, career and technical shop and community fitness room additions,

as well as new parking lots and a storage shed.

The school board approved a resolution to issue general obligation school building bonds and called for the special election at its July meeting.

According to the resolution, the amount of money would not exceed \$14.5 million and would go toward "the betterment of school sites and facilities."

A previous \$25.2 million referendum failed in November 2019.

### Indoor air quality project

At the school board's regular meeting Monday, Sept. 20, they also heard an update on the indoor air quality project and HVAC for the Brandon School, a project that entails installing new boilers, heating/cooling, ceilings, lighting and some other exterior improvements.

Jeff Flette of ICS Consulting said the project is on schedule to be completed by the middle of October, saying the heating should be running by the first of the month.

"I know it's pushing it a little bit," he said. "It might get a little chilly for a couple of days, but for the most part it should be OK."

**SCHOOLS:** Page A6



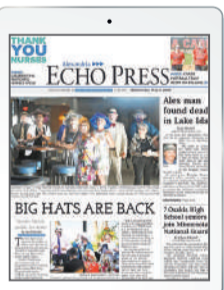
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### DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## County approves \$30.86M preliminary levy

By Celeste Edenloff  
Alexandria Echo Press

At a 5.89% increase, the preliminary levy has been set by the Douglas County Commissioners.

At the Tuesday, Sept. 21, board meeting, commissioners set the 2022 preliminary levy at

\$30.86 million.

Although there was no discussion about the increase, Commissioner Heather Larson stated, "We are working to get it lowered."

After the preliminary levy has been set, commissioners can always decrease it, but they

cannot increase it. Commissioners are hoping to decrease it down to at least 4%, which means they will be working hard the next couple months making cuts to the budget.

A budget hearing has been set, which is when detailed information

about the county's budget will be presented. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the boardroom.

Here's a look at previous levies:

- ▶ 2021: \$29.1 million – 2.5% increase
- ▶ 2020: \$28.4 million – 4.2% increase

▶ 2019: \$27.2 million – 3% increase

▶ 2018: \$26.4 million – 1.84% increase

▶ 2017: \$25.9 million – 1.96% increase

▶ 2016: \$25.4 million – No change

**LEVY:** Page A10

## Will the Jodi Huisentruit case ever be solved?

Lack of DNA evidence, passage of time makes solving disappearance of TV anchor unlikely



Huisentruit

By Matthew Stolle  
Rochester Post Bulletin

MASON CITY, Iowa — Few people are as intimately familiar with the details surrounding the mystery of television news anchor Jodi Huisentruit's disappearance as Scott Fuller.

Twenty-seven years later, the case has yet to be solved. And there are few signs it ever will be.

Fuller, a team member of FindJodi.com, a website devoted to keeping the memory of the case alive, doesn't say outright that the

case won't ever be solved. But he is doubtful that it will ever be solved to the satisfaction of a court, given the lack of DNA evidence.

Yet there is such a larger-than-life "mythos" surrounding the unsolved mystery, particularly in Mason

City where the young woman disappeared and where rumors and suspicions continue to swirl, that's it unlikely the case will ever be forgotten.

**CASE:** Page A6

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## LAKES AREA FORECAST

Fall arrived on Wednesday afternoon at 2:21 p.m., and it was cold Wednesday morning across much of the state.



Mark Anthony  
Meteorologist

A frost advisory was in effect for portions of northeastern Minnesota Tuesday night into Wednesday morning. Hibbing dropped to a cold 29 degrees at 6 a.m. on Wednesday. Other cold spots were Aitkin, Cook, Ely and Eveleth, where they all bottomed out at 32 degrees.

It wasn't as cold, however, in Alexandria, Battle Lake, and Morris, as overnight lows were only in the low to mid 40s.

It was a nice day by the afternoon on Wednesday, with highs in the upper 60s very common across the region with lots of sunshine. The wind was also fairly light at 5-10 mph out of the southwest.

Looking ahead, a weak system could bring some spotty rain on Friday along with cooler temps, but we should rebound into the 70s by Sunday and into early next week with lots of sunshine expected.

Enjoy your first autumn weekend!

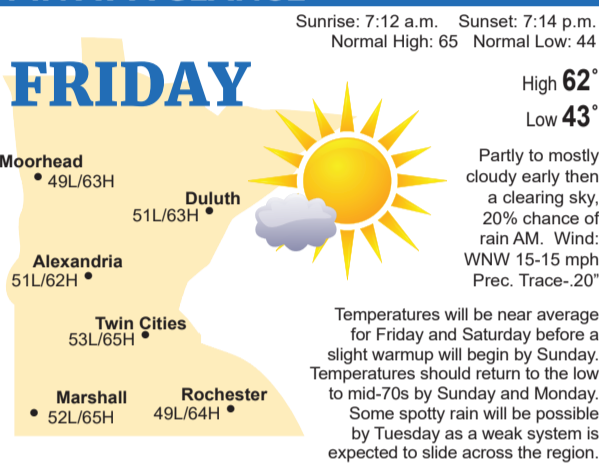
## WEATHER HISTORY

On this date in 1869, records show that heavy rain dumped nearly 10 inches on the White Earth Reservation.

## WEATHER FACT

Rain is considered heavy when 3 inches of rain or more falls in a 12-hour period.

## MN AT A GLANCE



## OUTLOOK

<b>SATURDAY</b> Mostly sunny. High 65° Low 45° Winds: WNW 10-15 mph Prec: None	<b>SUNDAY</b> Mostly sunny and warmer. High 73° Low 49° Winds: SW 5-10 mph Prec: None
<b>MONDAY</b> Mostly sunny and mild. High 75° Low 50° Winds: SSW 5-10 mph Prec: None	<b>TUESDAY</b> Partly cloudy, 20% chance of rain. High 75° Low 52° Winds: SSE 5-10 mph Prec: Trace-.20°

Your 5-day forecast is brought to you by Alomere Health

## Photo of the Week



Kate Wessel-Hintermeister took this photo of Stella Hintermeister having a great time on a ride at this year's Douglas County Fair. If you have a great photo, email it to Lowell Anderson at [landerson@echopress.com](mailto:landerson@echopress.com).

## FOR THE RECORD

### Alexandria City Council Regular Meeting Monday, Sept. 27

**Where:** The Mayor and City Council may participate in the City Council meeting remotely via telephone or video. Members of the public may participate via phone or other electronic means. Find more information at [www.AlexandriaMN.city/events](http://www.AlexandriaMN.city/events) and click on the meeting date to display the link. If you wish to provide input to city staff and/or elected officials on matters before the City Council, please email [publicinput@alexandriamn.city](mailto:publicinput@alexandriamn.city).

**7 p.m.** Pledge of Allegiance, moment of silence, approve agenda  
**7:05 p.m.** Consent agenda: Approve minutes for the Sept. 13 council meeting and Sept. 13 special council meeting

**7:10 p.m.** Special event permit  
A. SEP2021-020 – Alexandria Fire Department Fire Prevention Open House

**7:15 p.m.** Public hearing – Preliminary 2022 budget and tax levy

**7:45 p.m.** License:  
A. Transient merchant (temporary vendor) – Country Fresh Farms

**7:50 p.m.** Police Chief Scott Kent  
A. Resolution accepting a donation  
B. Introduction of new police officer

**8 p.m.** Fire Chief Jeff Karrow  
A. Authorization to purchase Rosenbauer rescue vehicle for the Alexandria Fire Department

**8:05 p.m.** Resolution authorizing master lease purchase agreements with NCL Government Cap-

ital  
**8:10 p.m.** Resolutions and ordinances  
A. Second reading – Amendment to Section 6.03 of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Alexandria  
B. Second reading – Annexation ordinance (Brower)

**8:15 p.m.** City Engineer Tim Schoonhoven  
A. Revised 18th Avenue engineering agreement  
B. Additional transportation funds-Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act

**8:25 p.m.** Community Development Director Mike Weber  
A. Planning Commission items

**8:30 p.m.** City attorney's items of business  
**8:35 p.m.** City administrator's items of business  
**8:40 p.m.** Old and other business  
**8:45 p.m.** Adjournment

**Note:** The Alexandria City Council will convene a special City Council Meeting at 4:30 p.m. to discuss the following items: RCC Expansion.

**Special note:** Please note that the mayor and City Council may participate in the City Council meeting remotely via telephone or video. Members of the public also have the right to participate in the meeting by phone or other electronic means. To participate remotely via video, please go to our website, [www.AlexandriaMN.city/events](http://www.AlexandriaMN.city/events) and click on the meeting date to display the link.

The above items are scheduled as of Wednesday, Sept. 22, and are subject to change.

# Spotlight: Madison Platt

Alomere Health is an equal opportunity employer.

Meet Madison Platt, a Medical Laboratory Scientist at Alomere Health. Having grown up in Alexandria, Madison Platt was happy to return home to build a career.

Attending South Dakota State University in 2013, helped her identify "Lab Technician" as a profession suited to her talents and disposition—and that resonated with Madison, "I have always wanted a career that helps other people."

Further into her degree, she was able to get an internship sponsored by the Alomere Health Foundation. The experience of working in the lab convinced her that she had chosen the right career.

After graduation, Madison's first job was at a large health system in St. Cloud, Minnesota. But after one and a half years, she and her soon-to-be-husband, Josh, desired to live in a smaller town. She found and applied for the newly opened position at Alomere as the Medical Lab Scientist. "Coming from a bigger facility, I was really excited to get back to a small town feel. Alomere has the quality of care found in a large city, with all of the benefits of living in a small community."

"I've been at Alomere for two and a half years now, I'm feel like I am always learning new things. At Alomere we serve the Emergency Department, Intensive Care Units, Med/Surg Floor, Surgery Center, The Birth Place, and all of the clinics—there is always a lot of variety."

Madison identifies four characteristics that are essential to her job: "A good attitude, adaptability to stressful situations, good communication skills, and the willingness to try new things and pitch in and help. Often-times, you are baptised by fire and you have to learn as you go."

Want to join our award-winning team? Here are just some of the career opportunities available:

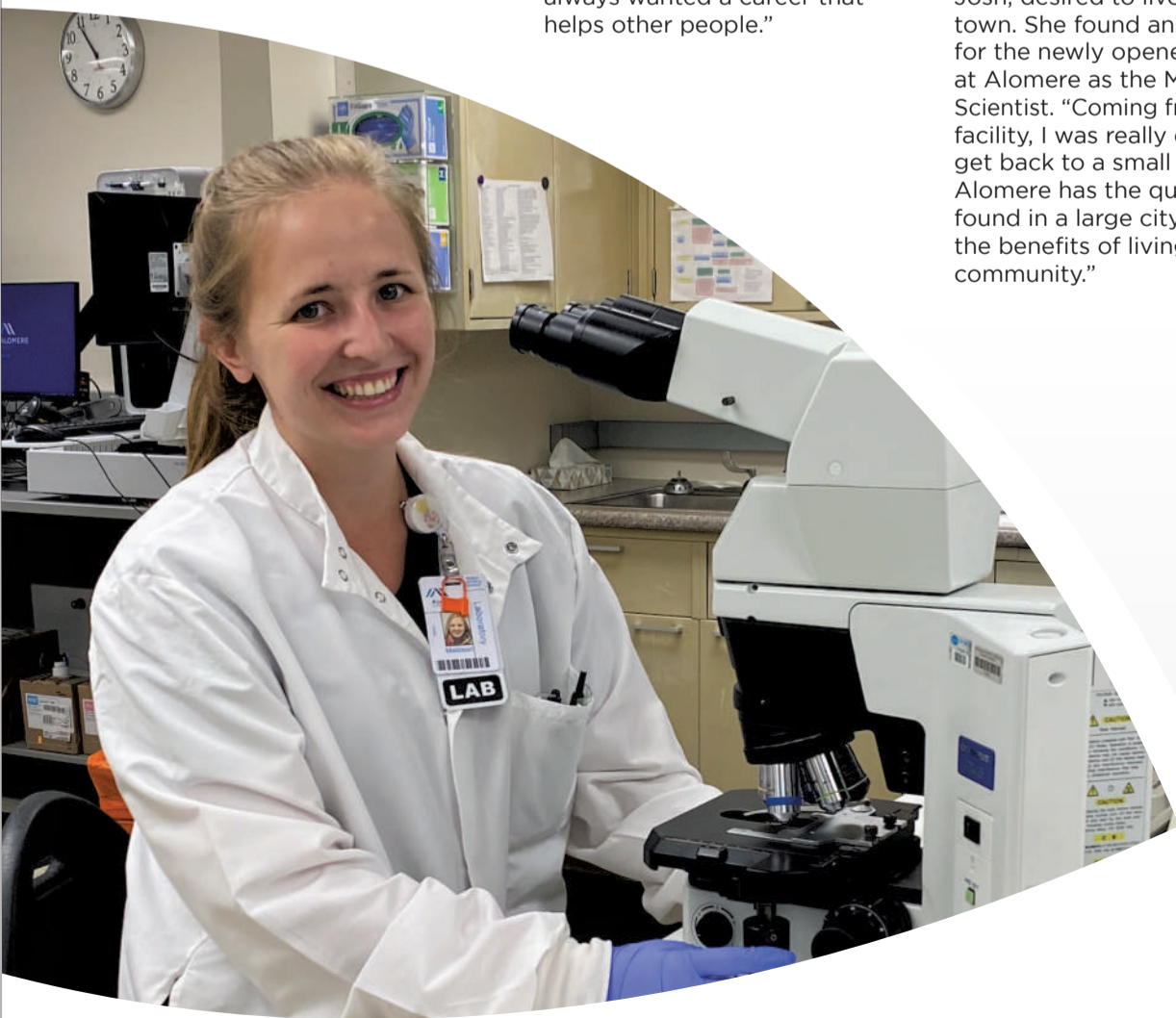
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# Droughts, though brutal, are becoming fewer

By Karen Tolkkinen  
Alexandria Echo Press



Lowell Anderson / Alexandria Echo Press

Decades of climate observation have indicated Minnesota is getting wetter and warmer, and it is, says one of Minnesota's leading climatologist, despite this year's punishing drought.

Data collected for more than 100 years shows a steady trend, and this summer seems to be a natural dip, state climatologist Kenny Blumenfeld said during an online presentation to those gathered at the Legacy of the Lakes Museum on Monday, Sept. 13.

He compared climate change to driving from Minnesota, average elevation 1,200 feet, to Colorado, average elevation 6,800 feet.

"On the way to Colorado, the route isn't entirely up," he said. "You go up and then you go down. You go into a river valley or whatever, but in generally, you're working upwards, and that's the way we've been going with precipitation and also the temperature changes."

Drought is a natural occurrence in Minnesota, but they've been getting few and far between, he said, showing the audience Zoom graphs of data going back to the early years of the 1900s.

He said this year's drought can be traced

back to February 2020, the first of five consecutive months of below normal precipitation. However, the state received so much precipitation prior to that that the break provided the earth a chance to drain. July and August of 2020 drenched the state again, but dried out again in September, and this time Minnesota received less than average precipitation for six months in a row.

Torrential rains this spring gave way to an intense drought that still continues, as rainfall in parts of the state still hasn't replenished what was lost, he said.

Even though this summer was plenty toasty as well as dry, Blumenfeld said it actually wasn't excessively hot when compared with the historical record.

"It wasn't even close," he said.

Minnesota is warming in a different way. Instead of intolerable daytime heat, its nights are warming up, and the coldest temperatures aren't as cold as they used to be. The frigid temps in February 2019 were so memorable because they're rare, but they used to happen quite a bit in the first half of the 20th century, according to graphs he

warming up? Before climate change, the sun's rays would hit the earth during the day, and their warmth would escape into space at night. However, greenhouse gases trap that heat near earth, meaning that our nights are warming up, Blumenfeld said.

In fact, Minnesota is getting more temperate, with a longer growing season and milder winters. Along with the rest of the Upper Midwest, it will fare much better with climate change than western states or states along the Gulf Coast. In fact, Duluth has been singled out by Christian climatologist Katharine Hayhoe on social media as a possible climate refuge, along with other locations, since it has good access to water and isn't far from the ame-

nities of larger cities. However, Blumenfeld said he wonders if Californians and Floridians, accustomed to the sunshine of the Gulf Coast, would actually be willing to settle in Minnesota, as it will still get long, dark winters.

"Minnesota's not for everyone," he said. "Some people come here and love it and others come here and leave the next year."

Hotter temperatures will likely arrive in Minnesota, he said, but that won't be until sometime around 2050.

By mid-century, the Alexandria area could see an additional 10-20 days of 90-degree-plus temperatures, he said.

Reporter Karen Tolkkinen can be reached at ktolkkinen@echopress.com.

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### COVID-19 CASE COUNT

Total number of COVID-19 cases confirmed by the Minnesota Department of Health in Douglas County and the surrounding area as of Sept. 22 (cumulative):

- ▶ **Douglas County** - 5,436 (84 deaths).
- ▶ **Grant** - 695 (8 deaths).
- ▶ **Otter Tail** - 6,807 (95 deaths).
- ▶ **Pope** - 1,347 (8 deaths).
- ▶ **Stearns** - 25,220 (241 deaths).

- ▶ **Stevens** - 1,216 (11 deaths)
- ▶ **Todd** - 3,284 (34 deaths).
- ▶ **Statewide (cumulative)** - 692,029 (8,025 deaths).
- ▶ **Active cases in Douglas County** - 128 (according to Horizon Public Health as of Sept. 21).
- ▶ **People (16 and older) with at least one vaccine dose in Douglas County** - 18,847 or 62.2% of the population (as of Sept. 20).



## FALL FRAME SPECTACULAR

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AN ECHO PRESS EDITORIAL

## Why did newspaper print paid ad?

A paid full-page advertisement in the Friday, Sept. 17 Echo Press titled, "Please Do Not Drink the Grape Kool-Aid," has raised questions.

We've received some calls from readers and a letter to the editor elsewhere on this page that criticized the newspaper for publishing something that they believe contained wild claims, misinformation and conspiracy theories regarding COVID-19, vaccines, antibodies, masks and other topics.

It's important to point out that the Echo Press does treat paid advertising differently than a letter to the editor, with letters being edited for length, libel issues and factual content. This ad appeared on a different page than the Opinion page and was labeled as paid opinion.

A few other points: Publishing this advertisement does not mean the newspaper agrees with the writer or the content. In fact, the newspaper's own editorials on the Opinion page during the pandemic have taken a completely opposite view of the arguments that were presented in the ad. The newspaper's editorial board has supported the information provided by our local public health leaders and the Minnesota Department of Health throughout the pandemic. We've also published dozens of letters and columns from those holding opposing views.

Freedom of the press is in our country's Bill of Rights. Our "platform" has been allowing free speech to happen in our community for more than 130 years.

Could the newspaper have declined to publish the ad? Yes.

It's rare, but we have turned down ad requests over the years if they contain libelous accusations or, in our view, contained graphic images that were beyond the pale.

In this case, there were a few reasons why the advertisement was printed, starting with First Amendment rights protected under the Constitution. Americans have a right to express their views, no matter how controversial or misleading those views may be.

A landmark libel decision, the New York Times Co. v. Sullivan in 1964, emphasized how important those rights are and how far they can reach. The words of Justice William Brennan, who wrote the ruling for the court case, still ring true today: "Thus we consider this case against the background of a profound national commitment to the principle that debate on public issues should be uninhibited, robust and wide open and that it may well include vehement, caustic and sometimes unpleasantly sharp attacks on government and public officials."

Printing an ad with controversial statements can, at the very least, make others more aware of the thoughts and opinions others have in our area. It's a given that the writer of the ad isn't the only one who holds the views that were presented.

So let's talk openly about vaccines, COVID-19, health agencies, the media's role in reporting the pandemic, variants, government incentives and the other issues that are swirling around out there.

As Justice Brennan stated, let's make the debate robust and wide open.

### LETTERS

#### Health care has failed in the US

**To the editor:**  
The pandemic has exposed serious flaws in our health care system. This has been made worse by politicians that support the disinformation by not telling their constituents the facts about COVID.

This is creating another hospital crisis leaving people with non-COVID emergencies not able to find emergency care beds. This has resulted in the needless deaths.

The Peterson-Kaiser Family Foundation health system tracker, found "the surge of COVID-19 hospitalizations among people who have not been vaccinated is adding billions of dollars in preventable costs to the health care system. The costs for the months of June, July and August are estimated at \$5.7 billion." Also most carriers are no longer waiving cost sharing for COVID.

The Commonwealth Fund, which tracks health care globally, ranks the U.S. last out of 11 richest countries. They analyzed 71 performance measures across 5 domains. These are access to care, care process,

administrative efficiency, equity and health care outcomes. They ranked the U.S. last overall except for one category.

We have nearly 30 million people with no health care and 40 million with health care plans that potentially leave them under insured. Out of pocket costs continue to mar the U.S. health care performance. We have the highest maternal mortality rate of any of these countries and the highest infant mortality rate. Also we hold the record for highest preventable mortality deaths. If you're a woman of color in this country, you are more likely to die in childbirth. Not everyone is equal in this country.

The analysis is "Mirror Mirror 2021, reflecting poorly."

Markets don't always work. Markets are good at getting goods and services to people that want them but not to people that need them.

The value of your life is determined by how you value the life of others.

**John Snell  
Farwell, MN**

or excessively long letters may be edited to a shorter form by the newspaper staff. Personal attacks against private individuals will not be printed. All letters must be signed and include the writer's address and telephone number. Letters published will include the

writer's name and the city of residence only. Writers are limited to publishing one letter every 30 days. Submissions can be emailed to aedenloff@echopress.com or submitted to the Echo Press office at 225 7th Ave. E., Alexandria, MN 56308. For

information, call (320) 763-3133.

#### Reader Advisory Board helps improve newspaper

In its ongoing effort to improve the newspaper, the Echo Press has a Reader Advisory Board that meets every other month

to offer feedback, story ideas and suggestions. Readers can also offer advisory board members their comments. Current members include Louie Seesz, Mary Anderson, Jim Nelson, Jane McCrery, Mark Hintermeyer, Judy Backhaus, Joel Novak and Mike Dempsey.

## Have we forgotten our purpose?

Do you ever get shocked by the daily news?

There's a great scene in the movie Roxanne where Steve Martin is walking down the street and stops to get a newspaper. After he puts a coin in the newspaper box and pulls out a paper, he starts walking away while reading the paper. He then screams in horror, runs back, puts another coin in the newspaper box and puts the newspaper back in. I understand his reaction.

I'm often shocked and disgusted by what I see in the news.

I used to feel guilty when I didn't keep up with what was going on in the world, particularly because I'm in the news business. But now I've come to realize that for the sake of my mental health, it's sometimes better to avoid it altogether. Sometimes ignorance really is bliss.

However, it's not the negativity of the news that bothers me lately. News has always been about the bad things happening in the world. Aside from a few light, feature-style stories, things that are right in the world just aren't news and no one really cares about them.

I can deal with the existence of problems in the world. What I can no longer put up with is the way the news is often presented, especially state and national news.

It used to be that journalism was all about finding truth and sharing it with other people. There is a long tradition of journalists digging deep into things and looking tirelessly to discover what was really going on in different situations. News people knew that things



**LOWELL ANDERSON**  
*Lowell's Turn*

were not always as they appeared and weren't afraid to challenge what was considered normal.

But times have changed. Modern journalists don't seem to be as interested in discovering truth, as they are in just confirming what they already believe is true.

I'm not saying journalists are biased - but they are, we all are. There is no such thing as an unbiased reporter, and that's OK. But journalists are supposed to attempt to look at things fairly despite their biases. That's their job. Sadly, what sometimes happens is just an attempt to appear to be unbiased.

It's no secret that I am a conservative. Whenever I talk to other conservatives, I always hear the same thing: "We can't trust the news media because they are extremely biased."

But I don't think that the news media is generally trying to purposely mislead people or lie to them. They believe they are telling the truth and are mystified that anyone disagrees with them. They also believe they are doing an important and indispensable job. I agree, there's probably nothing more vital to the health of a country than good journalism.

But there's a problem: I believe journalists and news organizations have forgotten their true purpose. Journalism isn't supposed to be about social progress, changing

the world or keeping people safe. It's not the media's job to change anything or to make the world a better place. It's our job to discover and share facts, to report on how things are and what is happening. Only with accurate information, can other people make changes and make a difference.

I just don't see that happening much, lately.

What I do see happening is the media repeating the same things over and over, as if that will convince people it is true. But that's not news, that's propaganda - and no one needs that.

What people desperately need is accurate information from someone they can trust, information that goes beyond party lines and quotes by the same old sources and a reporter's own belief that they already know the truth.

It may sound boring, but reporters need to become more like scientists, and less like artists and activists. We need to present more pure facts and less commentary. We need to give readers more of an active role in deciding what is important and what it means. We need to try to tell the whole story and not just the most convenient part. Most importantly, we need to keep reexamining what we believe to be true and what others tell us is true.

Only then will news organizations gain back the trust of those who have given up on them.

Only then can people go back to being shocked by what is in the news rather than how it is presented.

"It's Our Turn" is a weekly column that rotates among members of the Echo Press editorial staff.

### LETTERS

#### Grateful for excellent health care, vaccines and masks

**To the editor:**  
I decided to write this letter to say how thankful I am for the excellent health care I receive in this community and have received for almost 50 years.

Thirty years ago, I went back to school at the ATCC and went through the Practical Nursing Program and became an LPN. I'm still working at age 75. I love my job. For most of my career I've cared for children with complex medical needs.

I do hope that the children and teenagers heading back to school this month will think about the courses they need to take and consider a career in health or human services and what their future might look like. It is a very fulfilling and rewarding career.

As far as vaccines go, most were not available at first when I was a child and have been developed in my lifetime, along with many other fantastic medicines that have benefited me and my family.

When I went back to school at 44, I was required to have those vaccines. I still get all the vaccines and blood tests required of me to do my job. That's my choice.

I'm a pediatric field nurse who has had to mask, even before we had COVID-19, to keep my patients safe at times. I often have to drive through snowstorms to get to my patients. So then I wear a snow-suit, boots and everything else like a child going out to play - and yes, that includes a full face mask as well.

So when we talk about wearing a mask during a pandemic, the first pandemic in my lifetime, I just have to chuckle and think about all the other times my snow gear, my face masks and headgear

have provided that lifesaving protection I needed if working or pursuing a hobby.

**Rita Ellenberger  
Alexandria MN**

#### Media has responsibility to be guardian of truth

**To the editor:**  
In the Friday Sept. 17 issue of the Echo Press, there was a full-page paid advertisement from retired Major Erik C. Rivers espousing the dangers of the COVID-19 vaccine. While a lot could be said about the credibility of the author and the misinformation he presented, many are tired of and unwilling to be persuaded in the vaccination debate.

Instead, I would like to express my deep disappointment and concern that the Echo Press believed that it was acceptable to take money in exchange for the printing of conspiracy theories, lies, and falsehoods that are driving our community and our country deeper into a health crisis instead of out of it.

Media has a responsibility to the public to be a guardian of truth in the news. Historically, printing factual, verifiable news has empowered the ordinary citizen to hold those in power accountable. Printing conspiracy theories feeds the community lies and blinds readers to the facts, thereby taking away their power. By taking money to print conspiracy theories, the Echo Press has compromised its integrity and its ethical responsibility to its readers. I request that the Echo Press please explain its policy around such advertising and to be transparent to its readers about the amount of money received to print these falsehoods.

**Anna Wilson  
Alexandria, MN**

#### Submitting letters to the editor

The Echo Press encourages readers to voice their opinions through letters to the editor. Please, however, keep your letters brief and to the point. Letters of more than 300 words



**CASE**

From Page A1

“We all want it to be solved,” Fuller said. “I think we all believe that, first of all, it would have been solved had it occurred today. And there are things police could do that might aid in their investigation that they haven’t tried yet.”

Huisentruit’s disappearance has a connection to the Alexandria area. A Long Prairie native, she worked as a news anchor for Alexandria’s KSAX-TV in the early 1990s.

Fuller and other team members, including family members, former journalists and a retired police officer, continue to work the case, almost on a daily basis.

For Fuller, an operations manager for KAUS AM and FM radio in Austin, the case has become personal as he has gotten to know Huisentruit’s family and former colleagues.

“It does become a little bit personal. It’s something of an obsessed hobby,” he said.

Smart and outgoing, attractive and effervescent, Huisentruit was a well-known television news personality on KIMT-TV in Mason City, when she disappeared on June 27, 1995. She was scheduled to anchor the 6 a.m. news that day.

She had overslept and a producer had called her because she was late for



Courtesy / FindJodi.com via St. Paul Pioneer Press

A billboard campaign to help solve the mystery of Jodi Huisentruit’s disappearance was launched in 2018 in Mason City, Iowa.

work. As she went to her red Mazda Miata in the parking lot of Key Apartments, someone assaulted Huisentruit sometime after 4 a.m., police say. Neighbors said they heard a scream and saw a white van in the parking lot.

Police believe Huisentruit was unlocking her car door when she was taken. A bent key lay on the ground near the Miata, and her red high heels, blow dryer, hair spray and earrings were strewn across the parking lot.

Fuller is certain that someone was lying in wait for Huisentruit

when she exited her apartment. The distance between the anchor’s apartment door and her car was a mere dozen feet or so, ruling out the possibility that the abduction resulted from some chance encounter.

“Somebody was there on that morning with the intention of at least talking to her or confronting her about something, if not planning an abduction,” Fuller said.

Fuller said that Huisentruit may have been aware of being stalked in the days leading up to her disappearance. She had taken self-defense classes “for reasons that

we’ve never fully uncovered.” She reportedly told people the day before her disappearance that she was receiving harassing phone calls and was considering changing her phone number.

Unlike some cold cases that have been solved decades after the original crime was committed, the Huisentruit case has offered little in the way of physical or DNA evidence, at least as described by Mason City police. A hair was found at the scene, as well as a palm print on Huisentruit’s car.

“Neither or both could be related to the crime,”



Contributed / FindJodi.com

Jodi Huisentruit was a morning anchor for KIMT-TV in Mason City, Iowa.

he said.

Two years ago, on the 25th anniversary of her disappearance, FindJodi.com team members, friends and family held a memorial for her in Mason City. They point to breakthroughs in other long dormant cases as reasons for hope. The disappearance of Jacob Wetterling in St. Joseph, Minn., remained a mystery for nearly 27 years, until his killer confessed to the crime as part of a plea deal.

Mason City police continue to work the case, investigating leads as they come in. Over the years, they have interviewed people, but no one has been named as a suspect and no arrests have been made.

Billboards appeal to the public to come forward with anything they know. One billboard put up in 2018 featured a picture of Huisentruit and the words “Someone

knows something. Is it YOU?” One of the latest billboards says “Don’t sit in silence ... The time to talk is now.”

In addition to producing a series of podcasts on the case, Fuller continues to chase down leads and make records requests. He remains fueled by a sense of indignation and anger that Huisentruit’s disappearance remains unsolved, that someone has gotten away with a crime.

So even if the hope is only a glimmer, Fuller hasn’t given up yet.

“I think in order for it to be solved to the satisfaction of everybody who’s followed the case, it would have to be, like, DNA evidence. And I’m not sure that exists in Jodi’s case,” Fuller said. “That’d be the biggest roadblock for police.”

Contact reporter Matthew Stolle at [mstolle@postbulletin.com](mailto:mstolle@postbulletin.com).

**SCHOOLS**

From Page A1

Flettre said the chillier side of the project should be completed by the middle of the

month, and all that will be left after that is some minor cosmetic issues, and testing and balancing.

Peschel confirmed the progress, saying, “It’s getting close. We’re not far from being done with it.”

**COVID update**

Peschel also gave the school board an update on the district’s COVID numbers, saying there currently are two students who have tested positive. “Our attendance list has been nothing concerning,

compared to other years,” he said. “Some days the highest we had was 27 kids (marked absent).”

Peschel said the district is watching the numbers daily and the custodians “have been really vigilant on trying to

keep the buildings clean.”

Brandon-Evansville students are not required to wear masks during school.

Email reporter Travis Gulbrandson at [tgulbrandson@echopress.com](mailto:tgulbrandson@echopress.com)

ECHO PRESS  
2021

# STRIKE out illiteracy

**Thank you for helping to put today’s news in the hands of tomorrow’s leaders!**

The Strike Out Illiteracy Bowling Tournament held September 21 was a huge success. Thank you to our major sponsors, lane sponsors, team sponsors, classroom sponsors and of course, the bowlers!

Proceeds from this event will go to the Newspapers In Education (NIE) program. This event helps make it possible for us to furnish local schools with newspapers that teachers use as a teaching tool in their classrooms. The students and teachers really do appreciate receiving them, so ... THANK YOU for participating in the Echo Press Strike Out Illiteracy tournament and for supporting Douglas County youth!

To learn more about the local NIE program, contact Lynn Mounsdon at 320-763-3133.

# Thank You!

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR’S WINNERS:

**1st Place**  
SunOpta Team 2

**2nd Place**  
Alexandria Noon Kiwanis Team 1

**3rd Place**  
Alexandria Area USBCA Bakers Team

Thank you to all of our participating teams. See you next year!

# Bowling for students

## Douglas County businesses bowl-off against each other to help eliminate student illiteracy

**By Thalen Zimmerman**  
Alexandria Echo Press

The Strike Out Illiteracy Bowling Tournament was held on Sept. 21 at the Garden Center lanes in Alexandria. Thirty-three teams made up of local businesses faced

off in a three-game tournament to raise money and promote literacy for students. Sun Opta took first place, followed by Alexandria Kiwanis in second, and Alexandria Area USBCA Bakers in third. Proceeds from the event

will go to NIE, Newspapers in Education. A program to help combat illiteracy in students by providing newspapers and educational activities for local teachers to use teaching tools in their classrooms. Email reporter Thalen Zimmerman at [tzimmerman@echopress.com](mailto:tzimmerman@echopress.com)



Thalen Zimmerman / Alexandria Echo Press  
Thirty-three teams of Douglas County businesses faced off against each other to promote reading at the annual Strike Out Illiteracy event.

# Past and Present Home Gallery to host Wake Up

Past and Present Home Gallery, 619 Broadway Street, will host the Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Wake Up Alexandria event on Friday, Oct. 1 from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. The event is open to every-

one. A \$1 admission is requested, with all proceeds donated to the day's nonprofit recipient, the Alzheimer's Association of Minnesota and North Dakota. All Chamber members will also be placed in a drawing for the Pot of Gold, which

is currently valued at nearly \$5,800. Owners Jeff and Lynelle Lanoue opened Past and Present Home Gallery in 2011. Known as "the antique store with character," the 13,000-square-foot store

showcases an eclectic mix of furniture, antiques, collectibles, primitives, a man gave, stained glass lamps, vintage jewelry, coins and many conversation pieces. The owners also buy, sell and repair furniture. The store

itself is rich in character, from the original 1940 JC Penny's sign that was recently uncovered to the fur vault once used by Barthelemy Furs. For more information, visit [www.pastandpresenthomegallery.com](http://www.pastandpresenthomegallery.com).

# Chamber Ambassadors visit three Alexandria businesses

The Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors recognized three local businesses on Sept. 8.

**Marco** recently moved its Alexandria office to a new space at 418 3rd Ave., Ste. 106. It offers a variety of services including copiers and printers, phone systems, audio visual, shredding, IT, cloud, and more. Marco started as a local typewriter company in 1973 and has grown to serving more than 28,000 customers nationally. Learn more by visiting [marconet.com](http://marconet.com).

**The Edge Co.** is a new business in downtown Alexandria owned by Kiyana Miller. It is housed in what used to be Ben Franklin, located at 624 Broadway St. It features a mixture of clothing and home goods. You can also sit and enjoy a cup of coffee, beer, or a glass of wine along with a sandwich. The space also houses eight rental office suites and a conference room. Learn more by visiting [The Edge Co.](http://TheEdgeCo.com) on Facebook @shop.theedgeco.



Contributed photo

Marco employees include, from left, Tom Seidl, technology advisor; Rachel Dirks, technology advisor; Michael Amberg, managed services specialist; and Braeden Wahl, technology advisor.

**Cutting Edge Chiropractic**, formerly Cornerstone Chiropractic, is newly owned by Dr. Landon Olson. The company also includes Cutting Edge Pilates and Cutting Edge Performance which are jointly operated with his wife Lisa. The company's mission is to guide individuals to reach their health and wellness potential through functional chiropractic care,

customized Pilates, personal training, and massage. Learn more by visiting [cuttingedgealex.com/chiropractic](http://cuttingedgealex.com/chiropractic).

The Chamber Ambassadors serve as an active communication link to cultivate and promote positive relationships

between the Chamber and the business community for members and non-members.

For more information about the Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce, visit [www.alexandriamn.org](http://www.alexandriamn.org) or call 320-763-3161.

### Most Overlooked Tax Deductions—Part 2

» **State Taxes:** Did you owe state taxes when you filed your previous year's tax returns? If you did, don't forget to include this payment as a tax deduction on your current year's tax return. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 placed a \$10,000 cap on the state and local tax deduction.

» **Medicare Premiums:** If you are self-employed (and not covered by an employer plan or your spouse's plan), you may be eligible to deduct premiums paid for Medicare Parts B and D, Medigap insurance, and Medicare Advantage Plan. This deduction is available regardless of whether you itemize deductions or not.

» **Income in Respect of a Decedent:** If you've inherited an IRA or pension, you may be able to deduct estate tax paid by the IRA owner from the taxes due on the withdrawals you take from the inherited account.

Withdrawals from traditional IRAs are taxed as ordinary income and, if taken before age 59½, may be subject to a 10% federal income tax penalty. Generally, once you reach age 72, you must begin taking required minimum distributions. The content is developed from sources believed to be providing accurate information. The information in this material is not intended as tax or legal advice. It may not be used for the purpose of avoiding any federal tax penalties. Please consult legal or tax professionals for specific information regarding your individual situation.

**Please call with questions. We're here to help!**



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**"Maureen Eigen for School Board" campaign committee supporters (pictured above) and their children joined Maureen for an afternoon at Casey's Amusement Park last Sunday.**

Maureen, who is running against Jeff Patience in a special school board election Nov. 2, 2021, had an opportunity to meet and talk with parents and share her vision and passion for the future of our children here in District 206.

To learn more about Maureen Eigen and the current issues that face parents and children go to "Maureen Eigen for District 206 School Board" on Facebook.

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418 Harmony Hills Dr NE, Alexandria MN

## LIFE

AROUND THE  
WORLD

Marie Leautey of France is currently running a marathon a day to reach her goal of running around the world. Leautey was in Alexandria last week.

Contributed photo

## Daily marathoner stops in Alexandria

By Travis Gulbrandson  
Alexandria Echo Press

**H**ave you ever run a 26.2-mile marathon? Try running a marathon — at least — a day. That’s what one woman is doing as she aims to become the seventh person to run around the world.

Marie Leautey, who is French, was in Alexandria last week on her continuing trip across the United States, which began in July, although the journey as a whole began a year and a half ago.

“I think today is exactly 50% of my U.S. crossing. I should reach New York City on the 25th of November, so it’s going really, really well,” Leautey said. “I’ve already crossed all of Europe, which was during the pandemic, so you can imagine. I had a straight line that was my plan that ended up being like a plate of spaghetti. It was supposed to be 4,000 miles and it ended up being 9,600 miles.”

Leautey keeps to the same basic schedule each day of the six days a week that she runs. She has something to eat, then tries to start running at dawn so she can finish around noon or 1 p.m., after which time she has a nice meal and explores whatever town or city she has arrived at.

Most days she runs the length of a marathon, although some are shorter, and some are longer — up to 35 miles.

She keeps all of her gear — three running kits, one set of casual clothes, a computer and a spare pair of shoes — in a stroller.

“It’s not much, but there was no way I could carry it on my back,” she said.

The stroller has also afforded Leautey a certain amount of protection, she said.

“It attracts the best in people, because when people see a woman with a stroller they feel protective,” she said.

Leautey’s route is highly organized, having been worked out over the course of two years before she started. On her “magic Excel spreadsheet” it says the date, where she is going, how far she will be running and where she will be staying.

“I know all the stages going forward,” Leautey said. “Everything is planned in such detail. Every continent is planned

this way, so it was a lot of work prior to starting the journey.”

That doesn’t mean everything has gone according to plan, however. Initially Leautey wanted to go back and forth between Canada and the U.S. on the North American leg of her journey, but COVID made that impossible.

“When I started from Seattle, Canada was still not open, so I had to revise the whole plan and stick to one side of the border, so I did all of this again,” she said. “Two weeks ago now Canada is open, but I would have needed to head back up north (to go there). It’s too late. But I’m happy with this plan.”

Despite the route change, everything has gone very well, Leautey said.

“Physically it couldn’t go any better than how it is,” she said. “It’s one year and a half that I’m on this regimen of running a marathon six days a week.”

In that time she has experienced no negative side effects, she said.

“The body is extremely resilient,” she said.

The weather has cooperated, as well.

“I’ve been very lucky,” Leautey said.

“I must have had two days of rain since I started in the U.S., so that’s pretty good. I hope it stays this way.”

Leautey said she undertook this journey because she always wanted to see the world, and checked whether running around it would be feasible. The guidelines stated she would have to cross four continents, going in the same basic direction the entire way.

She has already crossed Europe, and after she reaches New York City she will be heading to South America, which she said will be more difficult as the higher altitude means the air will be thinner.

“I’ve crossed five mountain ranges in Europe ... but we are talking different altitude there. We are talking major differences,” she said.

Leautey is also running for a cause, benefitting the charity, Women for Women International.

“They help women rebuild communities in postwar countries,” she said. “What I like about it is they don’t just go and

“I’ve already crossed all of Europe, which was during the pandemic, so you can imagine. ... It was supposed to be 4,000 miles and it ended up being 9,600 miles.”

MARIE LEAUTEY

give them money, they really have an educational program ... and it spans a year or two years. (They’re) really there in the long run.”

She promised to raise \$1 for every kilometer she ran. In the beginning she was going to run 26,232 kilometers, but because of delays the total will be north of 30,000.

Although Leautey had been to many European countries before she began, she had not had much experience with the United States.

“I started with the crossing of Europe because I’ve been in so many different countries in Europe,” she said. “I know people all over the place, so there’s a sense of, yes, it’s a big adventure, but I started on the most familiar ground so that maybe the physical element of it, I can get used to it while not being completely on my own.

“But when I jumped from Europe to the U.S. I was looking at a continent. I had the Pacific Ocean behind me looking in this direction. I don’t know one person on this whole continent. This is insane, and I’m on my own, pushing a stroller, running. It was a bit daunting,” she said.

She also thought that because she had been to Manhattan she had an idea of what the rest of the country would be like.

“I had no clue what the U.S. was about,” she said. “No clue at all. It’s a different world.”

Perhaps the biggest surprise was the open spaces.

“In Europe you see a village somewhere in the distance or a church, and here (there is open space) as far as the eye can see,” Leautey said. “I’ve never seen this kind of beauty before or since.”

For more information about Women for Women International, visit <https://www.womenforwomen.org/>.

You can follow Leautey’s progress at her website, <https://lootie-run.com/>.

Email reporter Travis Gulbrandson at [tgulbrandson@echopress.com](mailto:tgulbrandson@echopress.com)

## Shang-Chi one of 2021’s best movies so far

**T**his biggest complaint with the new influx of superhero movies is they’re all the same, and I agree.

There are currently 25 Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) movies and four television shows. By the end of 2021, there will be two more movies and another show, with no foreseeable end in sight. As a fan, I’m excited, but I also think it can get a little exhausting.

There is fatigue when it comes to these movies, and it’s in large part due to a lot of them feeling like the same thing. There’s not



JARED  
RUBADO  
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a chance that I miss any of these pictures, but it’s natural for the excitement level to drop. Then I saw “Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings.”

Shang-Chi is the first MCU origin story of an Asian reading role. Origin stories have been the stalest movies in the Disney catalog for over a decade because

all of them feel the same.

It typically starts with a bunch of flashback sequences in the first act and highlights the hero arch for the protagonist. The villain gets the same treatment, and then they fight. It’s tiring, but it’s often necessary because the character needs an introduction to those who don’t indulge in comic book.

Shang-Chi was different. It’s necessary to have flashback scenes, but they didn’t happen all at once. They were woven into the story as plot drivers to help escalate the feud

between the hero and the villain, which is a father and son.

Simu Liu, who plays Shang-Chi, was fantastic. He clearly solidified himself as one of the main fixtures in the MCU moving forward. But I think the real star of the film was Tony Leung Chiu-wai, who played the father.

I believe Chiu-wai’s character is one of the best villains in the history of the MCU. Through 25 movies, that’s one of the highest praises I can give. The villain story is rooted in family distress. It’s tough to convey believable

dissension between a family at an elite level in cinema, but Shang-Chi did it.

Like most MCU movies, Shang-Chi was also very funny. That’s in large part due to Awkwafina, one of the top actresses on the planet. She’s brilliant in a movie called “The Farewell.” I was so happy to see the MCU find a role for her, and she thrived.

Where I think Shang-Chi really separated itself from its predecessors is the action sequences. You won’t find another superhero movie with action as good as

this one. I was blown away by the fight choreography and how dedicated it was to relics in Asian cinema.

Critic scores for Shang-Chi are down, and I haven’t seen a good reason as to why. I think this is one of the best MCU movies ever made. It cracks my top five and likely my top three. I don’t know if it has the legs to beat “Guardians of the Galaxy” or “Thor: Ragnarok,” but it’s definitively in the top tier. I gave Shang-Chi a 93/100. It’s only in theaters, so go see it.

Contact Jared Rubado: [jrubado@dnewspapers.com](mailto:jrubado@dnewspapers.com)



# Folk Legacy Trio to perform in Alexandria

Three musicians with roots in 1950s, 1960s and 1970s folk music will perform at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 28, at the Tastefully Simple Performing Arts Center in the Alexandria Area High School.

The concert by the Folk Legacy Trio will kick off the Central Lakes Concert Association's 2021-2022 season, and admission is by season ticket only.

The association says the

concert will evoke the era when the radio played songs by The Weavers, The Kingston Trio, The Limelites, Peter, Paul & Mary, The New Christy Minstrels, The Brothers Four, The Chad Mitchell Trio, Tom Paxton, Judy Collins, Joaz Baez, Gordon Lightfoot, Simon & Garfunkel, John Denver, and many more.

The Folk Legacy Trio includes George Grove, for-

merly with the Kingston Trio for 41 years, Rick Dougherty, former member of The Limelites and Kingston Trio for 25 years, and Jerry Siggins, former lead singer of the legendary doo-wop group The Diamonds for 27 years.

For ticket and membership information, contact Kathi Haug at 320-815-8979 or visit [www.centrallakesconcerts.com](http://www.centrallakesconcerts.com).



Folk Legacy Trio Contributed / Central Lakes Concert Association



Contributed photo

Skip Hall, right, and co-author Heather Goetter show the new book "Coach 'Em Up," which is now available on Amazon.

# Former Alexandria athlete and longtime college coach writes book

Merle "Skip" Hall, a former Alexandria athlete and college football coach at Colorado, Washington, Boise State and Missouri, has released a new book, "Coach 'Em Up - the Skip Hall Story. How the Power of Influence and Encouragement Changes Lives."

Hall, a 1962 graduate from Jefferson High School, was a three-sport standout and played

quarterback. In his senior year, the football team won the Resort Region Conference championship.

Hall said his high school coach, Charlie Basch, inspired him to become a coach when he was a junior. Hall went on to coach for high school teams in Minnesota, compiling a 23-1 record in three years.

From 1987 to 1992, Hall served as the head football coach at Boise State University for six

seasons, compiling a record of 42-28. He was previously an assistant coach at Kent State and Washington under Don James, and later was the defensive coordinator at Missouri under Bob Stull.

Hall coached with Nick Saban and coached stars who played in the NFL, including Warren Moon, Jack Lambert and many others.

In the foreword, Saban wrote about Hall: "His

leadership inspires and influences all who are lucky enough to know him. He always went above and beyond to encourage his players and fellow coaches. Take the lessons learned from this book and apply them to your own life; share them with your family and friends - and with your teams."

His new book is now available on Amazon, <https://tinyurl.com/CoachEmUpBook>.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Friday, Sept. 24

10 a.m. Class of '71 50 year reunion. Contact [alex71jhs21@yahoo.com](mailto:alex71jhs21@yahoo.com) or visit [classmates.com](http://classmates.com).

11 a.m.-1 p.m. Daughters of Isabella 60th anniversary celebration and fall salad luncheon at the Church of St. Mary's Great Hall. Tickets/\$9.

12-1:15 p.m. Alexandria Education Foundation Alumni Hall of Fame Luncheon, Broadway Ballroom

4 p.m. AAHS Homecoming community parade, downtown Alexandria

6:30 p.m. "The Christians," Fire Pit Productions, [lakesareatheatre.com/firepit](http://lakesareatheatre.com/firepit)

### Saturday, Sept. 25

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday Art Market, Big Ole

10 a.m.-noon March for the Marquee, Andria Theatre Fun K from City Park to Big Ole and back, \$20

10 a.m. Class of '71 50 year reunion. Contact

[alex71jhs21@yahoo.com](mailto:alex71jhs21@yahoo.com) or visit [classmates.com](http://classmates.com).

6:30 p.m. "The Christians," Fire Pit Productions, [lakesareatheatre.com/firepit](http://lakesareatheatre.com/firepit)

### Sunday, Sept. 26

11 a.m.-1 p.m. Our Lady of the Runestone Catholic Church in Kensington Fall Dinner. Silent auction. Take-out meals and gluten-free available.

6-8 p.m. Battle Point County Park Fishing Event hosted by the Cub Scouts and Boy

Scouts, Osakis. Free.

### Tuesday, Sept. 28

7:30 p.m. The Folk Legacy Trio, Alexandria Area High School Performing Arts Center

### Wednesday, Sept. 29

9 a.m.-noon Habitat Bridge Benefit and continental breakfast at First Congregational UCC. in Alexandria. \$10.

Send event information to [echo@echopress.com](mailto:echo@echopress.com), or Echo Press, P.O. Box 549, Alexandria, MN 56308.

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## 2021 ALEXANDRIA METAL PICK UP DAY

As an incentive to help city residents clean up their property this fall, the City of Alexandria and Alex Rubbish & Recycling have partnered together to designate **Tuesday, September 28, 2021** as free metal pick up day.

People with metal objects they wish to dispose of can place the items on their boulevard and have them removed at no extra charge. (NOTE: NO furniture, mattresses, electronics, or televisions). When in doubt if a magnet adheres to it; we will take it!!

You must fill out this agreement form and mail or deliver it to City Hall, 704 Broadway. **Forms will not be accepted after 4:30 p.m. on Monday, September 27, 2021.** Telephone requests for this service will not be accepted. Only residential customers within Alexandria City Limits are eligible. (Commercial customers are not eligible).

AGREEMENT: The undersigned applies to the City of Alexandria for removal of the following metal items or objects on, or about September 28, 2021:

PLEASE PROVIDE STREET ADDRESS:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please list items: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned warrants that he/she owns or has rights to the item(s). In consideration of this service, at no charge from the City of Alexandria, the undersigned does hereby release and agree to hold the City harmless for any claims made by himself/herself, their family, or residents of property owned by him/her in connection with any losses or injuries arising from the removal of said property.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## SIMULATORS

From Page A1

When Surface took over the program two years ago, there were two simulators. Both outdated and non-functioning, and the repair cost would have been \$30,000 each.

"Our thinking was, these simulators are almost 20 years old. Why not put a little more money in and get brand new simulators? We are the best program in the state; we should have the top-of-the-line equipment," said Surface.

The business office approved the program to purchase new simulators with funding from the CRRSAA.

"It has to do with the social distancing of students," said Dave Bjelland with the college's business office, "With the simulators, we don't have to pile the students into the trucks; we can social distance them easier."

Surface and fellow instructor, Tom Weller, began research into simulators and put out a "bid for business." Weller and Surface looked into eight companies interested in selling their simulators, but they had to meet the specific criteria, mostly realistic backing and realistic shifting, two of the toughest lessons in truck driver training.

The criteria were met by Virage Simulation and its VS600M truck simulator.

"I've worked with other simulators; I've never seen one this good," said Surface. "It is a kitten's whisker away from a real truck."

The vs600m is modeled after a standard truck cab and uses three monitors that provide a virtual 360-degree view — 180-degree forward field of view and rear-view mirrors. The system mimics the feeling of being in a real truck, from seat movement on an incline, decline, turning and braking, to shaking in the shifter, steering wheel, and pedals.

"It moves as a truck would. You turn a corner; you will feel it," said Surface.

This is the first semester the simulator has been used, and with only a few weeks in, Surface and Weller say they already see improvements.

"I have been with the program for two years, but I have six years of teaching experience.

"We have seen students who are having issues in the real truck, so we work with them on the simulator. By the next day, the problem is fixed."

**JASON SURFACE,**  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

What I am seeing in students this semester after they use the simulator is remarkably better," said Surface, "We have seen students who are having issues in the real truck, so we work with them on the simulator. By the next day, the problem is fixed."

"Being able to get the students acclimated to what a truck sounds and feels like before we get them into a real one is everything to us," added Weller.

Surface says the simulators will help them save money in the long run. The 13 trucks in the program go through wear and tear as inexperienced drivers often grind the gears when shifting, damaging the transmission.

"The students practice on the simulator before going into the real thing, which will save the trucks from the abuse they often receive," said Surface.

Surface says it helps take away the anxiety from students while they are learning because the students know they won't damage anything if they make a mistake. The simulators also provide a safe environment to teach driving during snow days, when driving a real truck could be dangerous for the students.

"The level of comfort from the simulator makes for an easier transition into the real truck," he said.

Surface and Weller are hoping to purchase more simulators in the future. Starting in February of next year, a new federal regulation will have those looking to become commercial drivers required to go through schooling. Under the current regulations, one only needs to pass the test at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

With the new regulation, Surface and Weller expect their enrollment numbers to double, if not quadruple.

"The use of multiple simulators would help with the expected growth," says Surface, "We only have 16 weeks to turn students into efficient drivers."

Email reporter **Thalen Zimmerman** at [tzimmerman@echopress.com](mailto:tzimmerman@echopress.com)

## LEVY

From Page A1

- ▶ 2015: \$25.4 million – 0.47% decrease
- ▶ 2014: \$25.6 million – 4.25% increase

### Other approval items

Douglas County commissioners approved several other items, including the following:

- ▶ Three donations to the Douglas County Honor Guard – \$300 from the Osakis VFW, \$600 from the Alexandria Elks Lodge and \$3,500 from Integrity Title.

- ▶ Appropriation of \$10,000 to the Runestone Museum.

- ▶ Preliminary plat of Longview Estates, which includes 22 residential lots in Osakis Township.

- ▶ Conditional use

permit to Shane and Sarah Johnston for a one-chair beauty salon in a residential property in LaGrand Township. The one-chair salon will be located within a detached pole building recently constructed on the property.

▶ Conditional use permit to Minnerath Investments, LLC for a 33-acre aggregate mining and processing operation, including operation of an asphalt plant. The mining operation would be located in Hudson Township, south of Interstate 94 and north of County Road 87, near three other similar facilities. Minnerath Investments recently purchased the 75-acre piece of property and received a conditional use permit to use 27 acres for outdoor storage of construction and paving equipment.

Email reporter **Celeste Edenloff** at [cedenloff@echopress.com](mailto:cedenloff@echopress.com)

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# YOUR EXPERT GUIDE



## What's that smell? 6 vehicle warning smells your nose can recognize

**BURNT RUBBER** – this smell could mean slipping drive belts or misplace loose hoses that might be rubbing against rotating accessory drive pulleys. Caution: Do not reach in if the engine is hot.

**HOT OIL** – the smell of hot oil could mean that oil is leaking onto the exhaust system. To verify the leak, look for oil on the pavement or smoke coming from the engine area. Caution: Turn off engine before checking for a leak.

**GASOLINE** – this smell is likely the sign of a gas leak, possibly a fuel injector line or the fuel tank. Caution: Any smell of fuel is a possible fire hazard, so immediate attention should be given.

**SYRUP** – the sweet smell of syrup may be a sign that the car is leaking engine coolant from a component related to the car's cooling system. Caution: Do not open the radiator cap when it is hot.

**BURNING CARPET** – this smell could be a sign of brake trouble. Have your brakes checked right away, especially if this smell is happening during normal driving conditions. Caution: Brake trouble is a serious safety hazard.

**ROTTEN EGGS** – this smell could mean the catalytic converter is not converting hydrogen sulfide in the exhaust to sulfur dioxide properly. Caution: A poor running engine can cause the catalytic converter to become overloaded and fail due to meltdown.

# FALL CAR CARE

Regular maintenance is essential for being safe on the road

October is Fall Car Care Month, which means it is a great time for drivers to think about how they can stay safe on the road. While practicing good driving habits is key, taking care of your car is just as important.

Here are some things to consider:

**Mechanical breakdowns can cause accidents:** Vehicle malfunctions are the cause of countless car accidents every year. Faulty engines, defective brakes and blown transmissions are common culprits. These types of breakdowns are often caused by hidden issues that can be identified by a mechanic during a routine maintenance check.

**Degradation of parts is inevitable:** All moving parts on a car degrade over time. Individual components, however, have distinct lifespans that require servicing at various intervals. For example, brake pads last three to five years, serpentine belts about six years and timing belts about eight years. It's dangerous to drive your

car if mechanical parts become excessively worn.

**Tires and wheels require ongoing care:** Wheels and tires need to be carefully maintained. Your tires grip the road and allow you to turn safely. As they start to wear down, it becomes increasingly difficult to reliably control your car. As for the wheels, they need to be aligned. The tires of misaligned wheels drag and deter the car from rolling freely, causing problems with vehicle handling. Wheels and tires should be inspected several times a year.

**Other benefits of regular maintenance:** Safety may be the best motive for staying on top of your car's maintenance needs, but there are other reasons. Regular car care can save you money by keeping your warranty valid, improving your gas mileage and remedying small issues before they result in costly breakdowns.

Did you know that some motorists have racked up more than a million miles on their odometers? That's the equivalent of



driving around the world 40 times. It's no surprise that the Million Mile Club is pretty exclusive.

You can be sure that each of these drivers took exceptionally good care of their vehicle.

## Maintenance timeline

Though the precise schedule for your vehicle's maintenance tasks depends on its make and model (check owner's manual for specifics), here's a rough guideline indicating approximately when to perform them.

- ▶ Every 3,000 miles or monthly – Inspect the air pressure in and overall condition of your tires, including the spare.
- ▶ Every 3,000 to 10,000 miles – Replace the motor oil and oil filter.
- ▶ Every 6,000 to 8,000 miles – Rotate and balance your tires. This ensures that they won't wear unevenly or prematurely. You should also inspect your brake discs and pads at this time.
- ▶ Every 15,000 to 30,000 miles – Change the air filters to improve air flow and engine performance. City drivers and those with seasonal allergies should replace them more frequently.
- ▶ Every 60,000 to 100,000 miles – Replace your timing belt. This engine component is made of rubber and can dry up, crack and break, causing your engine to fail.

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## GIRLS SOCCER



Photos by Eric Morken / Alexandria Echo Press

The Alexandria girls soccer team celebrates a first-half goal for sophomore Sophia Korynta (22) less than nine minutes into the game against East Grand Forks on Tuesday. It was part of a 3-1 win for the Cardinals that improved them to 7-1 overall.

# A STATEMENT IN SECTION 8AA

Cards get important win over previously unbeaten Green Wave

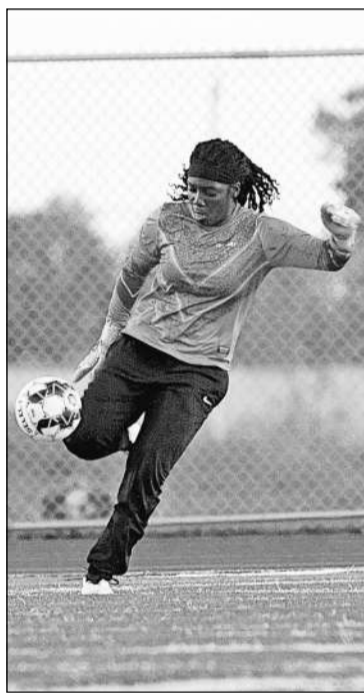
By Eric Morken  
Alexandria Echo Press

Goals figured to be at a premium between two of the best Section 8AA girls soccer teams on Tuesday night, which is why Alexandria converting an opportunity less than nine minutes into the game figured to be so important.

East Grand Forks (6-1) and the Cardinals (7-1) are two of the top three teams in the section right now with Little Falls (7-0-1). All three of those programs allow less than one goal a game behind good defense and goaltending.

Alexandria junior Ella Westlund and sophomore Sophia Korynta connected early in the first half when Westlund sent the ball to Korynta on a run near the 10-yard line. Korynta got a couple quick touches on the ball to position herself just to the left of the net before firing in a goal that set the tone for a 3-1 win for Alexandria.

"For us especially with our team, once we get our first goal we seem to get more of a spark in us," Alexandria senior defender Kylee James said. "That early goal was really important for us



Alexandria junior goalkeeper Sophia Vinje sends the ball downfield during the first half on Tuesday against East Grand Forks.

because it just sets the tone for our game."

It might be the biggest win of the season so far for the Cardinals in their quest to be in the running for a top seed in the Section 8AA Tournament.

"It was very important,"

James said. "We knew coming into this game that it was one we needed to win. They're one of the biggest competitors in our section. It's was really important for us to pull through that win."

The Green Wave settled in defensively after that early goal. It was still a 1-0 game with almost 55 minutes run off the clock, but Alexandria struck with back-to-back goals within a couple minutes of each other to put the game away.

James assisted on both of those. She found junior forward Ella Westlund streaking up field as Westlund ran onto the ball and got behind the defense for a clean look at the net that she doesn't miss. Seconds later, freshman Allie Haabala all but ended things when she scored to make it 3-0.

Alexandria's only loss so far is against a non-section opponent in Willmar in a 2-1 final. Five of the Cardinals' wins have been shutouts as junior goaltender Sophia Vinje and the defense in front of her continue to make things tough for the opposition.

8AA: Page B3

# Spuds clearly no pushover coming in for homecoming

Unbeaten Moorhead offers another good test

By Eric Morken  
emorken@echopress.com

Moorhead is a football program out of Alexandria's Section 8-5A that has the numbers to reload pretty quickly instead of going through entire rebuilds for a couple years at a time. That's been on full display for the Spuds so far this season.

Moorhead graduated their three-year starting quarterback, top four receivers and leading rusher from a perfect 7-0 season last year that included a 63-7 win over Alexandria on Nov. 20 in the lone section playoff game. That Spuds team, named the "mythical" state champs after finishing atop Class 5A's final Associated Press poll, would have had as good a chance as any team to win a state title had the playoffs not been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Even after sustaining the losses they did to graduation, Moorhead might still be the team to beat in the section after a 2-0 start with wins over 0-4 St. Cloud

Tech (49-13 final) and at 2-2 Brainerd (28-18 final). There is a long way to go before all that plays out, but Alexandria (1-2) is the next team to get a shot at the Spuds. It comes during the excitement of homecoming week when the two teams meet at 7 p.m. at AAHS on Friday.

"We've been pretty business as usual this week," Alexandria head coach Mike Emptying said. "We know it's Moorhead. We're very aware of that, but from a preparation standpoint, we've been forging ahead. It's been a good week of practice. To be honest, maybe last week was a bit of a wakeup call. If nothing else, it was an attention getter."

Last week was a 27-13 loss at Sauk Rapids-Rice (3-0). Alexandria turned the Storm over four times in that game, but the Cardinals could not do enough to make that hurt as Sauk Rapids-Rice put up 434 yards of total offense compared to 248 for Alexandria.

FOOTBALL: Page B3



Eric Morken / Alexandria Echo Press

Alexandria junior receiver Kelly Johnson makes a catch and run against Bemidji on Sept. 10. Johnson and the Cardinals sit at 1-2 heading into week four on the schedule as they welcome in Section 8-5A rival Moorhead (2-0) for a 7 p.m. kickoff on Friday during homecoming week.

## SWIM AND DIVE

# Cards still unbeaten

By Eric Morken  
Alexandria Echo Press

The Alexandria girls swim and dive team stayed undefeated on the season with a 111-75 win over Albany on Tuesday.

The Cardinals improved to 6-0 in duals along with a win at the West Fargo

Border Battle on Sept. 18. Wins for Alexandria came from Brooklyn Millward (200 IM, 2:25.71), Hattie Galloway (50 free, 25.97; 100 butterfly, 1:04.92), Lauren Hornstein (diving, 198.95), Grace Urke (100 free, 58.54), the 200-freestyle relay (Jisella Haskamp, Millward, Urke, Galloway, 1:46.56) and the 400-yard freestyle relay team of Julia Wilmesmeier, Millward, Alaina Guen-

ther and Galloway in a time of 3:57.95.

## Cards first at West Fargo meet

Alexandria won the team portion of the West Fargo Border Battle with 391 points on Saturday. That was just in front of West Fargo Sheyenne with 384. Andover was third with 308 points.

The meet had team awards for the top-three scoring teams and individual awards for the top-10 swimmers in terms of total points scored at the meet. Galloway won the 100 freestyle (56.49) and was the fifth-highest point scorer there with 35 throughout her events. Haskamp also represented the Cardinals in that top-10 after trying for the seventh most points with 33.

CARDS: Page B3



Galloway

## BOYS SOCCER

# Cards outmatch The Green Wave

By Eric Morken  
Alexandria Echo Press

The Alexandria boys soccer team had a Section 8AA opponent in town on Tuesday that the Cardinals should have taken care of business against if they're a front-runner in this section.

Alexandria had no problem doing that in an 8-0 win over East Grand Forks. The Green Wave are the lone winless team in the section at 0-6 as Alexandria (7-1-1) jumped out to a 1-0 lead on a Jack Carlson goal within the first couple minutes and never looked back.

"Everyone can see their record going into this game. We all knew what it was. I was just proud of how we came out," Alexandria senior

defender Colin Reilly said. "Sometimes you have those games where you play to their level. That wasn't tonight, so I was super proud of the guys for showing our best game."

This is a senior-laden group for the Cardinals, but sophomore Cole Haabala is also a big piece as an attacker up front. He scored twice in the first half to send Alexandria into halftime up 3-0. He then completed his first-ever varsity hat trick with his third goal late in the second half.

"We just work together real well," Haabala said. "It's great having all the seniors. There's a lot of leaders on this team. I'm just another teammate trying to help the team."

SOCCER: Page B3



Eric Morken / Alexandria Echo Press

Alexandria junior Jack Carlson, right, hugs sophomore Cole Haabala after Haabala scored his second goal of the first half during a win over East Grand Forks on Tuesday. Carlson also had a first-half goal as the Cardinals led early and never looked back on their way to improving to 7-1-1 on the season.



HOCLEY

# Northstar returns talent from winning 18U, 16U teams

**By Eric Morken**  
Alexandria Echo Press

The Northstar Christian Academy hockey teams opened up their 2021-22 schedule at a North American Hockey League Showcase in Blaine Sept. 16-19 before coming back to Alexandria for the home opener against the MN Blades this weekend on Sept. 25-26.

The Knights are entering their fourth season with an 18U team and second with a 16U team. Both programs won the NAPHL regular season title last season as five players total were taken in the United States Hockey League draft, 12 tendered in the NAHL and one signed in the Western Hockey League. The U18 team won the NAPHL Dixon Cup with a 4-3 win over the Philadelphia Little Flyers when Cody Croal netted the game-winner 1:45 into overtime.

That 18U team returns 11 players from last year's group. Two of those returnees, forwards Reese Laubach (Youngstown) and Croal (Muskegon), were a part of the five Northstar players taken in the



Contributed photo

The 18U Northstar Christian Academy Knights hockey team poses with their championship trophy and banner from the 2021 Tier 1 Dixon Cup Playoffs this past February.

USHL draft. Both set a Knights' program record last season with 33 goals each. Princeton native Dylan Cook gives Northstar its top three scorers from last year back to help lead a team that finished with a 44-8-2 overall record.

Goaltender Logan Verpoort, who the Knights feel is one of the top goaltenders in the country at this division, is also back, while CJ Kier will move up from the

16U team.

"CJ was often the backbone of the 20-21 16U team and made USA Hockey National Development Camp as one of the top 2004 birth-year goalies in the U.S.," it said in the Knights' press release on the 2021-22 season. "The 16U team returns goaltender Beck Liden from last season, who is poised to have a breakout year and grow in a leadership role. Incoming 16U goalies

Max Weilandt (2005) and Merik Grinaker (2006) both are considered top in their age groups after being selected to USA Hockey National Development Camp in their respective age groups."

The 16U team has six returning players from last year's group. Brayden Berg is part of that group after scoring 36 points last year, while WHL draft pick Briggs Orr and Lear Voit will help anchor the back end

as returners for a team that went 34-15-4 overall.

The Knights also added Mark Abalan and Dallas Steward to their coaching staff. Steward has over 10 years of coaching experience in the USHL and Division I college hockey. He will coach the 18U team alongside head coach Rylan Galiardi.

Abalan has over 20 years of coaching experience, including nine years in the USHL with

Sioux City and Chicago. He will serve as the associate director of the Northstar Christian Academy and joins current 16U head coach Tim Jackman as an assistant coach.

In total, the Knights' 49 players represent 18 different states. Northstar will host 11 different home weekends in Alexandria that includes two 8-team showcases the weekends of Nov. 19-21 and Jan. 28-30.

**NORTHSTAR KNIGHTS HOCKEY SCHEDULE**  
(Game Times for 2 game sets (unless otherwise noted): Game 1: U16 5 pm, U18 7:30 pm; Game 2: U16 9 am, U18 Noon)  
Sept. 16-19 NAPHL Showcase at Blaine  
Sept. 25-26 vs. MN Blades at home  
Oct. 2-4 NAPHL Showcase at St. Louis, Missouri  
Oct. 8-10 Fargo Force Showcase at Fargo  
Oct. 16 Blue Army at St. Paul  
Oct. 17 Blue Archy at home, 16U Noon; 18U, 2:30 p.m.  
Oct. 23-24 Team ND at Home  
Oct. 29-30 Des Moines at home  
Nov. 5 STL AAA at St. Louis, Missouri  
Nov. 6-7 Carshield at St. Louis, Missouri  
Nov. 12 SSM Prep/SSM 16s at Fairbault, MN  
Nov. 13-14 Windy City Storm at home  
Nov. 19-21 Knights Showcase at home  
Dec. 4-5 Carshield at home  
Dec. 11-12 Reapers at Mt. Prospect, Illinois  
Dec. 18-20 NAPHL Showcase at Blaine  
Jan. 16-18 NAPHL Showcase at Michigan  
Jan. 22-23 Reapers at home  
Jan. 28-30 Knights Showcase at home  
Feb. 4-5 at Des Moines, Iowa  
Feb. 12-13 Rink Academy at home  
Feb. 18-21 NAPHL Playoffs at Michigan  
Feb. 25-27 TBD  
March 4-5 at Sioux Falls, SD  
March 12-13 Culver at Dubuque, Iowa  
March 17 Seacoast at home; 16s at 5 p.m.; 18s at 7:30 p.m.  
March 19-20 MN Blades at home  
**Contact Eric Morken at emorken@echopress.com.**

## 8AA

From Page B1

Vinje had nine saves to get the win. The only goal for the Green Wave came late in the second half when sophomore Maggey Plante converted a free kick. Eighth-grade goalkeeper Skyla Rustad had 14 saves for East Grand Forks.

"The shots they're going to get are going to be easy (saves)," Vinje said of her defense. "With the defense that we have right now, they're going to get fluky little looks that are going to be easy

to come and scoop up." Vinje said the win over the Green Wave and how they played overall is just what the Cardinals needed coming off the loss to Willmar on Sept. 14 and then beating Sauk Rapids-Rice in a 2-0 final on Sept. 16.

A good Class AAA team in Brainerd (5-0) welcomed in Alexandria on Thursday. Then on Sept. 27, the Cardinals go to Moorhead, another AAA program, with the Spuds struggling right now during a 1-7 start.

Alexandria plays Little Falls down the road on Oct. 2 at home in an afternoon game at 1 that

should have plenty of section significance.

It all sets up what should be an exciting final couple weeks of the regular season as the Cardinals try to position themselves as well as they can for the playoffs.

"We always talk about control with our team and working on keeping the ball on the ground and finding those open passes," James said. "I think that's something we need to do in these next games because those teams are going to be really good with ball control. We need to match it."

Email sports and outdoor editor Eric Morken at emorken@echopress.com.



Eric Morken / Alexandria Echo Press

The Alexandria girls soccer team runs onto the field before the game to low fives from youth soccer players from the Alexandria community. The Tuesday games against East Grand Forks were part of Youth Soccer Night for both the boys and girls programs for the Cardinals as young players got in free with their jerseys, along with being able to go on the field and then stay for a fireworks show after the girls' game.

## CARDS

From Page B1

The 200-free-style relay team of Wilmesmeier, Millward, Haskamp and Galloway got a second win for the Cardinals as they finished in 1:44.15.

FARGO BORDER BATTLE TEAM SCORES - 1. Alexandria - 391; 2. West Fargo Shenyenne - 384; 3. Andover - 308; 4. Brainerd - 264; 5. Willmar - 184; 6. West Fargo Packers - 172; 7. Shanley High School - 133; 8. Fargo North - 124; 9. Little Falls - 110; 10. Bemidji - 82; 11. Morris-Minnewaska - 60; 12. Horace - 53

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## SOCCER

From Page B1

The second half was much of the same as multiple players got in on the scoring. It started with a beautiful connection by the Sansted brothers as Myles sent a ball toward the goal from the right corner, and Peter headed it in for a 4-0 lead less than nine minutes in.

Fellow senior Holden Hansen was up next. He made it 5-0 not long after Sansted's

goal, and senior Taeren Peterson came off the bench to add a goal that made it 6-0. Peterson got on a breakaway and put his shot past Green Wave goalkeeper Jonah Tollefson.

Tollefson made some great saves to keep the game from getting more out of hand, but he did not have much of a chance on most of the shots that got by him. Haabala and Peterson scored just seconds apart late in the game to put the finishing touches on the win.

"We were just playing our game, keeping possession,"

Haabala said. Alexandria's defense and goalkeeper Ryan Meuwissen did not have to work much on Tuesday as the offense controlled the ball, but they collected their fifth shut-out. Alexandria has outscored opponents 27-4 through its nine games now.

"We're just a defensive unit. It's not a bunch of isolation guys defending," Reilly said. "We're all defending as a team really well. We talk to each other a lot. We're all friends off the field. In practice, if it's offense versus defense,

we take a lot of pride in being defenders, and I think just communication is really carrying our defensive unit right now. We just rarely make mistakes, and we're trying to keep that going."

The competition will get tougher with Class AAA's Brainerd (2-3-2) in town Thursday before a four-game road trip starts at Rocori on Sept. 28. The Cardinals are excited for the challenges that await after another win on Tuesday.

"I think what we're going to learn is how serious we

are as a contender because at some point in the playoffs we're more than likely not going to be at home," Reilly said. "Whether that's the section final at a neutral site, or we don't get the No.1 seed. So getting road wins is important, and it's not as easy. Going on the bus, sitting through the JV game, waiting for your game — it's hard to stay mentally prepared. We're really going to see the grit of our team and see if we're real contenders."

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## FOOTBALL

From Page B1

"It was an opportunity for us as coaches to make some connections with the kids as far as things we haven't been doing well and how they are coming back to get us a little bit," Empting said on Wednesday. "We've got a great group of guys. We got great players, great leadership. They've listened. It's translated into two great days of practice here so far. Hopefully that's going to translate onto the field. We know Moorhead is obviously a really good football team."

Moorhead has had almost two weeks to prepare for this game after its scheduled Sept. 17 matchup with Bemidji was canceled due to a COVID-19 outbreak within the Bemidji team.

The Spuds will be well rested with a new-look offense and another tough defense as they come in averaging 38.5 points per game, while

allowing 15.5.

Against St. Cloud Tech in week one, Moorhead scored on all six of its first-half drives. Junior quarterback Gavin Quade accounted for six total touchdowns in that game. Quade is being asked to replace three-year starter Trey Feeney, who is now a quarterback at the University of North Dakota and Minnesota's Gatorade Player of the Year from 2020.

"Moorhead is going to have a quarterback who can throw the ball pretty decently. He does that," Empting said of Quade. "You're never going to replace a Trey Feeney. He was exceptional. The receivers they had for that run were very exceptional as well, but he's a pretty good quarterback. He throws the ball really well, and he's good enough as a runner and as a scrambling quarterback...They run the ball more than they have the last couple of years. They're a pretty balanced attack with the run and the pass this year."

University of North Dakota commit Jamal

Dixon had a 55-yard rushing score in that win over Tech, and he's also a standout cornerback for a Moorhead defense that returns much talent from a year ago. That includes fellow UND 2022 commit, Jack Teiken, who helps anchor things up front on the defensive line for the Spuds.

"They're going to be every bit as stingy defensively as they were last year," Empting said. "They have some of their big figures back on the defensive side again. We're just going to have to have a balanced attack against them. We're going to have to be able to run the ball well enough to keep them honest and again throw the ball well enough."

Alexandria has yet to have a 100-yard rushing game this season.

"That's something we've been intentionally working on," Empting said. "It's something we have to get better at. If we go into this game thinking we have to throw it 45 times in order to move the football, I think we're going

to be in for a long night."

There have been some self-inflicted wounds by Alexandria that has hurt its chances through the Cardinals' two losses so far this season. They know they need to clean that up Friday with a chance to get a big win over the Spuds in front of a homecoming crowd.

"We talk about executing our assignments, executing our techniques. When we do that, we're pretty good. We're pretty effective," Empting said. "Sometimes we

get a little lax in those things and that's where we have struggled. We have to get consistent in those things.

"We have some areas on our team where we have some guys who are really taking their first varsity snaps this season. Being consistent, that's a challenge. Our veteran players are consistent, but teams that are young kind of go in flashes. You look at what we did against Bemidji (in a win), we were very consistent in that game.

We had some errors that set them up with good field position, but overall we were consistent and able to overcome some of those things. We just have to get consistent in our technique. Consistent in our assignments."

Sept. 24 Alexandria area football schedule  
Alexandria (1-2) vs. Moorhead (2-0), 7 p.m.  
Brandon-Evansville (1-2) vs. CGB (0-3), 7 p.m.  
Parkers Prairie (1-2) at Pelican Rapids (2-1), 7 p.m.  
Osakis (3-0) vs. Barnesville (2-1), 7 p.m.  
WCA-Ashby (3-0) at Hawley (2-1), 7 p.m.  
Minnewaska (0-3) vs. Montevideo (0-3), 7 p.m.

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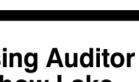
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Fri 9/24 (8am-6pm)  
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Kerosene lanterns, Aero indoor garden, small kitchen appliances, books, clothes, much more

**Huge Garage Sale  
3678 Co Rd 40 NW  
Garfield**  
Friday Oct 1 (8am-5pm)  
Saturday Oct 2 (8am-5pm)  
Misc tools and much more

**Designer Brands  
325 Ashley Ln  
Alexandria**  
9/24- 9/25 (9am-?)  
Women's Eileen Fisher, Geiger, Karen Kane & more (10' clothes rack). Lots of Brighton footwear, new slippers! Men's clothes! Household, kitchen, linen, toys!

## GARAGE SALES

**Garage Sale for Men!  
531 East Lake  
Geneva Rd  
Alexandria**  
Sat Sept 25(8am-4pm)  
Hunting clothes and boots, outdoor wear and camping equipment, misc men's clothing, small electric tools and misc tools, wild life prints, plastic storage containers and coolers  
Cash Sales Only.

**Giant Indoor Shop Sale  
980 E Sandy Beach Drive  
Miltona**  
Thursday 9/23 (9am-5pm)  
Friday 9/24 (9am-5pm)  
Saturday 9/25 (9am-5pm)  
Power & Hand tools, Construction equipment, fishing gear, furniture, nautical decor, art, household items, lamps, end tables, DR table & chairs, clothing, miscellaneous

## HELP WANTED - GENERAL

## HELP WANTED - GENERAL

## HELP WANTED - GENERAL

## HELP WANTED - HEALTHCARE



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- Day & PM CNAs - FT
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## HELP WANTED - MANUFACTURING & PRODUCTION

## HELP WANTED - MANUFACTURING & PRODUCTION

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# HIRING: PAINTER

We are a team passionate about stewardship, driven to innovate, and embrace a culture that inspires the care of customers and each other.

Hard Work Rewarded • Learning Opportunities Provided • Good Attitudes Wanted

### Here's what you'll do:

- Sand and clean steel to prep for painting
- Paint completed production jobs and sub-assemblies.
- Mix paint properly
- Identify and masking areas that are not to be painted
- Inspect paint jobs for quality problems

### Location:

- Morris, MN

### Why Westmor?

- Paid Training
- Top-of-the-line equipment
- No experience required
- Complete benefits package
- Opportunity to grow



EOE • Hablamos Español

apply at: [workatwestmor.com](http://workatwestmor.com)

# HIRING: GENERAL LABORER

We are a team passionate about stewardship, driven to innovate, and embrace a culture that inspires the care of customers and each other.

Hard Work Rewarded • Learning Opportunities Provided • Good Attitudes Wanted

### Here's what you'll do:

- Prepare the area for the next project.
- Clean production floors and equipment
- Operate machines
- Load and unload items from machines and assembly lines

### Why Superior?

- Paid Training
- Top-of-the-line equipment
- No experience required
- Complete benefits package
- Opportunity to grow



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# HIRING: WELDER

We are a team passionate about stewardship, driven to innovate, and embrace a culture that inspires the care of customers and each other.

Hard Work Rewarded • Learning Opportunities Provided • Good Attitudes Wanted

### Here's what you'll do:

- Read and interpret blueprints
- Prepare weld surfaces
- Opportunities for MIG, TIG, Stick, Sub Arc, Robotic & Aluminum

### Why Superior?

- Paid Training
- Top-of-the-line equipment
- No experience required
- Complete benefits package
- Opportunity to grow

### Location:

- Morris, MN

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apply at: [workatsuperior.com](http://workatsuperior.com)

## HELP WANTED - TECHNOLOGY

## HELP WANTED - TECHNOLOGY

## HELP WANTED - TECHNOLOGY

# Senior Technology and Data Specialist

Salary range: \$60,377 - \$90,565

The Senior Technology and Data Specialist manages all areas of information technology and data analytics for West Central Initiative. This position is responsible for maintaining and enhancing the organization's digital environment to ensure timely internal record keeping and data reporting for internal and external purposes. This position also provides guidance and recommendations for the organization's hardware, software, and digital security needs.

### PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Develops and maintains the business intelligence analytics platform, including establishing procedures and protocols for data entry and retrieval.
- Recommends and supports the day-to-day analytic needs of development and planning teams.
- Works with staff to ensure accurate data and records for timely internal and external reporting purposes.
- Delivers insights and recommendations to help stakeholders and board members better understand the organization's performance to support strategic and tactical decisions and to improve outcomes.
- Actively participates in implementation and measurement of recommendations to monitor performance and impact.
- Reviews and maintains information technology-related contracts.

### QUALIFICATIONS:

Bachelor's degree in Information Systems, Computer Science, Data Analytics, Statistics, or other related field.



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Alexandria ECHO PRESS







## Early antlerless season back near Alex Oct. 21-24

### Last year's first EA season locally draws mixed reviews



Mike Schaffran

Eric Morken and daughter, Aubree, look over the shot placement on a doe shot in November, 2020 in deer permit area 213. The total number of does and female fawns rose to 3,766 registered in 2020 across all hunting seasons after the addition of an early-antlerless season in October. That's up from a total of 2,795 antlerless does and female fawns registered in 213 across the 2019 hunting seasons.

**By Eric Morken**  
Alexandria Echo Press

Archery hunters looking to fill deer tags around the Alexandria area are already in the woods, and hunters will again have an added chance to fill the freezer with venison during an early antlerless season this October in local deer permit area 213.

The addition of an early antlerless season in the west-central Minnesota DPA of 213 (along with DPAs 214 and 215 that border to the east) drew mixed reviews when it was introduced as a way to try to lower the deer populations in those areas in 2020.

The antlerless-only season was put in place after a deer population goal-setting process in the winter of 2019-20 that included public-input meetings. Through both in-person meetings and online communication, many landowners voiced concern that deer populations were too high in parts of the habitat-rich areas of DPA 213.

"There's certainly some people who don't like it," former Glenwood DNR wildlife supervisor Kevin Kotts said of the early antlerless season in an interview with the *Echo Press* before his retirement on Sept. 7. "But I was very pleasantly surprised when we found out how many antlerless deer were taken last year. We still have a lot of deer in 213. I'm glad we have a second year of EA hunting. No matter what we do, we're going to frustrate somebody, but I think allowing people to take antlerless deer with firearms in the early

season, it doesn't really interfere with the guys who are trying to shoot bucks in November. I don't think there's a lot of carryover into the regular firearms season."

This year's early antlerless season again coincides with the statewide youth season. It runs from Oct. 21-24, with the regular firearms "A" season set for Nov. 6-14, in Minnesota.

"There's never a perfect time to have a season," Kotts said. "But having it coincide with the youth hunt, with the proper licensing those kids can take extra deer too. Kids get a chance to hunt, and they're not competing with every adult hunter out there."

Those who participate in the early antlerless season can take up to five deer with the proper permits, which is in addition to the statewide bag limit of three deer in areas 213, 214 and 215. Hunters must possess an archery, firearm or muzzleloader license. Bonus permits can be used, but hunters must have at least one early antlerless permit to participate.

That five-deer bag limit during that 4-day season in addition to the regular-season bag limit drew concern from some hunters.

"The gist I got from talking to different people around here is they didn't really care for it," Alexandria's Mark Nohre, Region 7 Director with the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, said of the addition of the EA season locally. "They said five deer is too many. Around here, we had an opportunity to shoot eight deer last year, and that's too many. Personally, if I

shot two it would be great plenty. But some people will take advantage of it. Not a lot."

That is a point that Kotts mentioned in the past - while hunters can legally shoot up to five deer during the early-antlerless season, not many actually do. The liberal bag limits give those who will a chance to help bring deer populations into goal levels.

"The downside with the five-deer limit is a lot of people are shooting fawns," Nohre said. "You can't tell buck from does when it comes to fawns.

They're hurting the buck herd by shooting the male fawns, and they're the same guys who will turn around and say, 'Where are all the big bucks at?'"

The total number of male fawns shot across all hunting seasons in 2020 was up in permit area 213 to 823 registered last year. That's compared to 563 in 2019. The total number of does (both adult and fawn) registered in area 213 jumped to 3,766 in 2020, compared to 2,795 in 2019.

"We don't make everyone happy when we do things like that, but on the other hand

I think it was entirely effective last year," Kotts said. "I wouldn't say the deer population is where we want it, but at least we're harvesting more antlerless deer."

Kotts said the DNR will continue to monitor deer populations going forward, and that the local early antlerless season is not something that is guaranteed to last in the future.

"We're trying to make sure the population isn't still growing and then you tip it over at the top and start a downhill slope on the population. When we see that, then I think the EA seasons will go away," Kotts said. "At

the input meetings two years ago now, we heard from a lot of land owners that said there were way too many deer. I think we had to do something more than what we had been doing.

"Adding the EA season, we listened and tried to respond to those complaints. You never know for sure if it's going to work, but I think what we're doing has the best chance to reduce the deer herd. Then when we think the numbers are starting to fall, then we can back off on hunting."

Email sports and outdoor editor Eric Morken at [emorken@echopress.com](mailto:emorken@echopress.com).

## Hunters asked to help in surveillance for CWD near Alexandria again

### Self-service drop stations available right now all over the area

**By Eric Morken**  
Alexandria Echo Press

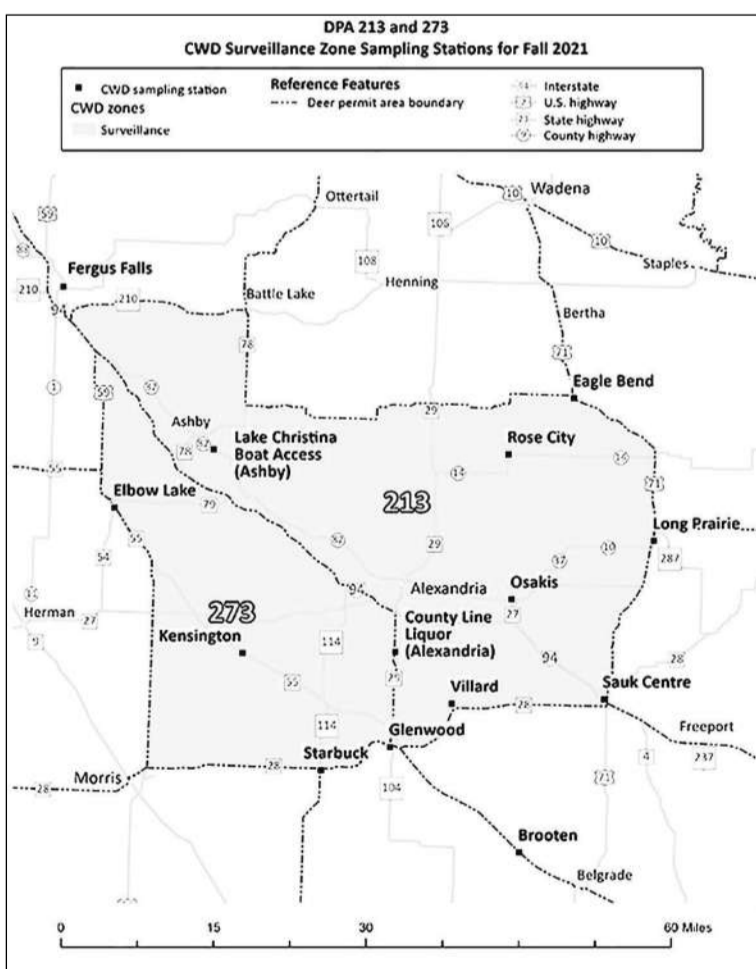
Hunters are being asked to help the DNR in its surveillance for Chronic Wasting Disease in deer permit areas 213 and 273 near Alexandria again during the 2021 hunting season.

Those two DPAs make up the CWD surveillance area that began for the 2020 hunting season after a CWD-positive doe was confirmed on a small cervid farm in Douglas County in December of 2019. To this point, there have been no confirmed cases of CWD, the always-fatal neurological disease affecting the cervid family, in the wild deer herd in 213 or 273.

"The main message we want to get out is we just really encourage people to step up and help us sample and see if we can get a good number this year to get a good sense of where we're at," Fergus Falls and Glenwood DNR area wildlife supervisor Michael Oehler said.

Most of Minnesota's CWD surveillance areas have gone to mandatory sampling for the opening weekends of firearms seasons A (Nov. 6-7) and B (Nov. 20-21). Hunters in those surveillance areas must bring deer they shoot that are 1 year of age or older to either a staffed or self-service sampling station on those opening weekends of the firearms seasons.

Submitting samples for CWD testing remains voluntary in permit areas 213 and 273 in part because the DNR is fairly confident that the risk of the



Map courtesy of the Minnesota DNR

This map graphic shows all the participating towns that have a self-service sampling station set up during the 2021 deer seasons, including archery season right now, where hunters can drop off the heads of adult deer that they shoot in deer permit areas 213 and 273 near Alexandria. The DNR is in its second year of asking hunters for help in submitting deer for sampling to try to say whether or not Chronic Wasting Disease may be in the wild deer herd after a CWD positive was found from a doe on a small cervid farm in December of 2019 in Douglas County. CWD has not been found in the wild deer herd within permit areas 213 and 273 to this point.

disease being found in the wild herd is minimal based on where the cervid farm was located in 2019. But it's important to be sure.

Voluntary sampling also

worked well last season in the highest-deer density permit area of 213, thanks in large part to local partners helping out.

"We met our sampling goal in 213 last year," former Glen-

wood DNR wildlife supervisor Kevin Kotts said in an interview with the *Echo Press* before his retirement on Sept. 7. "That was largely by getting samples through taxidermists and meat processors. It worked out well in 213. We did not reach our goal in 273."

Permit area 273 went from a 1-deer limit in 2020 to a 2-deer limit for hunters in 2021. That has the potential to increase the number of adult deer available to be sampled in that area.

### Self-service stations easy to use, available right now

Deer submitted for sampling are assigned a point value in these local DPAs, with older-aged bucks receiving the highest point values based on their higher likelihood of being carriers of CWD.

"That's where working with taxidermists makes a lot of sense because that's where those older deer go is to the taxidermist," Kotts said. "We're able to pay them to extract the lymph gland samples. We had very good luck last year."

The DNR will continue to collect samples from hunters until those goal point levels are reached. Self-service stations are available (listed below) all over the area.

"It's all open deer seasons until we reach our quota or until the end of the last hunt," Oehler said. "They're out right now, and if something doesn't work, our Glenwood office (320-634-7337) or the Fergus office (218-671-7968), we can be called here and we can do a special thing if someone needs that kind of accommodation. They can always call. Always."

The participating drop-off locations in DPAs 213 and 273

include:

- ▶ Alexandria: County Line Liquor
- ▶ Alexandria: Bear Paws Taxidermy (320-759-0703)
- ▶ Ashby: Lake Christina Boat Access
- ▶ Brooten: Jenniges Meat Processing
- ▶ Eagle Bend: Shirley's Gas and Grocery
- ▶ Elbow Lake: Minnesota DNR Roving Crew Office (611 Industrial Park Blvd)
- ▶ Elbow Lake: West Central Skulls (218-770-8990)
- ▶ Fergus Falls: DNR office (1509 First Ave. North)
- ▶ Glenwood: Minnewaska Meats
- ▶ Kensington: Crossroads General Store
- ▶ Long Prairie: Fleet Supply
- ▶ Osakis: The General Store
- ▶ Rose City: Rose City Bar & Grill
- ▶ Sauk Centre: Fleet Supply
- ▶ Starbuck: Starbuck Meats & Locker Services
- ▶ Villard: Cenex

"At every one of the stations, there's a laminated poster up that gives you the steps," Oehler said. "You pull out a tag, fill it out, there's not much - phone number, DPA where you harvested it. There's a map showing which section you harvested it so you can put that on there. Then cut the head off so there's three inches of neck remaining, and put it in a plastic bag that's provided before putting it in the bin. They shouldn't have to bring anything. Everything is there."

Hunters are encouraged to visit the DNR's CWD surveillance zone website for the most up-to-date information on drop sites, as well as test results and other information pertaining to regulations in place throughout these areas.

Email sports and outdoor editor Eric Morken at [emorken@echopress.com](mailto:emorken@echopress.com).