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Alexandria

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DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD

Snowmobilers were smiling

Trails were open for 12 weeks in snowy winter

By Celeste Edenloff
Alexandria Echo Press

DOUGLAS COUNTY – This past winter was good for snowmobiling. At least it was according to Jeff Linn, trail administrator for the Douglas Area Trails Association.

Linn was at the Douglas County Board meeting Tuesday, April 19, asking the commissioners to once again approve Douglas County acting as DATA's sponsor for the upcoming year. For the past 22 years, DATA has been in a Grant in Aid Program where Douglas County is the sponsor.

With the approval of the resolution, the county can now disperse funding from the Grant in Aid Program to DATA to cover trail related expenditures.

Linn said this winter, DATA groomed for 1,165 hours for a total of 6,685 miles with their four groomers.

"Our phones, Facebook and website were busy with snowmobile enthusiasts wanting to visit and ride our trails," he said, noting the trail system was open for riding for about 12 weeks through this winter. The total trail mileage is 374.4 miles.

Linn said it was an above average winter that was "way better" than last year.

"People were happy and we had fun," he said.

Appreciation days

Two "Appreciation Day" proclamations were approved by the commissioners. The first was to honor child care providers and early educators.

Connie Fields, Early Childhood Initiative coordinator for Douglas County, said, "These early caregivers/educa-

tors are crucial to our county's economic welfare. Most importantly, children's cognitive, physical, social-emotional and language development are built on the foundation of a child's positive interactions with their caregiving adults. Take time to say 'Thank you' to the child care providers and early educators in our community."

The second one was to commend the commitment and dedication to public service excellence by county staff and officials and proclaimed April 26 as County Government Appreciation Day.

Library needs assessment

Two Douglas County Library board members, Becky Albright, chairperson, and Ann Carrott, vice chairperson, spoke with the commissioners about the Library Needs Assessment report.

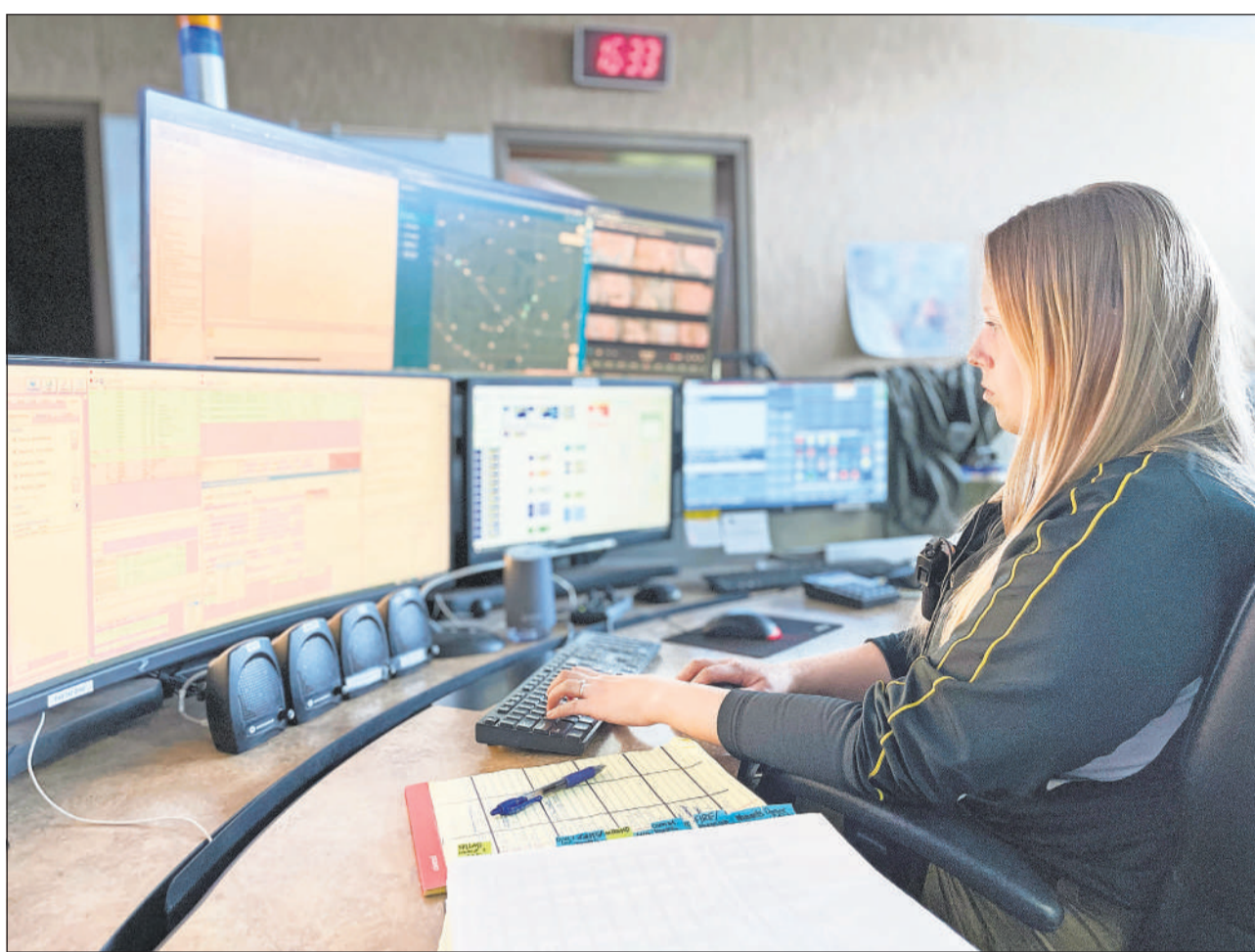
In June of 2021, the Douglas County Library contracted with the Library Strategies Consulting Group to conduct a broad-based facility and community needs assessment.

Carrott said that the library board wanted to know what was needed – space, more books, more computers, etc.

Although they are in the preliminary stages of going through the report, Carrott noted that one of the big take-aways is that the space needs of the library are critical and that the current location does not offer much in the way of expansion.

No plans have been put in place as the library board looks through all of the information.

BOARD: Page A16



Celeste Edenloff / Alexandria Echo Press

Sasha Sazama, a dispatcher for Douglas County, enters information into a program on one of her many computer screens for a call she was on with deputies from the Douglas County Sheriff's Office.

Calm amid the chaos

911 dispatchers are masters of multitasking

Editor's note: As part of National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week, Echo Press Reporter Celeste Edenloff spent an afternoon at Douglas County 911 Communications Center. The following is a first-hand account of her experience.

By Celeste Edenloff
Alexandria Echo Press

Douglas County
As I sat down and put on my headphones, I thought I had prepared myself for what was about to happen over the next few hours.

But I was greatly mistaken.

While the four other people in the room with me were utterly undisturbed with what was happening around them, my heart was thumping with anxious nervousness. And although only one of my ears was covered by the headphones, I still couldn't really hear the

sound coming through. There were phones ringing constantly in the background and the chatter all around me was non-stop.

To me, I didn't know what to focus on and it felt like complete and utter chaos.

But not to those four other people in that room – Sasha Sazama, Makenna Schlangen, Kari Rahn-Vedral and Kevin Smith. To them, it was just another day on the job.

To me, they are now heroes. They are the calm in the chaos. They are Douglas County 911 dispatchers.

And I have never been more impressed by what I experienced in those few short hours.

More than a clerical worker

Last Friday, April 15, I had the opportunity to do what I called a "sit along" in the Douglas

County Communications Center, which is where the dispatchers work. I learned that they are a group of 12 full-time employees with 10 dispatchers, one lead dispatcher and one dispatch sergeant. And although they dispatch for multiple agencies, they are considered employees of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office.

I also found out that they are only considered to be clerical workers. Um, excuse me? That misses the mark. They are masters at multitasking, they help people in need, they are a listening ear for many, they are the "first" responders and I have known a couple who have helped deliver babies and save people's lives.

Saving lives

When talking with Kevin Smith, the lead dispatcher, he said

"911 dispatchers are 'certified in computer aided call handling for medical emergencies and are able to give pre-arrival instructions to callers and patients to include telephone CPR instructions, AED instructions, stroke assessments, traumatic injury assessment, mental health help and more."

These people save lives. And they do it all in a calming, matter-of-fact way.

Take, for example, a call that Makenna Schlangen answered. I listened to her for a while because her voice was so calming and sweet. I found out after she ended the call that it was an older lady who wasn't on her first phone call with dispatchers. Apparently she is what I referred to as a "frequent flier,"

DISPATCH: Page A9

What's going on with the Alexandria housing market?

By Karen Tolkkinen
Alexandria Echo Press

ALEXANDRIA — Rising mortgage rates mean that home buyers can't afford as much home as they could a year ago, but

area real-estate leaders told a business crowd on Wednesday that the market remains strong in Alexandria.

"We have a growing community. Alexan-

dria has done a great job attracting folks to move to our area," Mike Munson, president of the Greater Alexandria Area Association of Realtors told a Zoom crowd

during the Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce monthly Listen and Learn session.

The area's strong local economy, lake-related tourism, Alexandria's

downtown, and its medical establishment help fuel a strong market that he said he expects to continue.

However, the real estate market has seen

some twists and turns since the pandemic began in 2020, made more complicated by high-priced building materials, inflation, the

HOUSING: Page A16

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B/E SCHOOL BOARD

Board calls for bids on expansion

Work includes demolition of Evansville building

By Travis Gulbrandson
Alexandria Echo Press

BRANDON-EVANSVILLE — The Brandon-Evansville School

Board approved the design development documents and the first bid package for its expansion project.

The action was taken at the board's regular meeting on Monday, April 18.

Sean Lewis, senior project manager with ICS Consulting, said the

"Recommending bidding of the bid package number one means that we publish bidding documents, we solicit for bids, we open the bids, and then we'll be back again in May after going through those."

SEAN LEWIS, SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER WITH ICS CONSULTING

bid package involves the demolition of the abandoned Evansville structure, and precast concrete and steel work.

"Recommending bidding of the bid package number one means that we publish bidding documents, we solicit for bids, we open the bids,

and then we'll be back again in May after going through those," Lewis said.

In April and May the bidding will take place for the bid package, and contracts are expected to be approved by the board in May, Lewis said.

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The official newspaper of Douglas County
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A Division of Forum Communications Company
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Email: echo@echopress.com
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News Tipline: 320-815-0834

Friday, April 22, 2022
Volume 34, Number 30
USPS Number 918-840
Published twice weekly (Wed. & Fri.)

Diann Drew, Publisher
320-763-1214

Al Edenloff, Editor
320-763-1236

Eric Morken, Sports Editor
320-763-1229

Shelly Beaulieu, Advertising Manager
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Lynn Mounsdon, Distribution/Circulation Mgr.
320-763-1218

Subscription rates: Wednesday & Friday Mail Delivery + Digital Access: \$139.88 for 52 weeks or \$78.00 for 26 weeks
All print subscriptions include unlimited digital access.
\$9.99 per month for Digital All Access
Periodicals postage paid at Alexandria, MN 56308 and additional points of entry.

Publisher's liability for error: Echo Press shall not be liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. The Publisher's liability for other errors or omissions in connection with an advertisement is strictly limited to publication of the advertisement in any subsequent issue or the refund of any monies paid for the advertisement.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Echo Press, P.O. Box 549, Alexandria, MN 56308-0549

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8 AM to 4:30 PM, Friday 8 AM to 12 PM

LAKES AREA FORECAST

Our local farmers continue to have problems getting into the fields as we remain wet across the area. We saw wet and cool



Mark Anthony
Meteorologist

temperatures once again on Wednesday. Much of the region picked up anywhere from .40" to .70" of rain.

High pressure returned by early Thursday for most of the area as we dried out again. However, by Thursday night another system arrived. Some small hail was found along the Minnesota/Iowa border with this system.

This system will produce some additional showers and a few isolated thunderstorms throughout the day on Friday. Highs will be back into the low to mid 50s by Friday afternoon.

A big warm up will be with us on Saturday and for the start of the weekend. We should see lots of low to mid 70s across the state of Minnesota. (Yes, I did say the 70s!)

This will be short-lived, however, as we could see some light rain mixed with light snow on Sunday as can only be found here in Minnesota and the Upper Midwest.

Hang in there as the 50s should be back with us later on next week.

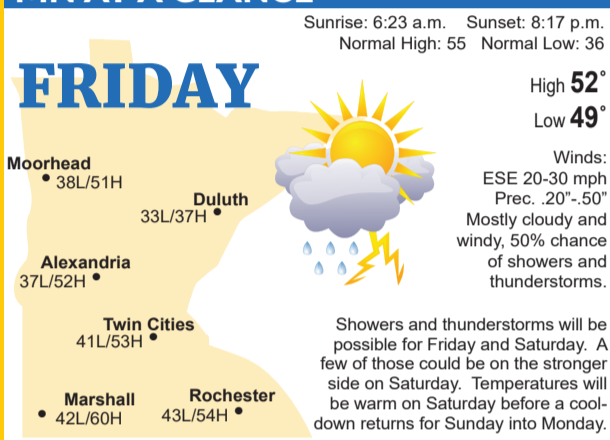
WEATHER HISTORY

On this date in 1874, records show that "unseasonably cold air moved into Minnesota." According to the National Weather Service, the low was "23 degrees in the Twin Cities."

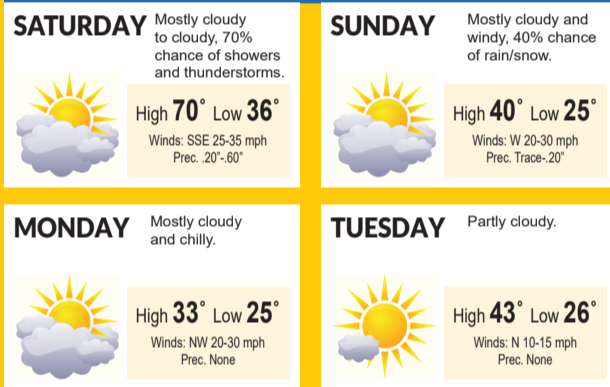
WEATHER FACT

A dust devil is "a small but vigorous whirlwind, usually of short duration."

MN AT A GLANCE



OUTLOOK



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

Photo of the Week



Katherine Hoffart, of Lowry, took this photo of her daughter, Lyra, 7, with the snow bunny she built on Easter. If you have a great photo, send it to Lowell Anderson at landerson@echopress.com.

Contributed / Katherine Hoffart

FOR THE RECORD

Alexandria City Council Regular Meeting Monday, April 25

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 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.

7 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance, moment of silence, approve agenda. Consent agenda: Approve minutes for April 11 city council meeting, approve minutes for April 11 special city council meeting

7:05 p.m. Greg Anderson, airport manager

A. Opportunity Enterprises lease (Bellanca Building)

7:10 p.m. Public hearing – GoodNeighbors on 46th West – TIF District No. 62

A. Alexandria Economic Development Authority resolution creating Tax Increment Financing District No. 62 and adopting a tax increment financing plan

B. Alexandria EDA Resolution authorizing execution and delivery of a contract for private redevelopment with GoodNeighbors Properties, LLC

C. Resolution creating Tax Increment Financing District No. 62 and adopting a tax increment financing plan

7:20 p.m. Special event permits

A. Alexandria Area Arts Association – Art in the Park
B. Vietnam Veterans of America 235 and Veterans Memorial Park – Memorial Day parade

and celebration

7:25 p.m. Licenses

A. Fireworks (outdoor sales) – TNT Fireworks (209 Nokomis St. parking lot)

B. Transient merchant (temporary vendor) – Westby Enterprises LLC doing business as The Country Stop

7:30 p.m. Sara Stadtherr, communication coordinator

A. Authorization to purchase audio/visual equipment for City Council chambers

7:35 p.m. Police Chief Scott Kent

A. Authorization to purchase HVAC upgrade for Alexandria Police Department

7:40 p.m. Resolutions and ordinances

A. Gambling premise permit resolution – Alexandria Youth Baseball Association

RECORD: Page 3

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 April 20 (cumulative):

- Douglas County – 10,935 (116 deaths).
- Grant – 1,473 (12 deaths).
- Otter Tail – 13,588 (167 deaths).
- Pope – 3,043 (17 deaths).
- Stearns – 50,888 (367 deaths).

Stevens – 2,633 (13 deaths)

Todd – 6,784 (58 deaths).

Statewide (cumulative) – 1,377,033 (12,479 deaths).

Active cases in Douglas County – 32 (according to Horizon Public Health as of April 19).

People (16 and older) with at least one vaccine dose in Douglas County – 20,912 or 69% of the population (as of April 19).

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Celebrate Occupational Therapy Month by scheduling a consultation today!



ALOMERE
HEALTH

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'Love the Earth' in Alexandria is moved indoors

Staff Report
Alexandria Echo Press

ALEXANDRIA — The "Love the Earth" event in Alexandria this Saturday, April 23, will be moved indoors.

A full slate of events, which start at noon and continue until 3 p.m., will take place at the First Congregational Church, 221 7th Ave. W. in Alexandria. Use the door on Elm Street.

"It's all the fun without the grass — and rain and wind and cold," said Barbara Benson, one of the organizers of the event.

The compost distribution will still be at Big Ole Central Park. Compost is being bagged for sale by Luther Crest volunteers and area Boy Scouts. The compost was created from materials generated from the local

organics recycling program.

"Love the Earth," which is taking place the day after Earth Day is being put on by Alexandria Area Indivisible with participation from a number of organizations such as the Douglas County Lakes Association, the Audubon Society and the Citizens for a Sustainable Future.

The event will feature music, food from Smokin' Brews and 'Ques Food Truck, informational booths and a family-friendly atmosphere, according to organizers.

Information booths include Citizens for a Sustainable Future, Pope/Douglas Solid Waste, Audubon Society, Alexandria Area Indivisible, and the Douglas County Lakes Association.

MEETING BRIEFS

Douglas County area meetings

Here are some meetings coming up in the Douglas County area:

► **April 28.** The annual meeting of the Runestone Electric Association will start at 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 28 at the Performing Arts

Center of the Alexandria Area High School, 4300 Pioneer Road in Alexandria.

► **May 3.** The annual meeting of the Bohemian Independent Cemetery Association will be held Tuesday, May 3 at 7 p.m. at the ZCJB Lodge Hall. A potluck lunch will follow.

CORRECTION

A correction is needed for the April 20 story about the Alexandria School Board.

Dean Anderson was first elected to the board in 1989, not 1983.

RECORD
From Page 2

7:45 p.m. City Engineer Tim Schoonhoven
A. Highway Committee update

7:50 p.m. Community Development Director Mike Weber
A. Planning Commission items

7:55 p.m. City attorney's items of business

8 p.m. City administrator's items of business

8:05 p.m. Old and other business

8:10 p.m. Adjournment

Note: The Alexandria City Council will convene a special City Council meeting at 5 p.m. to discuss the following items: park planning, baseball/softball facilities initiative, Runestone Community Center expansion

Special note: Members of the public 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 and click on the meeting date to display the link.

The above items are scheduled as of Wednesday, April 20, and are subject to change.

E-Waste, Appliance and Mattress Recycling Event
(Donations to Rotary Accepted)

Help Put Waste In Its Place!

May 7, 2022
9:00 am - 11:00 am

Alexandria Tech/Community College Truck Driver Training Loop
Just off Nokomis Street - Come from the North
CASH ONLY Event

Mattresses/Bulky Furniture (fees apply)

- Mattress/Box Spring\$10.00
- Recliner\$10.00
- Couch/Sofa\$15.00

Appliances (Donations GREATLY Accepted)

- Freon style — refrigerator, ac unit, dehumidifier, freezer, etc) — donation of \$10.00+ is appreciated.
- Non Freon style — oven/stove, microwave, dryer/washer, etc) — donation of \$5.00+ is appreciated.
- NO water softeners or tanks
- Small Style — coffee pot/vacuum/toaster/bread maker/etc — donation of \$1.00+ is appreciated.
- **Drop off your Scrap metal/wire recycling too!**

Electronics/E-waste (fees apply)

- All other misc e-waste w/no screens (VCR/Stereo/Computer/etc).....\$3.00
- Screens 7-27"\$10.00
- Screens 27+\$20.00
- Projection/Console\$25.00

Event for residents of Pope/Douglas Counties. **Cash Only.**

Help the Rotary Club do GOOD in the community! All donations up and beyond the fees will go towards Rotary Club projects/programs that keep our community vibrant and healthy.

Learn more at popedouglasrecycle.com

Alexandria Public Schools makes leadership changes

Search begins for next DMS principal



Ptacek Bethke-Kaliher Aker

Staff Report
Alexandria Echo Press

ALEXANDRIA — The Alexandria School District 206 announced administrative appointments effective for the 2022-23 school year.

Carla Ptacek, current executive director of the Runestone Area Education District (RAED), announced her retirement effective June 30. RAED is a partnership between the Alexandria, Brandon-Evansville, Minnewaska, Osakis and Parkers Prairie school districts that work together to serve special education students.

As part of a restructuring of RAED leadership,

Michelle Bethke-Kaliher, currently director of student support services, will also serve as the part-time executive director of RAED, effective July 1, 2022.

Given these additional responsibilities for the district, Matt Aker, currently principal at Discovery Middle School, will be a principal on special assignment in the area of student support services starting July 1.

"I am very pleased that Matt is taking this

leadership role in our district," said Superintendent Rick Sansted in a news release. "He wants the best for every student and will provide essential leadership to ensure students have the supports and structures they need."

While Aker has served as principal at Discovery Middle School since 2008, he was a special education teacher in the district from 1994-to 2002.

"I'm excited for this opportunity," said Aker. "It feels like coming full circle since I started my career in this district 28 years ago as a special education teacher."

A plan is in place to find the next principal of Discovery Middle School. The selection timeline over the next four to six weeks includes:

- Application opens April 20.
- First round interviews.
- Second Round Interviews.
- Offer to the candidate.
- Start Date: July 1, 2022.

The district will compile an interview committee consisting of students, teachers, parents, and district leadership to help choose the school's next principal.

"We value the voices of all stakeholders to help us find the best fit for the position," concluded Sansted.

\$13M plan for shade tree, seedling replanting divides lawmakers

By Dana Ferguson
Alexandria Echo Press



Strommen

ST. PAUL — A panel of Minnesota lawmakers on Tuesday, April 19, met for the first time to iron out the differences between two drought relief bills.

And they hit an early roadblock on plans to include funding to replant shade trees and seedlings.

A conference committee compared two bills passed by the Minnesota House of Representatives and Senate and started deciding what pieces could appease members of each chamber. While members of both legislative bodies supported proposed grants and loans for hardest-hit farmers, a \$13 million plan to fund the replanting of seedlings and shade trees, seemed to face a tougher road forward.

House Democrats advanced the proposal to replant trees and provide grants for water infrastructure as part of the drought package. And they, along with Walz administration officials, said the funding was key to preventing the harmful impacts of future droughts.

"The impact to our forests

and our waters may happen over time but that doesn't mean there's not an urgency today to act to reverse that problem," Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Sarah Strommen said.

"Any further delay means we're not addressing that problem and we're going to see the problem grow down the road."

Democratic-Farmer-Labor lawmakers on the committee said the two drought-related plans should pass together and that the state was in a financial position to address both. Meanwhile, Senate Republicans said the aid to farmers was more urgent and should be taken up alone.

"The Senate does not have this language at all so it will slow down the relief for the farmers," Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Torrey Westrom, R-Elbow Lake, said.

Farmers and ranchers for months urged lawmakers to green light support payments to help offset the impact of the drought.

But partisan disagreements over other provisions that should be considered during a special legislative session — including a GOP call to oust health Commissioner Jan Malcolm — prevented the proposal from moving forward before January.

Different priorities in each chamber slowed its progress at the Capitol.

The Senate also approved a provision to put up emergency response funding for the highly transmissible avian influenza that wasn't included in the House plan.

Despite the disagreements, the committee leads said they would meet again Wednesday, April 20, to take up areas of agreement. Both chambers will have to sign off on a possible compromise for it to move to the governor's desk for approval.

"We all appreciate the importance of this bill but also we need to acknowledge that neither body wants to put it in a take it or leave it situation on issues that we both have strong feelings about," House Agriculture Committee Chair Mike Sundin, DFL-Esko, said.

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Alexandria Echo Press file photo

Flowers along Broadway add a welcoming touch to Alexandria's downtown area.

THUMBS UP/ THUMBS DOWN

VIEWES BY THE ECHO PRESS

Beautiful pops of color

Thumbs Up: Alexandria is fortunate to have bright and cheery pops of color along Broadway, thanks to the Downtown Merchants Association's flower basket effort. The baskets will be delivered and hung from the downtown lamp posts in early May. The association has been fortunate over the last few years to have dedicated sponsors who value the welcoming appeal the flowers bring to the community. You can support this effort by sponsoring a flower basket for \$100 each. Sponsorship is being done on a first come, first serve basis. Forms must be received before May 1. The goal is to get enough sponsors to grow the placements of the flower baskets into the side streets. To be a sponsor, go to <https://www.downtownalexandria.com/> and scroll down to Downtown Flower Baskets.

Points of Pride

Thumbs Up: At Monday's Alexandria School Board meeting, Superintendent Rick Sansted shared the district's "206 Points of Pride." It's something the board does every month and should open some eyes about the good things that District 206 students and staff are doing. Those recognized this month were: Alicia Erickson was selected as an Aspirations in Computing Award Honoree in the Rising Star category. This honor is given to students who have attained some technology skills and demonstrated a commitment to continue to strengthen their skills and exploration of the field. Seventh-grader Carlee Schliepsiek won the Cherry Street Books Earth Day Poetry Contest for her poem celebrating the beauty of winter, which will be featured at Saturday's Earth Day celebration. Thirteen students were selected to represent Alexandria in the 2022 All Conference Choir, including Brittany Lanus, Anna Melby, Olivia Brault, Cassidy Huwe, Jeryn Drewes, Ella Risnes, Isaac Baldry, Joel Brault, Ramsey Copeland, Isaac Loeffler, Anthony Hoyt, Matt Wieberdink and Noah Hubbard. Eight students were nominated for the CLC All-Conference Band, including Ilana Jensen, Madisen Melby, Heidi Carstenson, Colton Robertson, Grace Hedstrom, Mackenzie Goodwin, Evan Strand and Gabe Schneider. Tom Miller was voted Boy's Basketball Assistant Coach of the Year for the 2021-22 season. Eleven students received the Northern Minnesota Robotics Conference All Academic Team honors, including Ramsey Copeland, Sarah Fuchs, Cody Hunt, Ilana Jensen, Alicia Erickson, Jacob Fleming, Machahila Hinnenkamp, Owen Jensen, Levi Johnson, Kyle Tvrdik and Owen Corle. This honor is given to robotics students who have a 3.5 or higher GPA and meet varsity

level lettering requirements. Ellie Rauk, Hailie Kent, Sarah Kelley and Ailynn Fettig received Academic All Section honors for gymnastics. In Girl's Basketball, Academic All-State honors were awarded to Tessa McGrane and Carlie Wolf, with Hadley Thul receiving honorable mention. Ian Johnson, Ashton Schlosser and Nicolas Witt competed at the State Archery Tournament and qualified for the National Archery Tournament in Louisville, KY.

Red Cross volunteers

Thumbs Up: Volunteers are the lifeblood for the American Red Cross. An astounding 90% of its workforce are volunteers. This month, they take a well-deserved turn in the spotlight. April is National Volunteer Month – a time to recognize the compassionate people who selflessly dedicate their time to helping others. Red Cross leaders are collecting signatures from Red Cross communities for a "thank you" e-card for the hard-working volunteers. Red Cross volunteers respond to an average of more than 60,000 disasters every year; train more than 4.6 million people in lifesaving skills; provide nearly 550,000 services to military members, veterans and their families; collect blood and platelet donations at more than 500 blood drives and donation centers across the country each day. To sign the e-card, go to <https://www.redcross.org/volunteer/thank-you/sign-the-card.html>.

Low stress, high taxes

Thumbs Up/Down: Two new surveys from WalletHub reveal both good and bad news about Minnesota. The upside: Minnesota has very low stress levels – only one state, Utah, has lower levels. WalletHub compared the 50 states across 41 key metrics. Here's how Minnesota fared (1 means most stressed, 25 is the average): 39th for average hours worked per week; 50th for share of adults getting adequate sleep; 50th for the percentage of adults in fair/poor health; 50th for median credit score; 34th for housing affordability; 47th for percentage of population living in poverty; 46th for divorce rate, 28th for crime rate; and 44th for psychologists per capita. On the downside, Minnesota has the fifth highest overall tax burden in the U.S. Here are the results (1 is highest, 25 is the average): 22nd for property tax burden; 5th for individual income tax burden; and 22nd for total sales and excise tax burden. A possible takeaway: Minnesota is a mellow place to live but it comes with a cost.

If you have a suggestion for a Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down, email it to aedenloff@echopress.com or mail it to Echo Press, P.O. Box 549, Alexandria, MN 56308.

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.

Feeding an addiction to shellac

In my first column for the Echo Press I wrote about the enormous number of books I have, and protested that I was not a hoarder, but a collector.

I'm happy to report that since I moved to Alexandria in July, I have only acquired about five more titles.

The same cannot be said, however, for my other major collection: Records. To be specific, 78 rpm records. While I do collect (and own hundreds of) regular vinyl LPs, my interest in them has fallen by the wayside in exchange for the 10-inch shellac antiques.

That is not to say I will grab up just any 78 I see. My interest lies in the period of about 1925-1932, both jazz and country. Anything past those dates just doesn't cut it. The music becomes either too syrupy sweet, or too much like swing, both of which are styles of music I hate. Not dislike. Hate.

I can't quite say how I've found myself in this predicament, but I do know one thing. My purchasing of these discs has grown exponentially since the first of the year. About 30. Which is added, of



TRAVIS GULBRANDSON
Travis' Turn

course, to the ones I already owned.

My addiction began about 10 years ago when I purchased an Edison phonograph from an antique store. Most of the records that came with it – not 78s, but extremely thick discs made of wood pulp and resin – weren't great. Marching bands, tenors, that kind of thing. But a few of them contained jazz and dance band music that would not be out of place in a Laurel and Hardy movie. I liked it. A lot. I searched through antique stores looking for more of these discs, eventually ending up with about 40.

The only problem was that the music on these was not typical of what Edison's company generally released. Most of its output consisted of those marching bands and tenors, something in which I had zero interest.

However, I realized that other record companies of the era were releasing music

similar to (and in many cases, better than) the music I enjoyed on the Edison discs. So I bought a record player with 78 capability and began acquiring records.

A lot of them come from eBay, but my favorite place to get them is a store in Minneapolis called Vintage Music Company, which deals in nothing but 78s and vintage audio equipment. It's the kind of place you can get lost in. My favorite Saturday activity is to go there and just pore over the racks for hours.

It's sick, really.

Or is it? Is it really a problem to enjoy something that much? To think about it all the time and obsess over it to the exclusion of all other things?

Yeah, probably. But it's too late for me.

By the way, if anybody reading this happens to have any 78s from the era and genres I'm talking about, I would be more than happy to take them off your hands.

What can I say? I'm addicted.

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



Travis Gulbrandson / Alexandria Echo Press

A label from one of the many 78s in my collection.

LETTER

Blake's Law isn't the answer for bicyclists to be safe

To the editor:

In reference to "Blakes Law," the story in the March 23, 2022, Echo Press says, "She said Blakes Law would require bicyclists to ride on the other side of the road so they can see oncoming traffic." That puts bikes and walkers in the same category. At present, walkers must step to the side if a close encounter happens. Easy for a walker to do that.

Different situation for a bike. For a bike, leaving the pavement can spell disaster. It can tip you right when the motorist is going by close. For the bike to be safe, he would have to have his speed at a crawl for every car he met.

At present, the motorist legally must clear you by at least 3 feet. They can adjust their speed as they approach from behind so they should

not have to pass in a dangerous manner. If need be, they can slow to your speed and follow until safe to pass. Truly professional drivers such as UPS and FedEx, in spite of always being in a hurry, have absolutely never given me a close call. (We appreciate you guys and gals!)

If bikes are forced to face traffic, it would be impossible to adjust speed during approach or fall in behind the bike. The closing speed would be quite high with the bikes speed added rather than subtracted from the motorist's speed.

Last year, these 70-year-old bones put over 4,000 miles on bicycles. Much was on roads. I hate those close calls as much as the next guy. But I do not believe "Blakes Law" is the answer. Being as visible as possible from behind is still the best safety.

Raleigh Miller
Osakis, 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 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.

A NEW LEADER FOR ALEXANDRIA SENIOR CENTER

Shellie-Kae Foster is executive director of the energetic facility

By Sam Stuve
Alexandria Echo Press

Alexandria
Since Feb. 1, the Alexandria Senior Center has been under the leadership of newly-appointed executive director Shellie-Kae Foster, an Alexandria native.

"I'm really excited to be the executive director here at the Alexandria Senior Center," Foster said. "It's where I've grown up (Alexandria) and have quite a history here. And so for me, to be able to work in my own community, serving my own community has been just a huge gift for me."

Foster said she found out about the position opening in multiple ways.

"I heard about it on a job site, and also a board member did approach me and encouraged me to apply," Foster said. "So I saw that as an opportunity to jump in and use my skills here in the nonprofit world. I've only been in the position for less than two and a half months. So I've had a really vertical learning curve. It's been wonderful that everyone here has been very welcoming. It just really feels like everyone wants me to succeed, and they're doing whatever they can to support me."

Foster has enjoyed her time in this new role. She's been really impressed with the senior center's atmosphere and the positive reception she's had from the members so far.

"I am impressed with the energy and expertise of the volunteers that make this place a great place to be," Foster said. "The members and the board are very supportive. They helped with my training and just asked, 'How can we help? Don't be afraid to ask questions; you're in charge of the house, but we want to help you.' I've felt from the programs to the members, to the board, everybody's been super supportive. I look forward to coming to work in the morning."

Foster has spent plenty of years in the nonprofit world in the area and she has a passion in that realm.

But growing up, being in the nonprofit world was not at the front of her mind.

"I don't even know what a nonprofit was growing up," Foster said. "But I have lived in



Photos by Lowell Anderson / Alexandria Echo Press

Shellie-Kae Foster, executive director of the Alexandria Senior Center, stands in the dining room area of the center where seniors gather to play cards. Foster has been the executive director since Feb. 1.



Nicole Warner, left, leads a yoga class at the Alexandria Senior Center on April 13.



A group of guys play their daily game of pool at the Alexandria Senior Center on April 13.

the nonprofit industry now for over 20 years. I managed a statewide program in the last 10 years. That was as a nonprofit, as well. So I gained a lot of experience with grant writing, managing staff, volunteers and doing events."

Foster said that this experience with nonprofits has helped her transition into her current role at the senior center.

One of the main goals that Foster and the senior center have is to gain more members going forward.

"I've been going out and networking like going to Wake Up Alexandria or going

to Communities in Action and trying to network with other nonprofits," Foster said. "The community as a whole, 44 percent of the population in Alexandria, is considered a senior because anybody over 50 is considered a senior. So that's a huge portion of our population. And so we have a big job to do to serve that population."

The senior center was deeply affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some events and activities had to be taken away because of it.

But now, some of those programs appear to be coming back.

"I'm really hoping to build back those programs that were lost

and then to offer some new and innovative programs as well," Foster said. "We're looking at the future and what's next for the senior center. And I think the programming we're doing right now is really meeting the needs of a certain group of seniors. We have cards, different games and we host meetings for really important groups in the community."

Some of the things that the senior center is looking to add are cooking classes in the fall, bus trips and things of that nature.

Foster said the senior center is trying to efficiently use the space it has.

"I think one thing is we're kind of bursting at the seams here with the room that we're at," Foster said. "It's a 9,000-square-foot building. But we haven't had each of our rooms sectioned off into quarters. So we didn't have bingo in one quadrant; we could have Bunco in another quadrant, Mexican train (dominoes) in another quadrant, and make a meeting going on. So yeah, we're really using our space well, but I think we could use more expanded space and maybe a different space that could accommodate more exercise and cooking classes."

Foster said they are looking at solutions for parking as well.

Overall, Foster has enjoyed her time so far in her role and is looking forward to working with members of the senior

center who love the fact that she is from the community.

"One thing that's been really heartwarming for me is that people from the community have known my family (maiden name Sonstegard), and so many people have come up and shared stories about my dad, Buzz, or my mother, Terry, or where my brothers or my sister, or my kids are," Foster said.

Previously, Foster has worked in Kandiyohi County so hearing those stories helps her have a stronger connection with the senior center members.

"To share those stories of each other's families and that connection has been really warming, heartwarming and rejuvenating," Foster said.

Email reporter Sam Stuve at [sstuve@echopress.com](mailto:ssstuve@echopress.com)

Alexandria Senior Center aims for more members

By Sam Stuve
Alexandria Echo Press

The Alexandria Senior Center is looking to add more participants to its activities.

"Well, we offer a lot of activities," said Shellie-Kae Foster, executive director of the center. "We have a lot of games that are going on every day such as bingo, bridge and hand and foot. We also have a group that plays billiards every morning from 9 to noon."

Foster said that the senior center is always looking for and is welcoming to new members.

"The senior center has a membership of \$20 for an individual and \$30 for a

couple," she said. "We're always looking for new members, always looking for new ideas and if somebody has a card game that they would like to bring to the senior center and be the lead on we'd love to start that. If somebody wants to join another group, they can call the team center, and we'll connect them with an activity that they're interested in. So we're open to new ideas and new members to participate in the programs that we have."

Foster said card games such as cribbage have been very popular in the senior center.

"There's a lot of cards and games that are going on every day," Foster said.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, live music was very popular at the senior center.

"Over COVID, we suspended the music but now we're starting to bring it back," Foster said. "We also have a music series on Sunday afternoon."

The festivities at the senior center do not appear to be limited to just games and music.

"It's a variety of different activities that are going on every day and it varies from health and fitness to games, to travelogues to billiards," Foster said. "We're also a meeting space and are also a space where people can gather for their meetings."

In recent months, Foster said the recruitment of new members has ramped up a bit and that the main mode of recruitment has been through word of mouth. Senior center events are also included in the newspaper's community calendar.

"Going to community events like Wake Up Alexandria and also using word of mouth," Foster said in regard to how they are recruiting new members.

"People that are enjoying our activities are talking to their friends about it."

According to Foster, the Alexandria Senior Center has 550 members.

Foster said that many

of the residents enjoy the community aspect of playing games and partaking in their favorite activities.

"Socialization, just being with other people, visiting and having that camaraderie every week," Foster said, referring to the senior center members' favorite parts of taking part in these activities.

"They can meet their friends there. We always have free coffee here. We have coffee sponsors every month. We have coffee and we often have donuts. It's really just about that time to come together with others in a safe space."

Email reporter Sam Stuve at [sstuve@echopress.com](mailto:ssstuve@echopress.com)

SCHOOL

From Page A1

The construction documents will be ready in July, he said.

Lewis said the plan for the next board meeting is to have the recommended contractors for the precast concrete and steel work.

"The Evansville demolition really needs to be done," he said. "You'll want to see that get done as soon as possible so we're able to finish the design for that so we can do demolition this summer."

Lewis said demolition will start after July 4.

This fall the rest of the project will bid as the second bid package, Lewis said, with additions starting in the spring of 2023 and interior portions of the renovation to take place in the summer of 2024.

Everything should be finished in the fall of 2024, he said.

"The overall project is in great shape, going real well, on schedule, within budget," Lewis said. "It's tight ... but right now we're comfortable."

Superintendent search

The search for a new district superintendent has resulted in 12 applications being received, which will be prioritized individually.

The district does not have a hard number of interviews at this time.

Current superintendent Don Peschel tendered his resignation last month.

Last day of school

The board also voted to make Friday, May 27, the last day of school for the district.

It will be a full day of classes, followed by a teacher workshop on May 31 and June 1.

Email reporter Travis Gulbrandson at tgulbrandson@echopress.com

DISPATCH

From Page A1

meaning she calls them on a regular basis. What I found interesting is that Makenna didn't sound frustrated or bothered by the constant caller, she just listened and tried to calmly help the woman. It was actually very heartwarming because I could tell the woman on the other end of the line was a tad confused about something but Makenna just did what she needed to do and in the end, the woman was helped.

Another call that came through, which was handled by a dispatcher, Sasha, was from a man who had just witnessed two young boys trying to drown two dogs. The man was upset, excited and breathlessly talking to her as he was trying to keep an eye on where the two young kids had gone. Sasha, although visibly upset (I could tell by the look on her face) by what was happening, was verbally unfazed by what the caller was saying. She didn't raise her voice. Instead, she just politely and calmly talked with the man until officers were on scene, took over the call and handled the situation with the kids.

Multitasking masters

In talking with Kevin, I learned that in 2021, dispatchers answered 69,289 calls. Out of those, 12,559 turned out to be actual 911 emergency calls. Dispatchers also handled 35,000 "calls for service" requests that required law enforcement, fire or and EMS response.

Dispatchers answer 911 calls and non-emergency calls for three county law enforcement agencies — the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, Alexandria Police Department and Osakis Police Department. They also assist in dispatching locally for the Minnesota State Patrol and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. And they dispatch for four ambulance services — North Memorial Ambulance, Parkers Prairie, Ashby and Hoffman. They also have the ability to launch air ambulances, including LifeLink III and North Memorial Air Care.

If that wasn't already enough, they also dispatch for 12 fire departments and first responder agencies within Douglas County.

Close your eyes for a moment and picture a room full of people,

each doing one task — answering a phone call, entering information into the computer, checking in with the law enforcement officers on duty every two to three minutes, answering questions from a coworker, checking a map to see where each officer/deputy is, paging out an ambulance, checking the background on someone who was pulled over, running a license plate to see if a vehicle was stolen and more. Now, picture one octopus with its eight arms doing all those same things by itself.

That is a dispatcher. Using the word multitasker to describe one doesn't do them justice.

Save 911 for real emergencies

In my first few minutes of my sit along, my head was spinning, I had no idea what was happening and I am pretty sure Sasha took care of at least three calls and I had no idea what any of them were as I sat there silent, in awe, watching the magic being performed in front of my eyes. All with calmness, swiftness, grace, wit, confidence, awareness and understanding.

It was incredible. My time in that room, although nearly three hours, felt like 10 minutes. Everything happened so fast. So efficient. So smooth.

And although we are all taught at a young age to call 911 in an emergency, people should think about if what they are calling about is really an emergency. Things like parking complaints, animal complaints, minor fender benders, neighbor disputes (as long as there is no violence), kids not listening to their parents or cats being stuck up in a tree should be called in on the non-emergency lines — 320-762-8151 for the sheriff's office, 320-763-6631 for the police department and 320-859-2550 for the Osakis Police Department.

And if you can't remember those numbers, my guess is you are probably calling from your cell phone so look it up before calling and save 911 for real emergencies.

One last thing, if you happen to see any of the people pictured in this article on the street, thank them for their service. You never know when they might be the person on the other end of the call doing what they can to help you. Maybe even saving your life.

Email reporter Celeste Edenloff at cedenloff@echopress.com



The Douglas County Sheriff's Office communications center has 12 full-time staff members, including 10 dispatchers, a lead dispatcher and a dispatch sergeant. Members are, left to right, top to bottom, Kaycea Larson, Dan Schroeder, Chris Blank, Andrea Kerfeld, Makenna Schlagen, Kevin Smith (lead dispatcher), Nick Rogers, Kari Rahn-Vedral, Sasha Sazama, Keith Polipnick and Tom Egan (dispatch sergeant). Laura Karl is not pictured.

Contributed photos

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For nomination information see the April 20 issue of the Echo Press.

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Alexandria College golf programs continue their growth

By Sam Stuve

Alexandria Echo Press

The Alexandria College men's and women's golf teams took part in a tournament in Fort Dodge, Iowa, at the Iowa Central Spring Invite in what was a preparation for the national tournament coming up in May for some golfers.

Alexandria College finished seventh out of the nine teams in the men's tournament on April 12 and 13. Jayme French led the way for the Legends, as he posted a score of 7-over par (par for 18 holes is 71) and finished tied for ninth. That was six strokes behind the winner, Austin Erickson, of Iowa Central.

French, a Fargo, North Dakota native, posted a score of 75 on day one and 74 on day two.

On the women's side on April 9-10, Abby Hamman, a sophomore from Slayton, placed third overall with a score of 157 (79, 78) and two strokes behind winner Molly Carey (Graceland).

Hamman and Alexandria College men's golfer Conner Josephson will play in the National Junior College Athletic Association Championships in May.

"Abby's a great golfer," Alexandria College assistant coach Maggie Slagle said. "She's just going to have to practice and she has a chance (to perform well at nationals) if she works at it."

Hamman is headed to the DI Championship in Sanford, Florida,



Members of the 2021-22 Alexandria College Golf Team, from left to right: Conner Josephson, Jayme French, assistant coach Maggie Slagle, Abby Hamman, Caden Chromy, head coach Scott Dirck, Gannon Lueck, and Lukas Justesen.

on May 9-12. There is only one NJCAA division for women's golf. Josephson will play in the DII Championships in Joplin, Missouri on those same dates.

"It's an honor to take them to the national tournament," Alexandria head coach Scott Dirck said. "I can't wait to see how it goes."

Dirck said that Hamman is one of the toughest mental competitors he's ever met.

"She's a really good player and she's got a lot of tournament

experience," Dirck said. "We just need to get outside so we can practice chipping and putting. She'll be working hard from 100 yards and in before nationals."

Hamman was the winner of the NJCAA DII Region IV Championship on October 8, 2021, and was named to the all-region team.

Josephson, a native of Redwood Falls, finished tied for 35th with a score of 20-over par (77, 85) at the Iowa Central Invite. Josephson qualified for

the NJCAA DII National Tournament by placing fourth in the Region IV Championship on October 7, 2021.

"He's at practice here every day working and he definitely has the potential to do well," Slagle said. "He's struggled a little bit in our two tournaments this spring, having one good day and one bad day. They're going to have to work at it. They both have the potential to do great."

"Conner is a very good athlete and a very good putter," Dirck said.

"He's figuring out how to play in many kinds of conditions."

Lukas Justesen and French are alternates for the championships.

Just like at the high school level, the weather has limited what the college golfers are able to do right now. Practices for the Legends have been held at Dirck's golf academy in Alexandria.

"We've hit a million golf balls indoors or out at the academy, but it's just hard to work on that chipping and putting part of it (golf),"

Dirck said. "Nothing compares to the real thing. Our facility that we have that we practice out of is probably very similar to the Minnesota Gophers (facility). So as far as facilities go we've got one of the nicer ones at any college or any high school. Handling bunkers and short game stuff is hard to do."

There is a putting green at the academy but that specific green doesn't necessarily simulate the slopes or green speeds of other courses.

GOLF: Page 11

TRACK AND FIELD

Bemidji State the perfect setting for Osakis' Stanek

Senior commits to the Beavers for college track and field

By Eric Morken

Alexandria Echo Press

OSAKIS — Making a college decision for an athlete comes down to fit. Fit with coaches and teammates within their sport. Fit in the classroom, and oftentimes fit within a whole community.

In that sense, Bemidji State University checked all the boxes for Osakis senior Tessa Stanek in track and field.

"We had a track meet there a couple years back, and I just thought the area was beautiful," Stanek said. "I talked around, and people said they really loved the Bemidji school. That interested me a lot. I'm really a big outdoors person, so I loved the area up there. It's just a beautiful place."

Stanek signed with the Bemidji State University track and field program on Wednesday. She is a standout sprinter for Osakis who has run on varsity since

7th grade. She is coming off a junior year where she finished 13th at the Class A state meet in 2021 in the 200-meter dash.

"Right away as a 7th-grader, Tessa contributed as a varsity sprinter," Osakis head coach Lee VanNyhuis said. "She came into a program that had a tradition of good sprinters and good sprint relays. She learned how to train from some other really good athletes, including her sister, Tianna. As she's matured, her role on the team has changed and she has gained confidence. She's also gained confidence in the weight room and she is learning the importance of that part of her training."

Stanek is a multi-sport athlete who plays tennis in the fall and basketball in the winter, and VanNyhuis said that has made a big impact on her success in the spring.

"In each sport, she has a different role and learns different things from different coaches," VanNyhuis said. "I really feel that helps. Being in a winter sport gets her ready for the track season without burning her



Eric Morken / Alexandria Echo Press

Osakis senior Tessa Stanek laughs with her family, friends and coaches who were on hand to help her celebrate signing to run track at Division II Bemidji State University starting next school year. Stanek signed her letter of intent with the Beavers on Wednesday.

out or getting stale."

Stanek was committed to tennis in the fall and basketball in the winter, but her future in college athletics seemed to be in track and field from a young age.

"I just love the environment of track and field. It's not even just a team. It's like a family," Stanek said. "We all get along great, and you build relationships (with people) that you don't even know or talk to in school. It's just a fun environment to be in. I just love competing in track, and I love the intensity I get. It's always been a good sport for me, and it's always felt like a family."

Stanek qualified for last year's state meet

with a winning time of 27.16 in the 200 dash at the Section 6A championship. She was fourth in the 100-meter finals at sections with a time of 13.13. She has also been a fixture on the Osakis sprint relays over the years.

Stanek will continue in the sprint events at the college level and also wants to keep competing as a long jumper in Bemidji's program. She was 10th in the long jump at the 6A meet a year ago with a long mark of 14-04.5.

"It's not my strongest (event), but I love doing long jump," Stanek said. "I think it's fun, and I like to improve in it as much as I can."

TRACK: Page 11

BASKETBALL

Ashby's Jacob Cook sets lofty goals as he commits to Concordia

By Eric Morken

Alexandria Echo Press

ASHBY — Jacob Cook took his time in figuring out exactly what would be the best situation for him academically and athletically when it came to realizing a longtime goal of his to play college basketball.

The senior center/forward for Ashby ultimately decided that a short drive north to Moorhead is where he wanted to be.

Cook committed to

Concordia College by announcing the decision on his Twitter account on April 18. The Cobbers play out of the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) at the Division III level.

"One of the biggest things for me was how did I fit with the team," Cook said. "I've been playing with them for a month or two now. I really liked running fives with them. They're

BASKETBALL: Page 11



Sam Stuve / Alexandria Echo Press

Ashby senior Jacob Cook goes up for a layup in a game against Hancock on March 12. Cook announced that he will play his college basketball at Concordia in Moorhead after he finished fifth on the all-time scoring list for Ashby with 1,248 career points to go along with 624 rebounds.

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HELP WANTED EDUCATION

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St. Mary's School in Alexandria is accepting applications for a 1.0 FTE 6th Grade Teacher for the 2022-23 school year. St. Mary's is a growing Catholic School that offers competitive salary and benefits. Current Minnesota licensure is required and a practicing Catholic is preferred.

Please send a letter of interest, resume, letters of recommendation, teaching license and transcripts to: Troy Sladek, Principal
St. Mary's School
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Progressive Living Solutions is a local Alexandria residential adult group home provider supporting high functioning adults with mental illness and other disabilities. Looking for kind and nurturing caregivers to assist us in our fun and laid-back social environment, by providing supervision and other supports to our residents. No physical cares or restraining actions required. Our residents are kind individuals and there are no threats of physical injury while on shift. **Offering a competitive hourly wage, paid training, annual bonus, and a \$500.00 new hire bonus. Recent wage increases!**

Hiring immediately for Full Time & Part Time positions!
PM Direct Support Professionals 3:00pm - 10:15pm
and Awake Overnight Direct Support Professionals 10:00pm -7:30am with rotating weekends.

Please call to discuss these opportunities!
(320) 759-5730 or apply online at www.PLSMN.net/Jobs

HELP WANTED FINANCIAL SERVICES/BANKING

Full-Time Assistant for Banking Operations

Audit and compliance, policies, HR duties, IT work, bookkeeping.

Full benefits. Experience preferred.

Resume and references to:

Community First Bank
Attn: Sharon H.
PO Box 250
Menahga, MN 56464
or email sharonharris@communityfirstbankmn.com

HELP WANTED GENERAL

Age 55+ Workers
Needed for PT Light Custodial Work at Lake Latoka & Burgen Lake rest areas located on I94.
Contact Green View 651-639-1913

HELP WANTED GENERAL

HENRY'S FOODS, INC.

Join Our Night Warehouse Team & Enjoy Most Summer Weekends Off!!

Four or five night work week available. Up to \$300 Sign-On Bonus!

FREEZER: gear up in company provided clothing and use electronic scanners to read and locate product to pick and load for our many customers! **\$17.75 per hour.**

LOADING DOCK: Take product from conveyor lines and load into trailers. **\$17.75 per hour.**

ORDER SELECTORS: Use scanners to read and locate items for picking. **\$16.75 per hour.**

In addition to our competitive starting wages, we offer paid time off, health insurance, matching 401k, and most weekends off!

Apply online at henryfoods.com or in person at 234 McKay Ave. North, Alexandria

SPECIAL SECTIONS COORDINATOR

The Jamestown Sun is hiring a Special Sections Coordinator/Editor to oversee the direction, production and creative execution of all special sections and related publications.

RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- Leading all facets of planning, writing, designing and editing special section content, including sponsored elements.
- Providing high-quality customer service to all internal and external customers.
- Working with the company's centralized page production team managers to coordinate design, workflow and deadlines.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's degree, with writing and editing experience preferred.
- Excellent communication skills and customer service skills.
- Publication writing experience in a deadline driven environment.

The Jamestown Sun

For more details and to apply go to:
www.forumcomm.com/careers
EOE

HELP WANTED GENERAL

LAKE LIFE Service

"Making life a little easier."

Help needed for seasonal dock & lift services.

Call Lake Life Services
320-834-3394

HELP WANTED GENERAL

\$200 or \$500 Sign on Bonus

Become an independent Contract Carrier for the
Lakeland Shopping Guide

Currently we have walking routes available in:

- Alexandria
- Garfield
- Evansville
- Miltona

Take 1 walking route and receive a \$200 Sign on Bonus!
or
Take 2 walking routes & we'll make it \$500!

Call Lynn at (320)763-1218 for more information

Casey's Amusement Park
Now hiring for all positions.
Call Todd Elmer at 320-766-2150

Never too late to go after your dream JOB!

Find it here.

jobsHQ

HELP WANTED HEALTHCARE

Horizon Public Health is a fully integrated and accredited local public health organization that serves the residents and communities in Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stevens and Traverse Counties.

We are currently recruiting a compassionate and skilled individual to work in our communities in the following capacity:

Full Time Registered Nurse -Case Manager
Morris office

Visit our website at
<https://horizonpublichealth.org/employment>

for a complete job description and information how to submit an application.
Closing date is Wednesday April 27, 2022 at 4:30pm.
EOE.

HORIZON Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Horizon Public Health is a fully integrated and accredited local public health organization that serves the residents and communities in Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stevens and Traverse Counties.

We are currently recruiting a self-motivated, detail orientated, team player with strong computer proficiency to support the work of the nurse case managers/social workers in the following capacity:

Program Support Specialist

This position can work out of our Glenwood, Morris, Wheaton, Elbow Lake or Alexandria office.

Please visit our website at
horizonpublichealth.org/employment
for a complete job description and information how to submit an application.
Closing date is Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 4:30pm. EOE.

HORIZON Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

HELP WANTED GENERAL

Sunrise Sprinkler & Landscape Lighting
Commercial & Residential

Seasonal Help Wanted Irrigation Service and Installation

Clean driving record and valid driver's license req'd. Experienced preferred, but can train the right person. Good pay & winters off.

(320) 815-5321
Email: steve@sunrise-sprinkler.com



Seasonal Positions

The Alexandria Lake Area Sanitary District (ALASD) is seeking a qualified applicants for seasonal positions.

No Nights or Weekends \$14.75 per hour.

Detailed job description and employment application available at: www.alasdistrict.org
Individuals can also inquire regarding details by calling (320)762-1135. Send employment application and resume to: Alexandria Lake Area Sanitary District 2201 Nevada Street Alexandria, MN 56308 or email jokey@alasd.org Fax: 320-762-1108

Want to Work in a Home-Like Setting?

Prairie Community Services has Direct Care positions open in the Alexandria area!

- Pay DOE
- Variety of work environments
- Meals provided
- Benefit packages
- Casual dress code
- Fun team atmosphere
- Consistent schedules
- Training program

For applications & more info, call Mary at (320) 763-6528 or visit us online at www.sfhs.org
EOE/AA

Thinking about a new JOB?

Start here.

jobsHQ

HELP WANTED HEALTHCARE



Central Lakes Concert Association

Alexandria, Minnesota
www.centrallakesconcerts.com

2022 - 2023 CONCERT SEASON



PORTRAIT OF A QUEEN

The Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin, taught her listeners how to think and demand R-E-S-P-E-C-T while riding down the Freeway (of Love)! In this production, award-winning songstress Cece Teneal takes music lovers on a trip down memory lane with stellar hits from Aretha Franklin's 50 years of musical entertainment. Audiences will be energized by Cece's strong, soulful voice, and beautiful piano accompaniment to Franklin's lyrical life lessons.



COPPER STREET BRASS

Copper Street Brass is a Minneapolis-based sextet composed of two trumpets, trombone, tuba, and French horn with keyboard, percussion, guitars and electric instruments. Copper Street Brass presents a variety of music in bold innovative ways with a friendly and charming stage presence. "That '70s Show" features music from the 1770s, 1870s, and 1970s from classical and opera, jazz and folk, to rock and disco. Their eclectic performance will feature something for everyone.



BRANCY & DUGAN

As collaborative partners, Brancy & Dugan are committed to re-energizing and reinventing the approach to art song. Grammy winning baritone John Brancy's intense musicality and communicative power place him among the finest of baritones of his generation. Pianist Peter Dugan is a sought-after multi-genre artist and regularly guest hosts on NPR's From the Top. Together these former Julliard classmates created Building a Dream: Music from the TRAVIS ANDERSON TRIO Post-War World to pay homage to World War I through the music of European and American composers of that era.



TRAVIS ANDERSON TRIO

Travis Anderson Trio is a Minneapolis-based group giving a modern twist to classic jazz and pops favorites. Fleet-fingered pianist Travis Anderson, a mainstay on the local jazz scene for over fifteen years, has wowed audiences everywhere from intimate jazz clubs to 2,000-seat halls. Steve Pikal, the first call bassist of the Twin Cities, lays down a great bass line. Drummer Nathan Norman is a smooth and sensitive player who adds many interesting colors to the beat. This creative ensemble will bring many smiles to your face with a familiar program of 60s' TV. theme music, Disney & pops/jazz standards. The Travis Anderson Trio's dynamic style charms both seasoned connoisseurs and jazz newcomers alike.



TROUPE VERTIGO

Troupe Vertigo's spellbinding performances ignite the imagination through stunning physical feats choreographed into works of art. Their commitment to create work that is an eclectic and innovative mix of Circus-Dance-Theater redefines visual space with displays of mental and physical prowess. Incorporating artistic components from across different creative disciplines, Troupe Vertigo shows create stories woven together using highly stylized choreography, lighting and music to create scenes with imaginative visual landscapes.



THE EVERLY SET

Award-winning singer-songwriters Sean Altman (founder of Rockapella) and Jack Skuller (Songwriters Hall of Fame Buddy Holly Prize) will take you back to 1957 as The Everly Set. This was the year when teens Phil and Don Everly first supercharged the vocal sound of Rock n' Roll. The bright harmonies of brothers created charted hits like Bye Bye Love, Wake Up Little Susie, All I Have to Do Is Dream, When Will I Be Loved, and many more classics. The Everly Set brings laser precise harmonies, energy, charm, and humor to every performance.

ADMISSION BY SEASON MEMBERSHIP

Season Membership Fees: Adult \$50 • Student: \$10 • Family: \$110

Call (320) 491-6308

Central Lakes Concert Association | 1708 Galen Street SW | Alexandria, MN 56308

Yes, I wish to join the Central Lakes Concert Association for the 2022-23 Season.

Check as applicable

Adult \$50

Student \$10

Family \$110

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

If this is a family membership, please indicate number of children _____

EMAIL _____

BOARD

From Page A1

The assessment also reportedly included not only long-range goals, like the space needs, but also short-term goals, like fixing the parking lot, which is something that is currently being worked on.

There were other long-range and short-range goals listed in the assessment and the library board will continue going through all of them. Both Albright and Carrott said the library board would like to get public input and that more information will be coming soon.

In other action

The Douglas County

commissioners approved the following items:

▶ Donation of an iPad from Kronos to be used in the Douglas County coordinator's office.

▶ Off-Campus Work Study Program contract with the Alexandria Technical and Community College.

▶ Abatement of delinquent mobile home taxes for parcels that have been inactivated and delinquent taxes still exist for years 2014 and prior.

▶ Conditional use permit for Mount Carmel Ministries to allow the expansion of an existing commercial planned unit development/resort to a total density of 91 units.

▶ Conditional use permit to DUTZ Holdings LLC to allow the conversion of a commer-

cial planned unit development to Interlachen Park.

▶ Preliminary plat of Windjammer HOA on Lake LeHomme Dieu in Carlos Township.

▶ Final plat of Union Overlook, a one lot plat in LaGrand Township.

The board also denied a petition from Moe Township to have Douglas County take over Andes Road, which is in Moe Township.

Douglas County Chairperson Tim Kalina said there is not enough evidence supporting reasons why the county should take over that road and Commissioner Charlie Meyer made the motion to deny the petition. The petition was denied by a 5-0 vote.

Email reporter Celeste Edenloff at cedenloff@echopress.com.

HOUSING

From Page A1

shift to work-at-home employment, and the entry of Generation X and Millennial buyers into home buying.

While some sellers are benefiting from higher prices, Munson acknowledged that some first-time home buyers are being priced out of the market. These are typically buyers who spend less than \$250,000 for a home. Real estate agent Brandon Johnson provided statistics showing that in Minnesota, the median home price jumped from \$154,000 in 2012 to \$306,750 in 2021.

Meanwhile, baby boomers are seeing little reason to sell their homes, Munson said. The supply of homes for sale is at a 20-year low, while overall demand is at a 20-year high.

In one year, mortgage rates have climbed from 3% to 4.75%, driven

by the Federal Reserve Board's activity designed to rein in inflation. Typically, higher rates help cool housing prices, but Johnson cited multiple real estate organizations that all expect home prices to continue to rise during 2022.

Rising mortgage rates means that a buyer who could afford a \$360,000 home in April 2021 can only buy a \$295,000 home in April 2022, said Mike Mohr, vice president at Glenwood State Bank.

Yet historically, he said, 4.75% is an excellent rate, reminding his listeners that years ago, mortgage rates hit 18%.

"In my banking career, the first refi boom I saw was when rates hit 4.75% for the first time," he said. "People were ecstatic. They were refinancing their 6% rates for 4.75."

He said buying a home remains a solid investment, and advised buyers to do what's right for their families.

Johnson said that he

hears questions about whether there's a housing bubble or a housing crisis, which he strongly disputes. He provided data that shows that in 2012, as the market began to recover from the Great Recession, 70,145 homes sold in Minnesota, while in 2021, even with a tight market, 94,162 homes sold here.

"If you want to tell me that there is a housing crisis I am going to tell you you are 100% wrong and ill-informed," Johnson said. "You can't have a crisis when you sell more of something."

While data show that housing prices are leveling off in Minnesota, there's still opportunity for growth, he said.

"Could it all change tomorrow?" he said. "Sure. Based on where we are today, there's no economic indicators that show this year that there will be any type of a crash."

Reporter Karen Tolkkinen can be reached at 320-763-1232 or ktolkkinen@echopress.com.



The Most Experienced Foot & Ankle Specialist in the Region

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