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# ECHO PRESS



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## LIKE A WAR ZONE

Alexandria couple lose their home in a tornado

By Celeste Edenloff  
Alexandria Echo Press

**Alexandria**

Dustin Wiita had just finished putting his lawnmower in the garage. His wife, Desiree, who had gotten home from work a little later than normal, was outside playing with the couple's four young children – ages 8, 6, 2 1/2 and 5 1/2 months.

The Alexandria family who lives along South Darling Drive noticed that the clouds were starting to roll in.

"There was a little clearing in the sky where it was that greenish, blueish color," said Desiree.

It was 7:09 p.m. Thursday, May 12, when Dustin said he received a tornado warning alert on his phone. The family immediately went inside their home and headed for the basement to take shelter. They hung out under the stairwell in a storage space for what Desiree said felt like five minutes.

But in reality, it was mere seconds. And in those seconds, a tornado ripped through their house, leaving what Desiree calls "skylights" in just about every room. The roof was ripped off most of their home, the garage was flattened, windows were shattered and Dustin said he doesn't have to worry about putting away the clean and folded laundry that was waiting for him on the couch.

The couple, who will be celebrating their ninth wedding anniversary next month, said laughter is helping them get through this devastating time in their lives.

**Hard to believe**

When Dustin came out of the storage space in their basement and looked up the stairwell, all he saw was the sky and pieces of his house.

**TORNADO:** Page 16



Celeste Edenloff / Alexandria Echo Press

Looking through a broken window on the backside of a house owned by Dustin and Desiree Wiita of Alexandria, debris can be seen scattered around their living room and the roof is gone. A tornado hit their house along South Darling Drive shortly after 7 p.m. on May 12.

**BRANDON-EVANVILLE SCHOOL**

## B-E names Glenetske as superintendent

By Travis Gulbrandson  
Alexandria Echo Press

BRANDON-EVANVILLE — A new superintendent has been named for the Brandon-Evanville School District.

Current high school math teacher Louisa Glenetske was announced as the new superintendent for the district, taking over for outgoing superintendent Don Peschel, whose last day is June 30.



Glenetske

Glenetske's contract was approved at the district's regular school board meeting on Monday, May 16.

A 2000 Osakis graduate, Glenetske began her teaching career in 2004 in the Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa School District. She

taught there for four years before being hired as a math teacher for Brandon-Evanville.

"It is my honor and privilege to start my new position at Brandon-Evanville as the superintendent. ... I am excited for all of the changes that are happening in the district and am thrilled to be part of such a great team and community," Glenetske wrote in an email to the Echo Press. "There are many challenges and even more opportunities that lie ahead, and I look forward to working collaboratively with the staff and community to continue the positive growth I have seen in the district in the past 14 years."

**GLENETSKE:** Page 17

**DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD**

## Roundabout near YMCA put on hold

By Celeste Edenloff  
Alexandria Echo Press

DOUGLAS COUNTY — A roundabout that was scheduled to be built at the intersection of County Road 82 and County Road 45 at the entrance to the Alexandria YMCA (Karl Drive) has been put on hold.

At the Tuesday, May 17, Douglas County Board meeting, commissioners rejected the bids because they came in way over the engineer's estimate.



Erickson

Tim Erickson, Douglas County Public Works director, told commissioners, "The bids were not good for the YMCA roundabout."

He said the engineer's estimate was around \$2 million for the project, while the lowest bid was at \$3.45 million – 171.49% over the proposed amount. The high bid came in at \$3.87 million, which was 192.5% over the engineer's estimate.

Erickson recommended for the board to reject the bids and put the project on hold until next year or even the year after.

"Right now, we don't know when we will reschedule," Erickson said.

**BOARD:** Page 17

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## What is it like to be a cop?

**Police sergeant, ATCC law enforcement graduate share insights**

**Editors note:** The following is the first in a two-part series featuring an Echo Press interview with Alexandria Police Sergeant Brian Kakach and 2022 Alexandria Technical and Community College law enforcement graduate Jack Anderson.

By Thalen Zimmerman  
Alexandria Echo Press

ALEXANDRIA — An Alexandria police sergeant and a law enforcement graduate discussed the training and responsibilities of police officers on Friday, May 6, for the Echo Press "Talk of the Town" podcast.

Jack Anderson recently graduated from Alexandria Technical and Community College's law enforcement



Jack Anderson, left, and Brian Kakach discussed training, responsibilities and political talking points with the Echo Press for the Talk of the Town podcast on May 6.

Thalen Zimmerman / Alexandria Echo Press

"We feel like we're a jack of all trades but a master of none."

BRIAN KAKACH

program. He grew up living in Moorhead until eighth grade and finished his high school education in Perham. Anderson chose to do his

police training at Alexandria College for a variety of reasons.

**COP:** Page 6

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## LAKES AREA FORECAST

More showers and thunderstorms pushed across Minnesota both Wednesday and Thursday of this week.



Mark Anthony  
Meteorologist

Following the severe weather that hit last Thursday, May 12, I know a lot of people told me that the next time severe weather watches and warnings are issued, that most of us will now take them very seriously. I know many of us can become complacent when warnings are issued, and we don't receive any severe weather and we do take

things less seriously. When we drive around Alexandria and the rest of west central Minnesota, we can see the straight-line wind damage and the tornadic damage. I think as well that many people can now also spot for themselves the difference between the damage associated with the two weather phenomena. Cooler and less turbulent weather will be with us for Friday and into the weekend. High temperatures on Friday will be more than 10 degrees cooler than normal, and 15-20 degrees cooler than normal for Saturday.

Minnesota weather is never boring, is it? Enjoy your weekend.

## WEATHER HISTORY

On this date in 1876, records show that a "tornado touched down near Ft. Ripley."

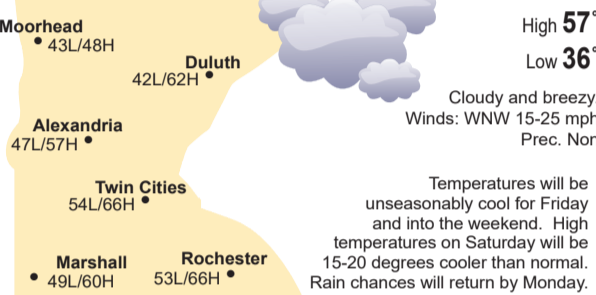
## WEATHER FACT

Did you know that tornadoes "cause an average of 70 fatalities and 1,500 injuries in the U.S. each year?"

## MN AT A GLANCE

Sunrise: 5:44 a.m. Sunset: 8:52 p.m.  
Normal High: 68 Normal Low: 47

## FRIDAY



## OUTLOOK

<b>SATURDAY</b> Mostly cloudy and cool.  High 49° Low 38° Wind: NNW 10-20 mph Prec. None	<b>SUNDAY</b> Partly cloudy.  High 53° Low 40° Wind: NW 10-15 mph Prec. None
<b>MONDAY</b> Mostly cloudy, 40% chance of rain late.  High 58° Low 47° Wind: S 10-20 mph Prec. Trace-20"	<b>TUESDAY</b> Partly cloudy and warmer.  High 63° Low 47° Wind: SSW 10-15 mph Prec. None

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

## FOR THE RECORD

**Alexandria City Council Regular Meeting Monday, May 23**  
**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. Consent agenda: Approve minutes for May 9 city council meeting, approve minutes for May 9 special city council meeting  
**7:05 p.m.** Licenses  
A. Temporary on-sale beer license – Willmar Baseball LLC/Willmar Stingers Community Fund  
B. Mobile food truck – Terri's Food Wagon

C. Fireworks (indoor sales) – Walmart  
D. Temporary on-sale liquor license – Alexandria Downtown Merchants Association Inc.  
E. Mobile food truck – Ann Manning LLC dba Deja Bleu House of Coffee  
**7:10 p.m.** GoodNeighbors, 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  
**7:30 p.m.** Letter of support for ALASD grant application to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources  
**7:35 p.m.** City Engineer Tim Schoonhoven  
A. Award bid for 18th Avenue

reconstruction and expansion project  
**7:40 p.m.** Community Development Director Mike Weber  
A. Planning Commission items  
B. Annexation petition - Roth  
**7:45 p.m.** City attorney's items of business  
**7:50 p.m.** City administrator's items of business  
**7:55 p.m.** Old and other business  
**8 p.m.** Adjournment  
**Note:** The Alexandria City Council will convene a special city council meeting at 5 p.m. to discuss the following items: Bellanca Building lease, 18th Avenue update, and 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](http://www.AlexandriaMN.city/events) and click on the meeting date to display the link.  
*The above items are scheduled as of Wednesday, May 18, and are subject to change.*

## Photo of the Week



Contributed / Emily Notch

Emily Notch took this photo of storm clouds in Miltona on May 12. If you have a great photo, send it to Lowell Anderson at [landerson@echopress.com](mailto:landerson@echopress.com). To see previous Photo of the Week submissions, go to our Photo of the Week photo Gallery.

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Photos by Travis Gulbrandson / Alexandria Echo Press

**Left:** Rose Roquette of the Osakis Women's Association and Shelbe Schmidt plant flowers at Park Osagi. The flower pots were purchased for the park by the association. **Right:** Ethan Anderson paints a picnic shelter at Park Osagi.

## Fred Bursch to be remembered at Central Lakes Symphony Orchestra concert on May 22

**By Celeste Edenloff**  
Alexandria Echo Press

ALEXANDRIA – The Central Lakes Symphony Orchestra will be closing out the season with a final concert, “Immortal Words,” set for Sunday, May 22, 2022. The concert will take place at 2 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center at the Alexandria Area High School.

Susag said that Tharaldson wrote the piece as his master thesis and that it have never been performed before. It will be premiering at Sunday's concert. She also said that Bursch's family, including his wife, Terri, is expected to be in attendance at the concert.

Sandy Susag, CLSO executive director, noted that one selection, “Safe,” will be dedicated to Fred Bursch, long-time Alexandria resident and business owner and supporter of CLSO.

“We wanted to honor Fred and his legacy and love for all the arts,” Susag said, noting that it was CLSO Music Director Brad Lambrecht, who said that Tharaldson's piece would be a beautiful dedication piece.



Bursch

The piece was written by Timothy Tharaldson, former Alexandrian, whose sister, Nicole Mulder, is the executive director at Theatre L'Homme Dieu.

The concert will also feature a solo tuba performance by Mike Odelo and a couple of performances by the CLSO Chorale group.

Tickets for the concert are available at Cherry Street Books in Alexandria or online at [centrallakesymphony.org](http://centrallakesymphony.org).

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

## Students, volunteers add touches of beauty to Osakis

**By Travis Gulbrandson**  
Alexandria Echo Press

OSAKIS — More than 100 high school students and a dozen adult volunteers rolled up their sleeves and pitched in to help with a variety of cleanup and beautification projects around Osakis.

On Wednesday, May 18, the volunteers met at different sites to work on projects such as clearing brush, painting picnic shelters, raking the beach and painting murals.

“It's going very well,” said Amber Kral of the beautification team. “All the kids are working really hard. We're get-



Connor Gulbranson rakes up debris at the Osakis beach.

ting a lot of stuff done.” Students from 10th grade through 12th

assisted on the projects, along with about 12 adult group leaders from town.

“They met me here (at the visitors center) at 8 a.m., and then the kids started at 8:30,” Kral said.

The projects took place at nine different sites around town, Kral said.

“At each site there's two to three projects, or four projects,” she said. “We're pretty excited about the murals and everything that they're doing.”

Kral said she was glad the weather cooperated with the outdoor activities.

“It's a beautiful day,” she said. “It couldn't have gotten better.”

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

### 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 May 18 (cumulative):

**Douglas County** – 11,178 (117 deaths).

**Grant** – 1,512 (12 deaths).

**Otter Tail** – 13,817 (167 deaths).

**Pope** – 3,137 (17 deaths).

**Stearns** – 51,904 (368 deaths).

**Stevens** – 2,685 (13 deaths)

**Todd** – 6,924 (58 deaths).

**Statewide (cumulative)** – 1,419,583 (12,575 deaths).

**Active cases in Douglas County** – 86 (according to Horizon Public Health as of May 12).

**People (16 and older) with at least one vaccine dose in Douglas County** – 20,946 (adjusted number) or 69.1% of the population (as of May 17).

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Al Edenloff / Alexandria Echo Press

Alexandria firefighters work to remove a tree that crashed on top of a house on Donna Drive in northwest Alexandria on the night a tornado touched down.

## THUMBS UP/ THUMBS DOWN

IEWS BY THE ECHO PRESS

### Kindness, rapid response during tornado

**Thumbs Up:** They say there's a silver lining to every cloud. In Douglas County last Thursday, May 11, that silver lining shined bright even after fierce straight-line winds and a tornado caused significant damage throughout the county (and fortunately, no serious injuries). We've heard many stories of neighbors helping neighbors, of businesses and volunteers lending a hand, of churches providing shelter from the storm, and other acts of kindness and support. Here's just a sliver of examples: More than 140 volunteers used skid loaders, trucks and four-wheelers to help Luther Crest Bible Camp with storm clean-up after more than 40 trees were toppled in the main area of the camp. Also, Remco Industries, a commercial and industrial equipment supplier near Alexandria, gave all of its employees a day off to go and help others with the clean-up and recovery. Also, Jasken Property Improvements in Alexandria put a message on its Facebook page that it was donating any services that people may need that were not covered by insurance. "We have equipment to help clean up after this horrible storm," the company said. Haul 'N Junk also donated its services over the weekend for free. "We know our services will be minimal compared to the damages done but we are willing to help our community in any way we can," the company said. We know there are dozens and dozens of other supportive deeds that were made and none of them expected anything in return except that rewarding feeling of helping others through the storm. And we are so fortunate to have top-notch law enforcement personnel that responded to more than 40 calls of service that night, ranging from property damage and blocked roads to electrical fires and power outages. Hard-working electrical crews from Rune-stone Electric Association, ALP Utilities and Otter Tail Power worked through the weekend to restore electricity. Firefighters responded to wherever they were needed to remove trees from roads and roofs. The recovery is still on-going and there's still a lot of work to be done but Douglas County showed once again that it is a resilient, kind and caring community.

### Food Shelf and Echo Press

**Thumbs Up:** Vicki Bump, a volunteer at the Outreach Food Shelf, was selected as the Echo Press Volunteer of the Year. She'll

receive a \$100 gift certificate from Elden's Fresh Foods. Bump sent us a note expressing her gratitude. "Thank you, the community, so much for choosing me as Volunteer of the Year. The Outreach Food Shelf is sponsoring its 40th anniversary this year and I am so fortunate to volunteer there for the past 16 years. Our community is very blessed to have a place for people to come to receive food. No one in Douglas County should go hungry. Thumbs up to the Outreach Food Shelf and the Echo Press for sponsoring the Volunteer of the Year program."

### Memorial Day traditions return

**Thumbs Up:** Memorial Day parades honoring area veterans are a tradition in the community. Pancake breakfasts on Memorial Day are a tradition at First Congregational UCC in Alexandria. This year, residents can enjoy both. First Congregational Church is located a block off Broadway at 721 7th Ave. West, the corner of 7th and Elm Street. There is handicapped access on the east side and the inside is completely handicapped accessible. It enables people to enjoy both the parade and a holiday meal. Serving is from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The menu is pancakes, sausage, juice, coffee and milk. The timing is set so that the public can come before or after the parade and services at the cemetery.

### Inattentive drivers and speeding

**Thumbs Down:** Let's not have a farming related crash this spring. There will be a lot of large, slow-moving farm equipment on the roads and the Minnesota Department of Transportation is urging motorists to be aware. Crash data shows there were 374 crashes involving farm equipment in Minnesota since 2019, resulting in eight deaths and 133 injuries. Inattentive driving and speed were the biggest contributing factors in those crashes. Motorists should slow down and use caution when approaching farm equipment; watch for debris dropped by farm equipment; wait for a safe place to pass; and drive with headlights on at all times. Farm equipment operators should use lights and flashers to make equipment more visible; use slow-moving vehicle emblems on equipment traveling less than 30 mph; consider using a follow vehicle when moving equipment, especially at night.

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

### IT'S OUR TURN

## Feeling guilty in the storm

When my husband and I stepped outside Thursday evening, May 12, after a storm passed through our neighborhood, we were not expecting to see what we saw – complete and utter destruction.

We live along West Meadow Lane in northwest Alexandria and are less than three blocks away from where a tornado caused major damage.

Before the storm hit high gear, I was standing in the house staring out the window because I will admit, storms intrigue me and I love to watch when one rumbles through, when I saw a very large pine tree in our neighbor's yard across the street just tip over. There were three pine trees in all, but just one went down. It almost seemed like it happened in slow motion, but it really didn't because when the gust of wind came up, the tree was down. I am guessing it was probably a millisecond.

That is when I knew we needed to get down in the basement. Plus, we were both getting alerts on our phones with a tornado warning for our area.

Al was just about done cooking our fajitas so he turned the burner off, grabbed his cell phone and our scanner and we headed down to the basement.

The sirens were going off in our neighborhood at this point and I will admit, it was hard for me to just sit down there. I did wander upstairs a couple of times, telling my husband that I should probably just go check things out.

When I decided it was probably OK to venture upstairs, I looked out the window and saw the lights of several emergency vehicles across the park and we decided we should go check it



CELESTE EDENLOFF  
Staff Reporter

out; we do work for a newspaper after all.

I grabbed my long lens for my camera as I thought we shouldn't get too close. But as I looked through the viewfinder, I was in disbelief of what I saw. A house in our neighborhood was half gone, it looked like the hand of God came down and gave it a good sucker punch.

With rain still coming down, we made our way across the park, commenting on all the trees that were down and I may have said, "Oh my goodness" several times.

As we got closer, I could feel tears welling up in my eyes.

I didn't want to be a reporter at that moment. I wanted to just be a concerned neighbor. I was torn. I was also taken back to the tornado that ravaged through Wadena and Almora several years back. We helped out the Wadena Pioneer Journal and went to Almora to take pictures. At that scene, I couldn't – my husband took all the pictures. I just stood there, silent, looking at all the scattered debris, pieces of people's lives strewn about the countryside. A heart-shaped locket necklace lay in the grass next to other personal belongings and it shook me to the core. People were standing around dazed. I thought it looked like what a zombie apocalypse might look like. It was eerie.

Thursday's storm did the same thing. It shook me. And this time, it was my own neighborhood. These were my neighbors, these were their houses, their lives. My house was

still standing. My trees were untouched. I felt guilty. I felt helpless. I wanted to fix things and knew I couldn't. I wanted to rewind the last few minutes and somehow change the path of the storm.

The next morning as I walked around the neighborhood, I realized that the destruction didn't just happen on West Meadow Lane and Donna Drive, that the tornado made its way down South Darling Drive, too.

I finally saw the severity of the destruction in our neighborhood. And once again, I was shook. I didn't know what to do. Again, I just felt helpless.

Our neighborhood wasn't the only one hit. It may have been the only one where the tornado touched down, but several areas in Douglas County got hit by straight-line winds. Douglas County lost hundreds of trees. Many houses were damaged. It was just too much. It is still too much.

And it still just seems so surreal. I can't imagine what it has been like for all those impacted by Thursday's tornado and straight-line winds. My heart goes out to everyone left behind – some homeless – to pick up the pieces.

If Thursday's storm has taught me anything, it's that those who live in my neighborhood are resilient and strong. So much work has already been done. Our neighborhood may look a little more bare, but we are all still here. No lives were lost. No one was injured.

It also taught me that despite the challenges of the last couple years that seem to have divided people, Thursday's storm brought us all together again in support of one another, and for that, I can be thankful.

### LETTER

### A message to remember on Memorial Day

To the editor:

Ninety-nine years ago, in 1923, then Vice-President Calvin Coolidge delivered a Memorial Day speech in Northampton, Massachusetts. Coolidge said we commemorate Memorial Day "to do honor to all those, now gone, who made the cause of America their supreme choice."

In the history of our country, well over a million veterans have given their

lives in defense of our nation and what it stands for, and in doing so, made the cause of America their supreme choice.

Coolidge appropriately ended his speech by quoting from the apostle John, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." On Memorial Day 2022, let us remember that we are a blessed nation because so many of our fellow citizens have given their lives to make it so.

**State Rep. Jay Backer  
Browns Valley, MN**

### New paid political letter policy takes effect

The Echo Press paid political letter policy is now in effect – with changes from previous elections.

Election-related letters to the editor advocating for or against a candidate, ballot measure or political party will be considered ads and are subject to a charge for the first 7 inches – \$17.50 if the letter-writer submits their content online through our business partner, Modulist.news, or \$22.50 if we enter the letter in for you. After that, the cost is \$11.50 for each additional inch. A 7-inch letter generally contains about 150 words.

The maximum length of a paid letter is 250 words. As with other letters to the editor, they must be submitted with the writer's name, address and phone number (only the writer's name and city are published). Unlike regular letters to the editor, paid letters are not limited to one letter per 30 days.

You can submit your letter online through our trusted editorial content submission platform at [Modulist.news](http://Modulist.news). From there, you will need to sign up for an account so we have your contact information. That way, if we need to reach out to you, we have it.

After you sign up, you can create a new listing for a "Community Engagement Letter," which is what we are calling election-related letters.

For the Tuesday, Aug. 9 primary election, the last batch of paid political letters will be published on Wednesday, Aug. 3 and no new issues may be raised. No paid letters will be published in the Friday, Aug. 5 issue.

For help or questions, please call the Modulist team at 701-241-5509. One of the team members will answer your questions, or be able to walk you through any obstacles. Or you can contact the Echo Press at 320-763-3133.



**COP**

From Page 1

“Some of it was cost, some of it was the location, but a lot of it was just the standard of training,” he said.

Anderson said he chose to become a police officer because, to him, it’s a fulfilling way to give back and help the community. Anderson took a job with the Moorhead Police Department following graduation.

Originally from Plymouth, Sergeant Brian Kakach has served the Alexandria community through the Alexandria Police Department for 15 years.

He initially studied at Bethel University, where he bounced around from major to major. Starting with psychology, then into communications and even social work. Ultimately, he realized his true passion lies in law enforcement, which he says encompasses everything he wanted to do.

After two years at Bethel, he transferred to Mankato State University and earned his bachelor’s degree in law enforcement. Due to a competitive work field, Kakach began his career as a volunteer police reserve in Plymouth until finding full-time work in Crystal and then in Duluth.

After getting stranded on a lake while vacationing in Alexandria — a favorite childhood vacation spot — he was “rescued” by a water patrol deputy who mentioned that the city was hiring police officers, so Kakach applied.

“I got one of the positions about 15 years ago and loved it ever since,” he said.

Kakach and Anderson sat down with the *Echo Press* on May 6, to discuss the training, responsibilities and conflicts of being a police officer.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity. Listen to part one of the interview in podcast form by going to <https://www.echopress.com/echo-press-minute>, or by downloading the episode on the Echo Press



Brian Kakach (left to right), Dustin Ditch, Vicky Skotterud and Jamie Kakach hand out candy to children along Broadway. Alexandria Echo Press file photo

Minute Podcast through Spotify, Apple Music, Google Podcasts, and Audible.

**Q:** In your time as a cop, what have you enjoyed the most?

**Kakach:** Just being out in the community and taking the calls. I originally thought I’d really be interested in traffic enforcement and the proactive stuff like drug interdiction. But ultimately, I just love being out in the community and seeing the issues and how we can solve them.

**Q:** When you first started, were there things you were nervous about, or maybe you didn’t feel prepared?

**Kakach:** Yes and no. I knew that coming into it, I would have a lot of other people to learn from.

Once you start with a police department, you’re in a field training position with another officer in a squad car for three to six months. And you always have that person there with you. You slowly kind

of build up to the job on your own. So there’s a lot of training even after you get hired. We learn our resources. That’s probably the biggest thing: knowing your resources; who can you talk to and ask what questions.

**Anderson:** Not a whole lot as far as anxious or nervous. I just want to uphold the standard of being a peace officer. I don’t want to go on scene, twiddle my thumbs, and look like I have no idea what I’m doing. Somebody’s looking at me to solve their issues. I’m meeting them on the worst day they’ll have in a long while. So I want to uphold the image of a police officer.

**Q:** What sort of training did you go through in school?

**Kakach:** We learned how to shoot guns, went through driving school, critical incident training and how to deal with people in stressful situations and if you get in a fight with somebody, how to control them. We get a lot of training. We feel like we’re a jack of all trades but a master of none. Especially when we’re distracted and have to make decisions in a

split second, they really try to prepare us for that. Nothing really does until it’s the real thing.

**Anderson:** The only thing I would add to what the sergeant said is that we’ve gone over a little more of community policing efforts. The history of the styles of policing, different problem-solving methods, and trying to think of ways to solve problems that are going to be more long-lasting. And officer wellness, how to take care of yourself off duty and understanding what your mind and your body are going through on duty and how to take care of that psychologically.

**Kakach:** A class that I took at Mankato was called police stress. And it was just dedicated to that. It teaches you about what your body goes through under stress. We actually had to write a 50-page paper on how we see stress in our lives and how we manage and deal with it, and how it relates to what we’ve learned in the class. Understanding what your body goes through, like tunnel vision and different things like that. Again, you can’t get that through

training very well; you’re going to get that in a real-life experience.

**Q:** What skills should an officer have that the school can’t teach?

**Kakach:** The number one thing is you can’t take things personally. People will say all kinds of things to you on the job. You can’t take it home with you. They’re going to say what they’re going to say. Don’t worry about it. Move on. You really got to have some thick skin.

**Q:** You often see the worst of the community; does that affect your view of the community? And if so, how do you keep a positive mindset?

**Kakach:** Yeah, that’s a very interesting thing. When I became a Plymouth reserve, which was my hometown, I absolutely loved it. But you see a different side to your city, a side you don’t want to see. I thought Duluth was just an incredible town; when you get there and realize what goes on in the city, it kind of changes your thought of it.

Coming to Alexandria, I was worried it would do the same thing. And it did a little bit. But something

very interesting about working for a city like Alexandria is most of the officers that work here live here. So we take a lot of pride in our community. Coming to work every day, wanting to make our community a better community, we’re going to work very hard at that. The problem is we get to know a lot of people in the community. So it seems like half the cars I pull over now are people I know. That makes it a little bit more challenging to do my job.

We do get approached, and usually, it’s positive, but I’ve certainly had negative experiences.

If you don’t live in the community that you serve, people aren’t going to really recognize you nearly as much. But if I lived in a completely different community, I wouldn’t be so excited and wouldn’t have the same pride in that community that I do in the one I live in.

Part two will feature discussions about no-knock warrants, systematic racism, the “defund the police” movement, as well as ways cops can build trust with the community and what it means to be an Alexandria police officer.

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

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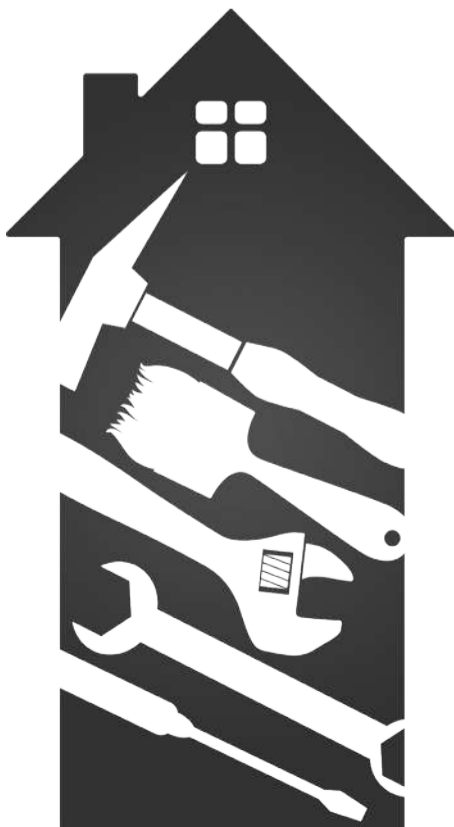
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## CANYON COWBOYS KICKS OFF COURTHOUSE CONCERT SEASON MAY 26

By Karen Tolkkinen  
Alexandria Echo Press

Alexandria

The popular concerts on the courthouse lawn return in 2022 with a slightly shortened season.

This year, the weekly series will include 15 performances instead of the previous practice of 16 shows during the summer. This year, the concerts will end in August. Organizer Chuck Wencil said that attendance falls off late in the season, as not as many tourists come.

He said the concerts are drawing more locals.

“We’ve got more and more people that come in from 30-40 miles away,” he said. “We get about 20 people from Lake Traverse, west of Wheaton; it’s 60 miles away.”

The concerts are organized by the Red Willow Arts Coalition, and start at 7 p.m. every Thursday evening. Bands can’t play two years in a row, although at least two were rained out last year and are again on this year’s schedule.

Canyon Cowboys will open the season on Thursday, May 26, with guitar, drums and vocals. The Twin Cities group mixes original music with covers of well-known songs like “Summer of 69,” “Dust on the Bottle,” and “Boot Scootin’ Boogie.”

Here is the entire season lineup:

**May 26 Canyon Cowboys:** Their play list spans more than four decades. They promise tight vocals, energetic stage presence, and professional attitudes. Sponsored by Echo Press.

**June 2 Kat Blue Band** is a five-piece acoustic group that covers a wide range of genres, including country, rock, folk and bluegrass. Lead vocalist Kat Lampman joins Kris Crandall on lead guitar and vocals, Angie Crandall on fiddle, guitar, and vocals, Dennis Kennedy on percussion and harp, and Bill Hulett on bass. Sponsored by Bell Bank.

**June 9 Crystal Breeze:** Old friends revived the rock ‘n’ roll band they started as teenagers in rural Stearns County and now they’ll bring their 60s vibe to Alexandria. Sponsored by Alexandria Senior Center.

**June 16 WoodPicks.** This Thief River Falls group of five musicians



Kat Blue Band

Contributed



Buddy Holly Tribute Band

Contributed

in cowboy hats and bolo ties is a long-time favorite at the courthouse concerts. They perform a mix of gospel, bluegrass, country and Americana with a barn dance feel. Sponsored by Arabella Manor.

**June 23 Buddy Holly Tribute:** A group of Twin Cities musicians features 1950s rocker Buddy Holly and his band, the Crickets, as well as his contemporary stars The Big Bopper and Ritchie Valens. Sponsored by Martinson Insurance and Glenwood State Bank.

**June 30 Ring of Kerry** is a St. Cloud-based musical group that plays Irish music on a variety of Celtic instruments, including whistles, flutes, guitar, hammered dulcimer, fiddle and bodhran. The group takes its name

from a beautiful craggy drive in southwestern County Kerry, Ireland. Sponsored by Winning Edge Graphics.

**July 4 Special Patriotic Concert.** This is your chance to belt out “God Bless America” with hundreds of other voices. The annual July 4th sing-along of patriotic tunes is a thank-you to all veterans. Sponsored by D.C. Sheriff’s Federation and REA Operation Roundup.

**July 7 Holy Rocka Rollaz** returns to Alexandria with classic early rock ‘n’ roll and rockabilly of Elvis, Buddy Holly, Chuck Berry, Johnny Cash. Sponsored by West Central Sanitation.

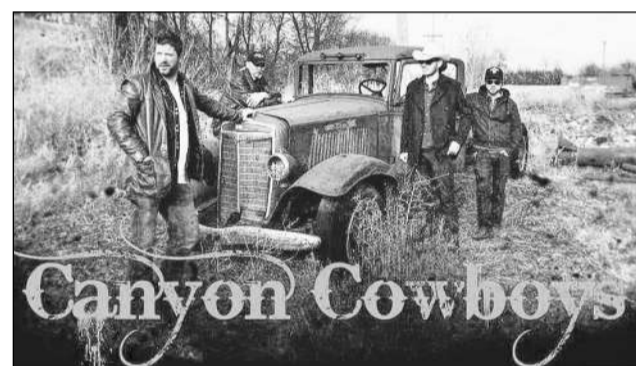
**July 14 White Sidewalls** began more than 40 years ago, and continues to perform 1950s and 1960s doo-wop and rock & roll.

Sponsored by Integrity Title and Larson Insurance.

**July 21 Shalo Lee Band,** a Southern rock band from Minneapolis is headed up by Shalo Lee. Last year, the band was one of five nominated for Band of the Year and Entertainer of the Year by the Midwest Country Music Organization. Sponsored by Ameriprise Financial.

**July 28 Hard Days Night-Beatles.** This Beatles tribute show uses authentic instruments and authentic costumes, and invites the crowd to sing along with all their favorite Beatles hits from the 1960s. Sponsored by Ron’s Warehouse and Dwain Schuette Insurance.

**Aug. 4 Front Fenders.** This Fargo-based cover band promises high energy rock ‘n’ roll with hits from the 1950s-



Contributed

Canyon Cowboys, a mostly country band from the Twin Cities, will open the 2022 Concerts on the Courthouse lawn summer series on May 26.



Hank Swaggert

Shalo Lee Band

80s and some country tunes. Sponsored by Alexandria Rotary Club

**Aug. 11 Robby Vee** is recognized by both the American and Canadian Rockabilly Hall of Fames. He was named after his rocker father Bobby Vee and performs his unique rock ‘n’ roll music across the globe. He was one of the acts that got rained out in 2021. Sponsored by Village Cooperative.

**Aug. 18 Salty Dogs,** four local musicians who have been playing together for almost a decade. Their instruments include fiddle, accordion and guitar, and their music

includes bluegrass, country, cajun, blues and ballads. Sponsored by Past & Present Home Gallery.

**Aug. 25 Red Letter Band** is no stranger to Alexandria audiences. The Long Prairie-based group returns to the courthouse concert lineup after getting rained out last year. Their band, with its folk, blues, and rock, has enjoyed national attention, with several hits on the Inspirational Country Music charts. Sponsored by Jimmy Jenson Family.

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

## Theatre L’Homme Dieu announces their 2022 concert season lineup

By Karen Tolkkinen  
Alexandria Echo Press

ALEXANDRIA — A guitarist and songwriter who debuted before a national audience at age 7 on The Ellen DeGeneres Show will kick off Theatre L’Homme Dieu’s 2022 music season.

Quinn Sullivan, now 23, has also been on with Oprah Winfrey, NBC’s The Today Show, Jimmy Kimmel, Jimmy Fallon and Jay Leno, and he has performed with Buddy Guy and B.B. King.

He tours nationally and has had three top ten blues songs,

according to Billboard. His performance in Alexandria at 4 p.m. Saturday, July 2, will be an outdoor concert. The theater plans three outdoor concerts and one indoor concert this year.

Next in the theater’s concert series, at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 6, will be a Bread tribute show, “Everything I Own.” Bread, a 1970s soft rock band, was known for its romantic hits. This show will play indoors.

On Saturday, July 23, the Minneapolis-based Prince tribute band, Chase & Ovation, will perform outdoors. Chase

& Ovation has been performing the music of Prince for the past 15 years in Minneapolis and across North America.

Twin Cities bluegrass band Pert Near Sandstone will wind up the theater’s concert season outdoors at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26. It has performed at the Telluride Bluegrass Festival and on A Prairie Home Companion, and it has headlined at First Avenue. It has performed with Trampled By Turtles, Del McCoury, and Yonder Mountain String Band.

Theatre L’Homme Dieu also has a full season of theatrical performances.



Contributed

Quinn Sullivan

CALENDAR

**Staff report**

Alexandria Echo Press

**Friday, May 20**

7:30 a.m. Wake Up Alexandria! Well & Co.

10 a.m. Legacy of the Lakes Museum Season Opening With Pledge A Paddle Exhibit

11:30 a.m. Mental Health Walk to City Hall, 1106 Broadway

Noon-1 p.m. "I Saw That," with Sam Williams, Faith at Work Lunch, Broadway Ballroom, reservation required, may22fw.eventbrite.com

Pledge A Paddle Exhibit Opens, Legacy of the Lakes Museum

7-9 p.m. Good Morning Bed-

lam Concert, Lakes Area Theatre

**Saturday, May 21**

8-10:30 a.m. French Toast Breakfast, free will offering, Trinity Lutheran Church, Holmes City

8 a.m.-noon Alexandria Garden Club Plant Sale, 508 Irving St., Alexandria

9 a.m.-noon Alexandria Farmers Market, Big Ole Central Park

10 a.m. Gardening for Beginners with Robin Trott, Douglas County Library

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Freedom First Riders BIKE Show, Runestone Community Center

12:30 Beard Contest and 3:30 p.m. Tattoo Contest by

Alexandria ELKS Lodge 1685, Runestone Community Center

**Sunday, May 22**

Noon- 2 p.m. New Testament Christian School Fundraiser with Red Letter Band, New Testament church Alexandria

2 p.m. Immortal Words, Central Lakes Symphony Orchestra, AAHS Performing Arts Center

7 p.m. Broadway & Hollywood with Jennifer Maloney, Alexandria Elks Lodge

**Monday, May 23**

7 p.m. AAHS Honor Night

**Wednesday, May 25**

11 a.m. ATCC Scramble For Scholarships Golf Tournament,

Geneva Golf Course

3:45 p.m. Super Smash Bros Ultimate Tournament for Grades 6-12, Douglas County Library

7 p.m. AAHS Choir Concert, AAHS Performing Arts Center

**Thursday, May 26**

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Let's talk Plants! With Master Gardeners, Douglas County Library

7 p.m. Concert on the Courthouse Lawn, Canyon Cowboys, Alexandria

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

## Maloney to present songs from Broadway, Hollywood May 22

**Echo Press news staff** ALEXANDRIA — Alexandria's Jennifer Maloney is set to perform at the Alexandria Elks this Sunday, May 22.

Doors open at 5 p.m. with the show scheduled to start at 7 p.m.

Songs from some of the more memorable Broadway and movie musicals will be per-

formed by Maloney and there will also be videos shown of actual performances. Video segments are from the local Andria Theatre stage productions of "Oklahoma" and "Annie Get Your Gun," which Maloney starred in.

For tickets, call 320-763-5670.

## Week of the Young Child celebrated in Douglas County

Children played games, showed their creativity, learned new things and had fun during Week of the Young Child in Douglas County.

The events associated with the celebration were postponed until later in April because of weather concerns. Brandon-Evansville Early Education organized several activities the

week of April 18-22, and Alexandria celebrated on Thursday, April 28 with a "Play & Learn" event at Woodland Elementary.



Contributed

As part of Week of the Young Child, children in Alexandria listened to Chelsea Lee of KIK-FM give instructions for playing "Head, shoulders, knees and toes."

## Creative Touch Boutique breaks ground

**Echo Press staff report**

ALEXANDRIA — Creative Touch Boutique held a groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, May 17 to celebrate the start of its build at a future location of Fifth Avenue and Broadway in historic downtown Alexandria.

Members of the City of Alexandria, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce board of directors, Ambassadors, and Membership Team, business representatives working on the project, CTB owners and staff, and community members were in attendance to help celebrate.

Creative Touch Boutique is a retail store offering a variety of women's clothing, home décor, baby, and children's items. CTB's future location will feature a three-story building with the retail space being on the main level, the second floor will offer product stor-



Contributed

Shown at the groundbreaking are president and vice president of Innovative Builders, members of the City of Alexandria, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce board of directors, Ambassadors, and Membership Team, and owners of Creative Touch Boutique.

age, staff space, and photo studio, and the third floor will have office space and conference rooms available for rent.

The lot previously housed several businesses, including Raapers, a restaurant. Raapers, along with five other businesses, were

all lost after a devastating fire tore through that part of the downtown area in February 2020.

Groundbreakings are a service offered by the Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce. To learn more, email [info@alexandriamn.org](mailto:info@alexandriamn.org) or call 320-763-3161.

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## Lakes Area Professional Women invite community to Empowered event

**Echo Press staff report**

FARWELL — The Lakes Area Professional Women (LAPW) organization invites the public to its 26th Annual Scholarship Fundraiser, Empowered 2022. The event will be held on Thursday, June 9 from 5

to 8 p.m. at Rendezvous Farm, 12839 County Road 7 SW, Farwell, MN.

The event will feature the Raapers Food Truck serving from 5 to 6:30 p.m., axe throwing, a silent auction, exhibitors, raffle, door prizes, a wine pull and more.

Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased through email: [lapwtickets@gmail.com](mailto:lapwtickets@gmail.com); mail: Lakes Area Professional Women, PO Box 214, Alexandria, MN 56308; or Venmo: LAPW-Alexandria.

Ticket deadline is May 31.

All proceeds from the event go to fund scholarships for local young women, awarded through Dollars for Scholars in the communities of Alexandria, Brandon, Evansville, Minnewaska, Osakis, Parkers Prairie, Sauk Centre and West Central Area. Last year's event raised more than \$10,000 in scholarships.

The mission of Lakes Area Professional Women is to connect women personally, professionally, and philanthropically. Learn more at [LakesAreaProfessionalWomen.org](http://LakesAreaProfessionalWomen.org).

### Investment Risk During Retirement

Your first few years in retirement are critical for your investments. Market losses in those years can have a surprisingly large impact on your chances of success, and they can increase your odds of running out of money.

Completely eliminating risk (keeping everything in cash) leaves you vulnerable to inflation. You might find it hard to keep up with rising prices and pay for the things you need over several decades but taking too much risk can also backfire. Finding the right risk level can be challenging, because you need to make assumptions about the future and weigh the pros and cons of different portfolios.

A financial planner can help you allocate risk across the investments in your portfolio in a way that reflects your income needs and risk-tolerance level.

*"Social Security Administration Fact sheet. Excerpts from thebalance.com "How to Retire in 2022"*

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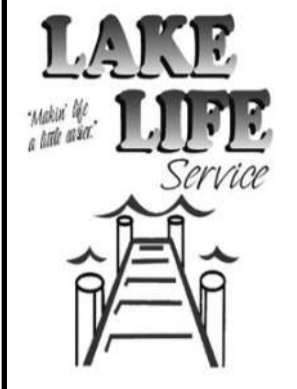
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## BOYS GOLF

# ALEX AIMING HIGHER

Cardinals winning but want to see more down the stretch



Eric Morken / Alexandria Echo Press

Alexandria freshman Carver Larson follows through on his swing from the fairway during the Cardinals' home Central Lakes Conference meet at the Alexandria Golf Club on Monday.

By Eric Morken

Alexandria Echo Press

The Alexandria boys golf team is in a position that many programs would like to be in by racking up wins at plenty of meets this spring, but the Cardinals are not a group that is easily satisfied.

Alexandria is the favorite to win the 36-hole Central Lakes Conference championship tournament May 20 and 23 in Willmar and Sartell. The Cardinals just won the pre-section meet by nine strokes in near 30-mile-per-hour winds in Park Rapids on May 13.

They are a team that is still well positioned to make a Class AAA state tournament. But to accomplish their goal of winning a title at state, players and head coach Brady Swedberg know they need to improve.

"We need to get hot at the right time, and we need to just keep grinding," Alexandria sophomore Bennett Olsen said on Monday after the Cardinals won a CLC meet at the Alexandria Golf Club. "We couldn't even break 300 on our home course. That's not going to cut it at Bunker Hills."

Alexandria shot a 301 at AGC on Monday. That was 13 shots lower than second-place Sartell, while Brainerd finished off the top three with a 319.

Olsen joined teammates

Andrew Swedberg and Braeden Sladek in tying for first place as all three shot a 74. All three felt they hit the ball well for the most part, but that there were also some missed opportunities to go even lower in what was one of the best weather days the team has played in all season.

"We all left some out there," Olsen said. "We just proved to ourselves that we have work to do."

Alexandria sophomore Jack Holtz and freshman Ashton Sladek each shot a 79 to tie for ninth place individually. Freshman Carver Larson carded an 81 to round out the Cardinals' top six.

"We didn't get off to a great start," Brady Swedberg said. "I was more proud of how they fought through the round, because as a whole, our team was off to a very rough start. They hung in there and 301 is still a good score, but there's lots and lots of work to be done. They all want it, and they all want to work."

Andrew Swedberg's 74 tied his personal-low round for the Cardinals. Brady Swedberg said the team has done a good job of posting two or three low scores almost every meet. What they need to compete with the best teams in state is to have a consistent fourth score in the low-to-mid 70s.

**BOYS GOLF:** Page 14

## TRACK AND FIELD

# Cards add many PR's ahead of state true team

By Eric Morken

Alexandria Echo Press

The Alexandria track and field teams had one final tuneup before heading to the Class AAA state true team meet in Stillwater on Friday, and it came on the Cardinals' home track on Tuesday.

Alexandria welcomed in six other schools and took second place on both the boys' and the girls' side. Moorhead won the boys' meet with 198 points to Alexandria's 175, and the Spuds also won the girls meet with 175.5 points. The Cardinals finished with 142.25 points.

"Since we are focused on True Team State on Friday, most athletes competed in fewer events, and different events, to help them prepare for what's ahead at state," Alexandria girls head coach Meghan Orgeman said. "For this meet, the focus of our lineup was not on our overall team score. Rather, it was on the individual needs of each athlete. Overall, the girls earned 43 personal bests and 6 season bests."

The Alexandria boys also

posted 52 personal bests.

Christian Doumbia won the 200-meter dash in 22.62 seconds to pace the boys. He also joined Venald Becker, Will Heydt and Trey Negen in finishing second in the 4x100 relay in 43.59.

Heydt added a runner-up finish in the long jump, while Bryr Homelvig was second in the pole vault, and Ethan Hoppe took second in the discus.

Elena Fuglestad and Elise Maagard helped lead the Alexandria girls with first-place finishes. Maagard had a personal-best throw of 114-10 in winning the discus, and Fuglestad ran a PR in the 200-meter dash to win in 27.51 seconds.

Jaelyn Miller ran a PR in the 400 dash to take second in 1:00.41. Madeline Hochhalter PRed in the 3200 and finished second in 13:13, and Sophia Korynta was second in the 300-meter hurdles with a PR in 47.90 seconds.

Friday's state true team meet is the start of the championship portion of the season for the Cardinals. They compete in the Central Lakes Con-

ference championship on May 24 at St. Cloud Tech, followed by the two-day section meet on June 1 in Detroit Lakes and June 4 at Alexandria Area High School. The state meet for qualifiers is set for June 10-11 at St. Michael-Albertville High School.

**ALEXANDRIA BOYS TOP-EIGHT FINISHERS AND PERSONAL BESTS - 110 Hurdles:** 3rd: Sam Williams (16.27, personal best), 4th: Logan Peterson (16.53), 6th: Otto Anderson (16.82), 7th: Gavin Ashmore (16.92, personal best), 8th: Dylan Fruscante (17.36, personal best). **100m Dash:** 3rd: Venald Becker (11.53), 7th: Trey Negen (11.61), 8th: Teagan Pfeffer (11.78, personal best), PB's: Daniel Jackson (11.80), Fiyin Taiwo (11.99), Mac Heydt (12.27), Drew Gundberg (12.79), Samson Hagstrom (13.03), Treyton Pfeffer (13.15). **1600m Run:** 3rd: Owen Draper (4:58.32), 6th: Evan Moore (5:01.42, personal best), PB's: Karl Franson (5:15.69), Maxwell Chinn (5:27.18). **400m Dash:** 4th: Myles Sansted (53.31, personal best), 6th: Throck Lehmann (54.42, personal best), 7th: Riley Wagner (54.73, personal best), PB's: Hunter Mohr (55.93), Joel Brault (56.08), Thomas Klecker (58.17), Samson Hagstrom (58.21), Khelden Ritter (58.82), Nic Borden (59.07), Trevon Andreason (1:04.33). **300m Hurdles:** 3rd: Gavin Ashmore (42.50), 5th: Otto Anderson (44.25), 7th: Sam Williams (44.62), 8th: Logan Peterson (44.65), PB: Dylan Fruscante (46.83). **800m Run:** PB's: Harrison Greshouse (2:11.00), Payton Gessford (2:17.00), Nic Meyers (2:18.41), Erick Bergerson (2:21.36), Thomas Wilmesmeier (2:30.64), Myles Frueh (2:50.00). **200m Dash:** 1st: Christian Doumbia (22.62), 4th: Teagan Pfeffer (23.72, personal best), 5th: Daniel Jackson (24.15, personal best), 7th: Jack Theien (24.62), 8th: Gavin Ashmore (24.64, personal best), PB's: Elliott Kent (24.72), Matthew Johnson (24.87), Mac Heydt (25.12), Mason Gorghuber (25.16), Evan Kludt (25.20), Andrew Flaten (25.50), Trevon Andreason (27.09), Treyton Pfeffer (27.39). **3200m Run:** PB: Micah Walswick (12:00.11). **Long Jump:** 2nd: Will Heydt (20-0.75), 3rd: Teagan Pfeffer (19-7), 5th: Mason Gorghuber (19-4, personal best), 6th: Trey Negen (19-3), 7th: Kelly Johnson (18-10.25, personal best), PB: Evan Kludt (17-8.75). **Triple Jump:**

**TRACK:** Page 14



Eric Morken / Alexandria Echo Press

Alexandria's Evan Moore runs during the Cardinals' relay meet on May 3. Moore ran a personal-best time of 5:01.42 in the 1600-meter run on Tuesday in Alexandria's final regular-season meet of the season. Both the boys and girls track and field teams for Alexandria will compete in the Class AAA State True Team meet on Friday in Stillwater.

# Brandon-Evansville finds its footing

By Sam Stuve

Alexandria Echo Press

In the eyes of Brandon-Evansville softball head coach Kasi Sieling, one of the toughest challenges her team has had this season in games is rallying after falling behind.

In game one of a doubleheader against Ortonville on Monday, Brandon-Evansville was in that scenario, down 3-0 in the second inning.

A switch was flipped in that frame, and the B-E offense came alive. B-E scored seven runs in the second, eight in the third and three in the fourth to beat Ortonville 18-3 in four innings in game one.

"Seeing that when we got down early, we were able to fight back and lock it in from there was huge," Sieling said. "This was a confidence booster."



Sam Stuve / Alexandria Echo Press

Brandon-Evansville assistant coach Erika Traphagen and senior Katylyn Pattrin shake hands after Pattrin gets on base in a game against Ortonville on Monday. B-E swept the doubleheader against Ortonville before sweeping another doubleheader against Rothsay on Tuesday.

**SOFTBALL:** Page 14

## SOFTBALL

# Osakis bounces back

By Sam Stuve

Alexandria Echo Press

Osakis softball is in the final stretch of its regular season and had a game on Monday and Tuesday to begin the final week of the regular season.

Osakis (5-10) fell in a road game, 12-0 in five innings, against Pierz but bounced back nicely with a 5-1 win at home over Royalton.

"We played well all around," Osakis head coach John Stigman said. "Hayleigh (Niehoff) pitched very well. We played good defense and hit well when we needed it. It was a good bounce back."

The Silverstreaks had 10 hits in the game Tuesday, led by Taylor Dirkes with three. Maggie and Taylor Dirkes led the Silverstreaks with two RBIs a piece.

Niehoff pitched a complete game, struck out six batters, and allowed five hits, one run and four walks.

Osakis - 0 0 0 0 0 - 0 4 3  
Pierz - 6 0 3 3 X - 12 8 1  
OSAKIS PITCHING - Shelby Schmidt - L - 3.2 IP, 8 H, 12 R, 9 ER, 9 BB, 5 SO; Hayleigh Niehoff - 0-1 IP, 0 H, 0 ER, 0 R, 0 BB, 0 SO  
OSAKIS HITTING - Lexi Klimek, 2-3; Hayleigh Niehoff, 1-2; BB; Maggie Dirkes, 0-3; Charlee Thieschafer, 1-2; Shelby Schmidt, 0-2; Kennedy George, 0-2; Lara Drum, 0-1; Josee Hartshorn, 0-3; Kail Schoeck, 0-1; Taylor Dirkes, 1-2  
Royalton - 0 0 0 0 1 0 - 15 1  
Osakis - 0 3 2 0 0 0 X - 5 10 0  
OSAKIS PITCHING - Hayleigh Niehoff - W - 7 IP, 5 H, 1 R, 1 ER, 4 BB, 6 SO  
OSAKIS HITTING - Lexi Klimek, 1-4, 1 RBI; Hayleigh Niehoff, 2-4; Maggie Dirkes, 1-4, 2 RBI; Charlee Thieschafer, 1-3; Averie Moundson, 1-1; Shelby Schmidt, 1-2, 2 BB; Kennedy George, 0-3; Lara Drum, 0-1; Josee Hartshorn, 0-3; Kail Schoeck, 0-1, 2 BB; Taylor Dirkes, 3-3, 2 RBI

Email sports reporter Sam Stuve at [stuve@echopress.com](mailto:stuve@echopress.com)

GIRLS GOLF

# Alex sets school record during CLC title run

By Eric Morken  
Alexandria Echo Press

WILLMAR — The Alexandria girls golf team put the finishing touches on the Central Lakes Conference championship on Tuesday in Willmar.

A day after breaking a school-record team score with a 291 in Fergus Falls, the Cardinals came back on Tuesday and shot a 315 in round two of the CLC tournament. That put them at 606 over the 36-hole event, easily beating second-place Brainerd. The Warriors finished at 640 (311, 329), and Fergus Falls was third (691, 340, 351).

"I do believe the players were running a little short on energy as they played on Tuesday," Alexandria head coach Tim Zupfer said. "We have had a very full schedule the past couple of weeks. This may have left us a little tired physically, emotionally, and mentally. Despite this, we managed to post one of our better team scores on the Willmar golf



Joe Brown / Alexandria Echo Press

Alexandria's Hannah Boraas looks on at her tee shot on hole No. 7 at Eagle Creek Golf Club during Day 2 of the Central Lakes Conference championship meet on Tuesday in Willmar. Boraas led the Cardinals to the team title during the two-day event as she finished as the tournament medalist with a final score of 144 (70, 74).

course."

Zupfer said the course in Willmar was challenging with a deep rough and a soft course overall due to all the rain in recent days.

"The girls have set a pret-

ty high standard of play, and sometimes they get a little too critical of their performance," Zupfer said. "The girls are physically in good shape, as they play and walk 18 holes for all of our matches. This stretch

of golf has helped us to build stamina, and should pay dividends as we continue into the postseason."

All six of Alexandria's players finished in the top 13 of the individual standings at the CLC Tournament.

Junior Hannah Boraas was the tournament champion after following up a 2-under 70 from day one with another top finish of 74 in round two to finish at 144.

Senior Cora Larson was next in line with a 150 (72, 78) over the two days. Senior Lauren Rebrovich shot a 154 (73, 81), junior Aisling O'Connor shot a 161 (76, 85), and freshman Rachel Bowen (85, 82 — 167) and 8th-grader Ellie Sticha (82, 88 — 170) finished off the lineup.

Boraas, Rebrovich, O'Connor, Sticha and Bowen were all coming off of either season or personal-best scores from round one of the CLC championship when the Cardinals set the new school-record score.

The All-Central Lakes Conference players are determined by averaging the top four scores of each player through the course of all conference meets during the season.

"The players with the top 14 scoring averages are all-conference, and players placing 15-20 are considered honorable-mention," Zupfer said.

Larson, Rebrovich, Boraas, O'Connor, Bowen and Sticha all finished as All-CLC players.

The Cardinals wrapped up one of their pre-season goals in winning a conference title as they now set their sights on another. Alexandria will play in a two-day tournament at Bunker Hills May 20-21 as a final tuneup for the Section 8-3A championship that will be played over two days at Rich Spring Golf Course May 31 and June 1.

CLC CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT  
TEAM SCORES - Alexandria - 606; Brainerd - 640; Fergus Falls - 691; Willmar - 737; St. Cloud - 755; Sartell - 757; Sauk Rapids-Rice - 884; Rocori - Inc.

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

SOFTBALL



Sam Stuve / Alexandria Echo Press

Bemidji first baseman Maddie Potratz catches a line drive and tags out Alexandria's Jordan O'Kane as she tries to dive back to first base during the third inning of a game on Tuesday. Bemidji led 8-1 at that point and went on to win 9-1.

## Cards seeing progress despite bats going silent against Bemidji

By Sam Stuve  
Alexandria Echo Press

ALEXANDRIA - The Bemidji Lumberjacks kept the Alexandria Cardinals' bats in check on Tuesday as they limited the Cardinals to just one run in a 9-1 win.

"At the end of the day, we have to control our hitting in order to create runs and runs win you the ballgame," Alexandria head coach Britt Bruzek said. "Whether it's in the first inning, second inning or any inning, we just have to find a way to fight back."

The Cardinals' (6-12) lone run of the game came in the bottom of the first inning when senior Jordan O'Kane ran home from second base after Brookelyn Stender drove the ball to the right side of the infield and got into a rundown between first and second.

O'Kane reached base three times in Tuesday's loss and led the team in hits with two. Senior Maddie Buboltz and junior Kinzie Johnson had one hit each for Alexandria.

Bemidji (7-8) pitcher Mariah Graves and the defense behind her shut down the Alexandria offense. Graves, who just committed to play collegiately for Itasca Community College in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, pitched a complete game on Tuesday. She earned four strikeouts, walked two batters and limited Alexandria to two hits after the first inning.

"We had some pretty good hits," O'Kane said. "We were just hitting it right to them. We will need to work on it in

practice a little bit more." To generate more runs, Johnson said a big part of that is being good at directional hitting.

"I think the biggest thing is just hitting gap shots, whether it's right up the middle, in the five-six hole, as well as different holes in the outfield," Johnson said. "We also need to hit more line drives as opposed to hitting fly balls."

Bemidji was up early thanks to some long shots.

Lexi Tatro launched a three-run home run over the fence in center field in the top of the first inning with no outs to put Bemidji up 3-0. Two at-bats later, Isabelle Neadeau launched a home run of her own, this one being a two-run home run.

"Bemidji is a pretty strong opponent," O'Kane said. "They got the bat on the ball and they were hitting it places that were hard to defend."

Bemidji scored three runs in the third and one in the fourth to get to nine runs.

Even with the loss, Bruzek says she's noticed some small victories paying off and she's seen them throughout the season.

"There's a lot of the little victories that are starting to show," Bruzek said. "The little things might not win us those big games right now, but I'm seeing it in the younger athletes, which is huge as we continue forward."

Bruzek, who is in her first season as the Cardinals head

coach, had her first senior night Tuesday as the Cardinals head coach.

The Cardinals have eight seniors in the program, O'Kane, Stender, Madi Heid, Buboltz, Emma Jantzen, Maggie Anderson, Erika Wentworth and Olivia Strand.

"Coming in as a new coach, they've been very welcoming to me and have been helping out on a lot of things to just kind of give backgrounds on how they've done things in the past or what they're good at and things like that," Bruzek said. "They've been very insightful in navigating this first year as a new coach."

With it being senior night, Maggie Anderson, who has played on JV all season, was pulled up to varsity and got the start for the Cardinals in the circle. Anderson pitched the first couple of at-bats in the game, then sophomore Tatum Ketelsen, and eventually, Heid came in and pitched in relief for the Cardinals.

O'Kane pitched the final five innings for the Cardinals. She had two strikeouts, allowed one run, two hits and walked four batters.

The Cardinals had two more games in the regular season before the Section 8-3A playoffs begin on May 24.

"Right now, I just want them to have fun," Bruzek said. "Stay on your toes, just kind of go out there and don't hold back."

Bemidji - 50310000-971  
Alexandria - 1000000-142

Email sports reporter Sam Stuve at sstuve@echopress.com

BASEBALL ROUNDUP

## Alexandria bounces back against Rocori

Fuller plays his final game for B-E

By Eric Morken  
Alexandria Echo Press

The Alexandria baseball team snapped a three-game losing streak on Tuesday night by playing a clean game in a 6-0 win over Section 8-3A rival Rocori (6-5).

The Cardinals (10-5) collected nine hits and got a combined 1-hitter on the mound from Jaxon Schoenrock and Nick Levasseur. Schoenrock went six innings, allowing one hit and one walk while striking out seven.

JD Hennen had two doubles, and Brock Lerfald, Caleb Runge, Nate Hammerback and Schoenrock each had a double as well. Hennen drove in three runs, and Schoenrock added two RBIs.

ROCORI 000 000 0 - 0 1 1  
ALEXANDRIA 300 030 X - 6 9 1  
ALEXANDRIA PITCHING - Jaxon Schoenrock - W, 6IP, 1H, 0R, 1BB, 7SO; Nick Levasseur - 1IP, 0H, 0R, 0BB, 1SO  
ALEXANDRIA OFFENSE - Reed Reisdorf - 1-3; Wyatt Mohr - 0-1; Brock Lerfald - 1-3, 2B, BB, 2 runs; Caleb Runge - 1-3, 2B, BB, 2 runs, RBI; Lake Hagen - 0-2; Schoenrock - 1-2, 2B, 2 RBI; JD Hennen - 3-3, 2 2B, 3 RBI; Grady Anderson - 0-2; Nate Knoll - 1-2; Devin Hammerback - 1-3, 2B; Will Suchy - 1-2; Devin Cimbura - 0-1; Spencer Schmidt - 1 run

Early offense propels Browerville over B-E

Browerville-Eagle Valley (5-7) scored four runs over the first two innings on Tuesday that carried the Tigers to a 4-2 win over Brandon-Evansville (7-7).

Nate Benning doubled in a run in the second inning for Browerville, and Parker Duncan added a run-scoring single as part of a two-run first.

"We just didn't do the little things it takes to win a close ballgame," B-E head coach Brian Perleberg said. "Statistically, it was very even when you look at the hits and errors, but they did a better job of executing than we did and that's pretty much what it came down to."

Duncan got the win on the mound for Browerville by going all seven innings. He allowed the two runs on five hits. He struck out four.

Jayden Hoidahl took the loss for B-E after going 1 2/3 innings, allowing two hits and four runs.

"After a rocky start, I was very happy to see relief pitchers Tyler Bitzan and Dezmund White throw the way they did," Perleberg said. "For them to come in and give us four

innings of shutout relief kept us in the game and is something positive we can carry into the remainder of the season."

Titus Fuller, Kian Gackle, Riley Perleberg, Hunter Koep, Dezmund White and Brady Perleberg all had one hit for the Chargers.

Titus Fuller, a senior, has hit through a shoulder injury much of this season, but coach Perleberg said Fuller will have season-ending surgery on the shoulder this week. Tuesday

was Fuller's last high school game, and Perleberg was grateful for all Fuller gave to the program.

"His work ethic, selflessness, and leadership are second to none and he's the type of player who only comes along once in a great while," Perleberg said. "His presence on the field will surely be missed and I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to coach this young man."

Big inning helps Morris past Minnewaska

Morris Area-Chokio-Alberta improved to 13-2 this spring by fending off a good Minnewaska team in a 6-5 final on Tuesday.

It was a battle of two Section 3AA programs, and the Lakers (11-4) held a 4-2 lead going to the bottom of the fifth inning. That's when the Tigers scored four runs that led to the win.

Brett Hansen got the win on the mound by scattering seven hits over five innings. He struck out three and walked nobody in allowing four earned runs.

Three Minnewaska errors proved costly as the Tigers scored two unearned runs. Jacob Blair threw all six innings for the Lakers, allowing seven hits, two walks and striking out three.

Torii Johnson and Dylan Alexander each had two RBIs for the Lakers. Brandon Jergenson led Morris' offense with two RBIs, while Kaleb Breuer, Drew Storck and Durgin Decker all drove in a run as well.

MINNEWASKA 100 030 1 - 5 9 1  
MORRIS AREA 000 240 X - 6 7 1  
MINNEWASKA PITCHING - Jacob Blair - L, 7H, 6R, 4ER, 2BB, 3SO; MORRIS PITCHING - Brett Hansen - W, 5IP, 7H, 4R, 4ER, 0BB, 3SO; Drew Huebner - 2IP, 2H, 1R, 0ER, 1BB, 4SO  
MINNEWASKA OFFENSE - Blair - 2-4, 2 runs; Torii Johnson - 1-3, BB, 1 run, 2 RBI; Dylan Alexander - 2-4, 2 RBI; Jack Larson - 1-4; Jack Majerus - 0-3; Noah Jensen - 0-4; PJ Johnson - 1-3, 1 run; Hunter Johnson - 1-3, 1 run; Nathan Dell - 1-3

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



Alexandria junior Jaxon Schoenrock pitches during a game against Brainerd on May 5. Schoenrock threw six innings and allowed just one hit while striking out seven in a 6-0 win over Rocori on May 17 as the Cardinals snapped a three-game losing streak and improved to 10-5.

Eric Morken / Alexandria Echo Press



## ALEXANDRIA ANGLERS BATTLE CHALLENGING CONDITIONS ON OPENER

By Eric Morken  
 Alexandria Echo Press

**ALEXANDRIA**  
 Late ice out this spring and cooler water temperatures were already setting some anglers up in the Alexandria area for perhaps a slower opener when it comes to going after walleyes, but the severe storms that went through Douglas County last Thursday likely did not help either.

There are bound to be anglers who found success this past weekend, but those who did had to deal with some challenging weather. Calm conditions after midnight on Saturday gave way to wind gusts of nearly 45 miles-per-hour out of the west-northwest at 9 a.m.

“As much as I heard, they struggled,” Alexandria area fishing guide and *Echo Press* contributing fishing columnist Mike Frisch said on Monday morning of the walleye bite around Alexandria. “Shane Gesell from (Christopherson) Bait Shop is with me right now. They didn’t hear much good at all for walleyes.”

Frisch had two smaller lakes in mind that he wanted to try for walleyes on opener, but the position of the public accesses on those lakes made for waves crashing in. He switched gears and went after bass, which had its catch-and-release season open on Saturday as well.

Frisch suspects that the severe storms that came through the Alexandria area last Thursday night did have something to do with a slower bite on Saturday.

“I think it was two things. Number one, I think the water is still cold,” Frisch said. “Number two, the storm. I expected clearer water than



Contributed photos  
 Alexandria’s Josie and Robbie Betterman hold up a nice walleye caught while fishing a Douglas County lake on Saturday afternoon. Josie, 11-years-old, was excited to get the first walleye of the day and the biggest fish overall for the group.

what I saw. The water was pretty stirred up still. I think it was a combination of cold water and 80-mile-per-hour winds or whatever we had.”

Frisch feels the fishing often slows down for about 48 hours after a severe weather system moves through.

“I wouldn’t say that’s hard and fast, but especially this time of year. During the spring, it takes longer because you’re still battling cold water,” Frisch said. “But I think this coming week, Shane and I were just talking, and we think the crappies and

the bluegills are prime right now for a good shallow bite. I still think the bigger, deeper lakes, the walleyes are still a few days away. But some of these smaller, shallower, more turbid waters, they’ll start producing later this week I would think.”

Multiple anglers in the area reported water temperatures near the surface in the mid-50s. Frisch said the warmest he saw was 57 degrees, and another angler coming off Lake Osakis on Saturday morning said water temperatures he saw ranged



Sophie and Wesley Betterman of Alexandria hold up two crappies they caught on Saturday afternoon while fishing on a Douglas County lake.

from 54-57 degrees.

Boats were lining up to get off Lake Osakis a little after 9 a.m. on Saturday as whitecaps crashed into the shoreline at the south access.

“The wind was pretty tough, but the ones who got out early did catch walleyes and others caught panfish too up on the north end,” Gregg Anderson of the General Store in Osakis said of the report from Lake Osakis. “I thought it was a pretty good opener. I didn’t expect it this good because of the water temperature.”

Anderson said many who bought bait were buying for both walleyes and crappies in case getting on walleyes proved to be difficult.

“The guy that works as a guide out of here, he was fishing anywhere there was water coming into the lake,” Anderson said. “We have several of them. With all that rain, it carries that debris, which attracts minnows and the bigger fish too. He started with crawlers. I said,

‘Crawlers already?’ Nobody uses crawlers right away. They use minnows, but he did quite well.”

Anderson said most of the nice fish he heard of being caught came in about 7-10 feet of water.

Both Frisch and Anderson expect the fishing to only get better with each passing day if anglers can get some stable weather to work with through the next month.

“I really think Memorial Day weekend could set up to be really good,” Frisch said. “The bigger, deeper lakes, we haven’t had ice-free conditions for that long. The further we get away from that, the warmer the water gets, the better that bite is going to go. I think by this weekend, you’re going to see a better bite, and it’s going to continue to get better the next week too. I still think the small, shallow lakes are where it’s going to be at this weekend.”

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

### BRIEF

#### Douglas County PF to host free women’s learn-to-shoot event

The Douglas County Pheasants Forever chapter is hosting a free Women on the Wing learn-to-shoot event at the Alexandria Shooting Park on May 26.

The event, which starts at 6 p.m., will go over basic shotgun safety and technique. The night is designed to provide ladies ages 12 and older an opportunity to hone their skills on the trap range. Dinner will be provided.

To register for the event, visit <https://pfqf.myeventcenter.com/event/Douglas-County-Pheasants-Forever-Women-On-The-Wing-63013>.

For more information, call Josh Schafer at 320-491-8045.

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

## Alexandria archers impress at national shoot

By Eric Morken  
 Alexandria Echo Press

The Alexandria archery team through the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) recently had three of its archers compete at the 2022 NASP Eastern Nationals with more than 2,000 of the other top shooters in their respective divisions throughout the country who qualified through their state meets.

Nic Witt and Ashton Schlosser each shot in the high school boys division (2,138 participants), while Ian Johnson shot in the middle school boys division (2,317 participants).

Johnson shot a score of 290 out of a possible 300. That ranked him fourth among all 8th-grade boys and eighth overall among all middle school boys.

Johnson had 20 perfect 10’s as part of his 290 that left him 76th in the overall boys’ rank among competitors across all divisions. That is out of

5,951 total male archers at the national championship.

Witt shot a 289 with 22 perfect 10’s in the high school division. That was 27th best out of all seniors, and 76th best out of all high school boys archers. Witt was 85th in the overall boys’ rank.

Schlosser shot a 278 with 14 10’s. That placed him 440th in the high school boys’ division and 122nd among all senior boys.

“The guys shot very, very well,” Alexandria archery coach Alan Hansen said. “We are proud of them. It is hard to shoot with 300 archers around you, but that is what they have learned to do. Block out what is going on around you, think about your form, focus on the spot on the target, shoot the arrow and then hold your form until the arrow hits the target. Then you forget all about that arrow. It is gone and you get ready to shoot the next one.”

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



Contributed  
 From left to right, Alexandria’s Nic Witt, Ian Johnson, and Ashton Schlosser all shot at the 2022 National Archery in the Schools Program’s Eastern Nationals in Louisville, Kentucky that ran from May 12-14. Johnson, who shot a 290 out of a possible 300, and Witt (289) both finished among the top 85 archers at the event out of more than 5,900 boys competitors across all divisions, while Schlosser (278) finished 626th in that same category.

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# TORNADO

From Page 1

unrecognizable. Their shed was tipped over, there were so many trees down and debris everywhere. The couple said they had to zigzag through their yards to get to safety and that it felt like a war zone.

“It was loud,” said Desiree. “I couldn’t believe how loud it was. And it was the first time we heard that the sirens were going off.”

She added later that they never heard the classic freight train sound that is associated with tornadoes.

Dustin said it all happened so fast though – less than 10 minutes. The alert on his phone was at 7:09 p.m. and by 7:17 p.m. he was calling his neighbor to come help get them out of the house.

## Amazing support

Dustin and Desiree couldn’t talk enough about the support they received throughout the last few days. And not only support for them, but for their children. They said their kids have handled all of this better than they thought.

Their 2 1/2-year-old son, when he saw some of the damage, said they could “fix it.” His mom said he was like Bob the Builder, which is an animated TV series about a building contractor who fixes things.

“We can’t believe all the support we have received,” they both said, noting numerous times what great neighbors they have and what a great neighborhood they live in.

Desiree said the couple is originally from Duluth and that after the storm, they had family, friends, coworkers and others from Duluth, Superior, Alexandria and Little Falls who all came together to help them.

“It was like our old life and new life collided in a beautifully and



Photos by Celeste Edenloff / Alexandria Echo Press  
Dustin and Desiree Wiita of Alexandria, lost not only both their vehicles that were parked in their garage, but most of their house when a tornado ripped through their neighborhood along South Darling Drive on May 12.



Looking through a window of a home owned by Dustin and Desiree Wiita of Alexandria, a car seat for their baby can be seen. The seat is sitting among all the debris and pieces of their roof after a tornado ravaged their home on May 12.

overwhelming way,” she said. “Everyone has been so supportive, so helpful. My own boss came out and helped,” said Desiree, who works at CentraCare in Long Prairie while Dustin works at Knute Nelson. He said his boss has reached out to him a couple of times to check up on him and that he never thought he’d ever hug so many of his neighbors.

“The way the community, our neighborhood, has come

together is incredible,” said Dustin. Desiree added that even their mail carrier was in tears and so happy when she learned that the family made it through and no one was injured.

A downside to the whole ordeal – besides losing their house and 16 trees – was the steady stream of onlookers starting right away on Thursday night, said Desiree.

“There’s plenty of time after a few days to come and look and take



A vehicle covered in debris sits under a collapsed roof at the home of Dustin and Desiree Wiita of Alexandria. The family lost not only their home, but both vehicles that were parked in the garage after a tornado ripped through their neighborhood along South Darling Drive on May 12.

pictures or whatever,” she said. “People need to remember this is our lives.”

## Next steps

Working with their insurance agent, Amy Christopherson with State Farm, Dustin and Desiree said they have temporary housing at Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center and are currently looking for a long-term solution.

They were able to take some things from their house – valuables, things of importance to them and some necessities – but other than that, their house and both their vehicles are a total loss.

As it stands right now, they do plan on rebuilding in the same location but that is going to take some time.

Family and friends have set up a GoFundMe page for them, [www.gofundme.com/f/dustin-desiree-wiita-rebuilding-fund](http://www.gofundme.com/f/dustin-desiree-wiita-rebuilding-fund), as well as a donation option at their bank. Donations can be dropped off or

mailed to Bell Bank, 1001 Broadway St., Alexandria, MN 56308 with checks made out to Dustin and Desiree Wiita Benefit Account.

“We are just taking it one day or sometimes, one minute at a time,” said Desiree, who shared a story about a cardinal nest they had recently found in their yard.

She said there were eggs in it and that she had taken some pictures of it. The eggs apparently hatched about a week ago and so when the storm happened, the family was worried that the cardinals were lost.

But they found the nest and the birds made it through just fine. In fact, Desiree said she saw the male bird and it looked like he was teaching the babies how to fly.

“Cardinals are signs that angels are looking down on us,” said Desiree, noting that there were some recent deaths in their family. “Those are our angels.”

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

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### GLENETSKE

From Page 1

Glenetske lives in Osakis with her husband, Chris, with whom she has five children.

#### Expansion project

The school board also approved two bids relating to the district's ongoing expansion project.

The first was in regard to the demolition of the 1917 Evansville building. The bid was from DRC, Inc. of Minnetonka in the amount of \$236,000.

Peschel said asbestos removal in the building will begin on May 31, and demolition will take place after July 4.

The second bid was for precast concrete for both additions and was in the amount of \$1,385,000. It was awarded to Wells Concrete of Maple

Grove. Peschel said the district is also looking at working with the Evansville EDA regarding the bus garage in Evansville.

"They are interested in that property, so I think moving forward, we'll continue to have those conversations," Peschel said Tuesday. "The district isn't going to need it. As part of the construction project, that will be relocated in Brandon. We will have a new facility for our school vehicles there."

At the board's regular meeting last month, Sean Lewis of ICS Consulting said additions in the district's construction project will start in the spring of 2023 and interior portions of the renovation are expected to take place in the summer of 2024.

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

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

## MnDOT to host open house on June 7 for Highway 114 project

LOWRY — The Minnesota Department of Transportation invites the public to attend an open house on Tuesday, June 7, from 4-7 p.m., to learn more about future construction on Highway 114 from Lowry to Starbuck. The open house will be held at the Lowry City Hall, located at 206 Maple St.

Residents, business owners and area visitors and commuters are encouraged to attend. There will be no formal presentation. Stop in whenever it is convenient.

In 2024, MnDOT will complete a project on Highway 114 between Lowry and Starbuck. The project includes:

► Reconstruction of Highway 114 from the Highway 55 intersection to County Road 28 in Lowry.

► Resurfacing of Highway 114 from County Road 28 to Highway 28 in Starbuck.

► Storm sewer replacement in Lowry and culvert replacements.

► Tree removals in Lowry due to powerline

and sidewalk conflicts and age/decay.

► Sidewalk and pedestrian accessibility improvements.

For those who cannot attend the in-person event or would prefer to get information virtually, information shared at the open house will be available on the project website at [mndot.gov/d4/projects/lowry](http://mndot.gov/d4/projects/lowry). Comments and questions can be submitted via a form on the project website, or contact MnDOT at [www.dot.state.mn.us/d4/projects/lowry/contacts.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d4/projects/lowry/contacts.html).

### BOARD

From Page 1

In better news, Erickson said, the bids for the work on the Douglas County Library parking lot came in under the engineer's estimate. The low bid went to Central Specialties for \$57,523, which was \$20,997 under the engineer's estimate of \$78,520.

The commissioners approved the bid and also approved transferring money out of the general fund to pay for the project, which is expected to be completed by the end of August.

#### Lots of trees lost

Brad Bonk, Douglas County parks superintendent, gave the board an update of storm damage that occurred at area parks Thursday, May 12.

He said trees were lost at every single county park, but that Pilgrim Point Park got hit the worst.

"We lost all the spruce trees at Pilgrim Point Park," he said.

Bonk also noted that because grass seed had recently been put in, the downed trees are going to have to sit for a couple of weeks before they can go in and get them cleaned up.

On the plus side, he said that the county should have a good supply of wood chips to last for several years.

#### No parking zone

The Osakis City Council made a request from the county board to make part of the street by the school into a no parking zone.

The city couldn't designate it as they are not the road authority. Douglas County is because it is a county road.

The no parking zone was approved and will cover First Avenue East from the intersection with East Oak Street just past the in/out driveway for the drop-off for Osakis Early Childhood Family Education.

Alan Larson, Osakis City Council member, was at the meeting and thanked the commissioners.

"We are very appreciative," he said.

County Board Chairperson Tim Kalina said, "You need it to be safe for the kids."

Larson also noted that the school district does not use crossing guards anymore and that they "are not working on that with us" and that maybe this "will push them to do something with their parking."

#### In other action

The commissioners approved the following other items:

► Habitat easements to Timothy and Julie Zunker (66 acres in Miliona Township); Daniel and Justin Evavold (91 acres combined in Lund and Millerville Townships); and Barak Bjorie (90 acres in Carlos Township).

► Wetland easement to the Richard Schwardt Family Trust (19.89 acres in Hudson Township).

► Preliminary plat for McClellan First Addition, a one lot plat in Carlos Township.

► Preliminary plat for Cowdry Beach on the

west side of Lake Cowdry.

► Preliminary plat for Lakeside Adventures, a one lot plat in Brandon Township.

► Conditional use permit to Willow Storage Properties LLC to allow a

commercial self-storage facility in Ida Township.

► Application for the Regional Legacy Connecting People to the Outdoors Small Grant to the Great Minnesota Regional Parks and Trail

Commission and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the Kensington Rune Stone Discovery Site Project at Kensington Rune Stone Park. The grant is for \$50,000 with matching

funds of \$30,000 from the county.

► Donation in the amount of \$250 from Elden's Fresh Foods to be used for the TRIAD event.

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



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Dave pictured with his wife, Karen

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