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Photos by Thalen Zimmerman / Alexandria Echo Press

The fishing crew handpicks the carp to be scanned and loaded into transfer bins before being weighed and hauled across the country.

CARP CAPTURE TRANSFER

Thousands of invasive carp removed from Lake Winona

By Thalen Zimmerman
Alexandria Echo Press

About 4,500 invasive carp with a combined weight of over 26,000 pounds were removed from Lake Winona in Alexandria on Oct. 19 from the lake's south shore.

Commercial fishing crews did the job in coordination with the Alexandria Lake Area Sanitary District (ALASD), DNR Fisheries and Santec and WSB staff. The Alexandria Airport also helped by allowing its runways to be used for access to the lake.

The fish were removed because of the damage they cause to submerged aquatic vegetation, according to Scott Gilbertson, executive director of the ALASD.

"Without the aquatic vegetation, water quality will continue to suffer," said Gilbertson, "Carp cause re-release of internal phosphorous, which produces algal growth and turbid water conditions by stirring up sediments from the bottom of the lake."

Gilbertson said the removal of the fish was accomplished through seine fishing — a method that uses a net, which hangs vertically in the water with its bottom edge held down by weights and its top edge buoyed by floats to surround the carp. They also used sound to push the carp into a specific area.



Live carp in their transfer bins were later loaded into a water-filled semi-trailer to be hauled across the country.

"A long net called a seine was laid out around the southwestern bay of Lake Winona to surround the carp. The net was dragged through the lake with gas-powered winches until it slowly contracted the fish," said Jordan Wein, an environmental scientist from WSB, whose headquarters is based in Minneapolis, was personally involved in the extraction. "Eventually, the carp were funneled into a holding pen near the shore where they waited until they could be trucked out of the lake."

Once in their holding pens, fishermen waded in the pen and hand loaded the carp into transfer bins located inside boats

that float parallel to the pens. As the fishermen loaded the bins, personnel inside the boats used a scanner to check for carp with tags — some of the carp were tagged earlier to estimate how many were in the lake and their migration patterns.

After the bins were filled, the boats would head one at a time to the designated boat landing to get put onto a boat trailer, and then driven a short way to a water-filled semi-trailer to haul the carp. The bins are weighed before being dumped inside the water-filled trailer where the carp remained alive for transfer.

CARP: Page 15

What are the responsibilities, roles of a school board member?

Superintendent explains at Listen and Learn event

By Celeste Edenloff
Alexandria Echo Press

Did you know that school board members operate as a whole board and that board members don't have individual authority?



Sansted

This is unlike a city council where members have more of an individual voice.

School board members have a "unified voice" after board action whereas city council members maintain an "individual voice" after council action.

That information and more was shared by Alexandria Superintendent Rick Sansted during a Listen and Learn virtual event Tuesday, Oct. 26.

With the Nov. 2 Election Day fast approaching and as the race for a seat on the Alexandria School

Board heats up, Sansted explained the roles and responsibilities of school board members during the Listen and Learn event, sponsored by the Alexandria Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce.

Two candidates — Maureen Eigen and Jeff Patience — are vying for the open seat on the Alexandria School Board. Patience was appointed to the board after a member moved away from the area.

Only residents in the Alexandria School District may vote in the school board election. Parents whose children are open enrolled to the district may not vote for the school board race, Sansted shared after he was asked the question.

He also shared information about who can file for the position of school board member. Candidates must be eligible to vote in Minnesota, may not have filed for any

SCHOOL: Page 8

Alex opts-in for share of opioid settlement money

By Al Edenloff
Alexandria Echo Press

A nationwide settlement was recently reached in class-action lawsuits related to the opioid epidemic.

At its meeting Monday Night, the Alexandria City Council authorized staff to complete the online process of receiving a tiny share of the settlement money.

In a notice sent to government subdivisions in the state, including Alexandria, Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison said that any subdivision that doesn't participate in the settlement can't directly share in any of the settlement funds, even if the subdivision's



state is settling and other participating subdivisions are sharing in settlement funds.

An advisory panel has been formed to decide how to allocate the funds.

City Attorney Tom Jacobson said it would be better for the city to participate in the settlement instead of trying to go at it alone.

Under the settlement, the three largest

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A spooky weekend

By Karen Tolkkinen
Alexandria Echo Press

With Halloween on a Sunday this year, spooky treats and activities will be spread out over the whole weekend instead of concentrated on just one day.

About 40 kids have already signed up to paint salt-dough ornaments in Halloween shapes such as pumpkins, ghosts or cats, on Saturday at the Douglas County Library.

"I didn't expect this many people to sign up," said children's librarian Sarah Wethern. "I'm excited."

The ornament activity

is full, but kids are still welcome to come to the library and get a piece of candy, she said.

Two morning runs are planned for Saturday, Oct. 30. Kalon Prep Academy will hold its first-ever Spooky Sprint 5K, starting at 9 a.m. from City Park to the Central Lakes trail. Proceeds will go to the Pinky Swear Foundation that provides financial and emotional support to children with cancer and their families. It's a 5K (3.1 mile) costume run. To register, go to www.kalonprep.org.

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Echo Press file photo

Crowds of adults and children, many in costumes, trick-or-treated in downtown Alexandria several years ago.

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