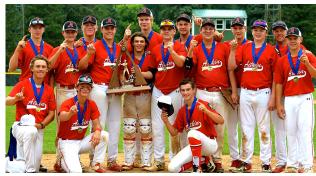
STATE CHAMPS Aitkin's Post 86 wins three straight games / BIO



Aitkin Independent Age

\$1 • WEDNESDAY, AUG. 14, 2019

Goffs Bay Catering opens in **McGregor**

Catering funerals, weddings, corp. meetings the core of business

BY LYNN MIZNER lmizner@aitkinage.com

Peg Johnson (formerly Rosvold) left a position as head chef at McGregor's Minnesota National Golf Course on August 6 to focus more on catering for local events.

The catering business she and her new husband Andy (Froggy) Johnson will be operating together is called Goffs Bay Catering. The business was registered in January and will be operated out of McGregor Community Center's commercial kitchen.

Catering for local funerals, weddings and corporate business meetings will be the core of their business.

"Local, freshly made, all natural ingredients distinguish the foods we prepare," said Peg. "Everything is made from scratch." Goffs Bay will be buying locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs and possibly meats for their catering and condiments business.

Now that she has ended her full-time employment with Minnesota National, Peg will be working full time on their business making



BRIELLE BREDSTEN PHOTO

Responders from Aitkin County Sheriff's Office, Aitkin and Hill City Police Departments, North Ambulance Service, First Responders, Aitkin Fire Department, the city of Aitkin, Aitkin Public Schools, state responders, Riverwood Healthcare and Aitkin Health and Human Services participated in the training exercise on Aug. 6.

When uniform colors blend

BY BRIELLE BREDSTEN bbredsten@aitkinage.com

On Aug. 6, Aitkin Public Schools, in cooperation with local law enforcement and emergency response teams, conducted an active shooter emergency training scenario at the high school.

respond, serve and help prevent harm to citizens. The exercise was designed to test and train responders from the Aitkin County Sheriff's Office, Aitkin and Hill City Police Departments, North Ambulance Service, First Responders, Aitkin Fire Department, the city of Aitkin, Aitkin High School, state respond-

Active shooter emergency training scenario at Aitkin **High School**

> policies and procedural plans already in place for each agency.

Following the exercise, a roundtable discussion was held at the Sheriff's Office to identify areas of preparation in need of improvement if a large-scale emergency scenario were to actually occur.

\$1.9 million awarded for water infrastructure projects in Aitkin

aitkinage.com

The Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (PFA) announced \$12 million in loan and grant funding for water infrastructure projects, including Aitkin.

AITKIN, \$1,907,643

This project consists of the installation of a new water main, hydrants and gate valves and the repair and replacement of sections of the sanitary sewer in the northwest part of the city. Funding comes in part from a 20-year 1% interest loan of \$1,005,869 from the Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRF). The loan is expected to save \$85,160 when compared to the cost of market-rate financing. An additional \$901,774 comes from a Clean Water Revolving Fund (CWRF) loan. The 20-year 1% loan is expected to save \$76,604 when compared to market-rate financing. The Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation board will provide \$250,000 and an additional \$248,150 comes from local sources.

The PFA provides financing and technical assistance to help communities build and maintain public infrastructure that protects public health and the environment and promotes economic growth. Since its inception in 1987 the PFA

and selling sauces, salsas, jams and pickles they are

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The purpose of the exercise was for community partners to better

ers, Riverwood Healthcare and Aitkin Health and Human Services on

See Emergency training pages A10-11

has financed \$4.5 billion in public infrastructure projects in communities throughout Minnesota.

City considers adding a local sales tax to fund infrastructure construction and maintenance

Currently in the information-gathering stage, a local sales tax might allow a fund to grow for parks and recreation, and other city construction needs.

BY LYNN MIZNER

lmizner@aitkinage.com

At the Aug. 5 regular Aitkin City Council meeting, Administrator Kathleen Ryan asked its members to consider the possibility of establishing a local sales tax that could be used to support the city's parks.

A fairly extensive process is involved in getting ap-

tax; the city would have to heard from the council develop a proposal for legislative review and approval. There would be at least one if Ryan had developed any public hearing and other confidence about the attiestablished process before a tude and expectations of local sales tax could be implemented, said Rvan.

proval for a new local sales because she had not yet residents, that many believe about its wishes. Council member Erin Wagner asked the public with regard to spending money on recre-The council asked about ational infrastructure. Ryan next steps, and Ryan in- responded that she believes, dicated she has not taken based on recent surveys and any steps in that direction other communications from to generate the money sor from the University of

spend money and energy to improve the city's recreational infrastructure.

based on his experience, implementing a city sales tax costs money, so the city would want to make sure that the city is large enough hired an economics profes-

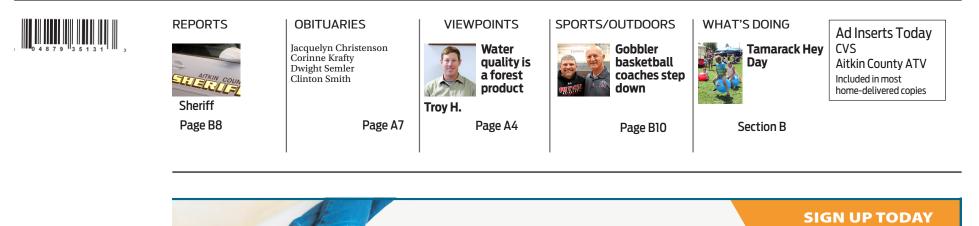
needed to do the desired Minnesota to predict that work. He recommended city's capacity to collect the city consider including enough sales tax to reach other essential city infrastructure as well as parks the city should continue to and recreation. A lot of people who come as tourists or seasonal residents should chip in to help pay for the Phil Martin, engineer city infrastructure they use. with Bolton and Menk, said Martin said the city can set its own parameters and plan for how the money would be spent.

The city of Crosslake might eliminate the need for

the identified goals, including building a fund to pay for wear and tear that results in part from use by visitors.

Martin shared from his experience that the Minnesota legislature has a process to bless such a plan prior to residents voting on it; if that process changes, it

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