

# STATE CHAMPS

Aitkin's Post 86 wins three straight games / B10



# Aitkin Independent Age

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## Goffs Bay Catering opens in McGregor

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

BY LYNN MIZNER  
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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 and selling sauces, salsas, jams and pickles they are

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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

Active shooter emergency training scenario at Aitkin High School

BY BRIELLE BREDSTEN  
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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.

The purpose of the exercise was for community partners to better

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 responders, Riverwood Healthcare and Aitkin Health and Human Services on

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.

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## \$1.9 million awarded for water infrastructure projects in Aitkin

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 (DWRV). 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 (CWRV) 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 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  
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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-

proval for a new local sales tax; the city would have to develop a proposal for legislative review and approval. There would be at least one public hearing and other established process before a local sales tax could be implemented, said Ryan.

The council asked about next steps, and Ryan indicated she has not taken any steps in that direction

because she had not yet heard from the council about its wishes. Council member Erin Wagner asked if Ryan had developed any confidence about the attitude and expectations of the public with regard to spending money on recreational infrastructure. Ryan responded that she believes, based on recent surveys and other communications from

residents, that many believe the city should continue to spend money and energy to improve the city's recreational infrastructure.

Phil Martin, engineer with Bolton and Menk, said 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 to generate the money

needed to do the desired work. He recommended the city consider including other essential city infrastructure as well as parks and recreation. A lot of people who come as tourists or seasonal residents should chip in to help pay for the city infrastructure they use. Martin said the city can set its own parameters and plan for how the money would be spent.

The city of Crosslake hired an economics professor from the University of

Minnesota to predict that city's capacity to collect enough sales tax to reach 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 might eliminate the need for

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