



East Grand Forks to consider options for tax levy increases

By Emily Allen Grand Forks Herald

The city of East Grand Forks focused Tuesday night on establishing an appropriate levy increase for property taxes in 2019.

City Council members and staff debated for over an hour during their most recent work session, during which they considered a 6 percent levy increase. The council ultimately asked staff to return Dec. 4 with two more scenarios with a 5 percent increase and a 5.5 percent increase.

Over the last four years, East Grand Forks has had heated discussions on its yearly levy increase. In 2014 it was forced to cut \$180,000 intended for matching grants and the city swimming pool after former Mayor Lynn Stauss slashed a proposed 10 percent increase in half. The city enacted a 25 percent increase in 2015, followed by an 18 percent increase in 2016.

TAX: Page A6

Roosevelt council member facing charges resigns

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2018 SHARING SEASON



Photos Eric Hylden/Grand Forks Herald

Yvonne Griffin, holding Zachariah Griffin, and Ivory Wilkinson with Ezekiel Wilkinson, check out the annual "Festival of Trees" sponsored by the LISTEN Center at the Columbia Mall Wednesday.

> LISTEN Center sponsors 26th annual 'Festival of Trees' for area families

By Tess Williams Grand Forks Herald

ROOSEVELT, Minn. — Α small-town city council member charged for disorderly conduct after allegedly intimidating a reporter during a public meeting has resigned.

Arlyn Stewart sent a letter to Roosevelt, Minn., mayor-elect Gerald Landby Monday to submit his resignation.

"I will no longer put up with the harassment from the general public and the news media," the Northern Light Region reported Stewart wrote.

The Roosevelt City Council has been under fire since an Oct. 1 meeting when former city clerk Alyce Siats screamed at a reporter from Baudette's weekly Northern Light Region for asking a question.

acknowledged Siats she "blew my temper," and said she told reporter Doris Knutson

RESIGNATION: Page A6

By Pamela Knudson Grand Forks Herald he spirit of Christmas will be shared with nearly 70

needy families again this season, thanks to the efforts of the LISTEN Center, local businesses and volunteers in the Grand Forks area.

The annual "Festival of Trees," sponsored by the LISTEN Center, is on display through Dec. 8 in the Sears wing at the Columbia Mall.

This year, 69 trees have been donated by local businesses and decorated by people who give their time and supplies. They are scheduled to be delivered Dec. 9 to families in Grand Forks and Polk counties.

This is the 26th year the festival has been conducted, said Christy Potts, executive



Christmas trees from the annual "Festival of Trees" are displayed throughout the Columbia Mall.

director of the LISTEN Center. LISTEN stands for Love is Sharing The Exceptional Needs.

are eligible to receive the trees are provided by social service agencies, Potts said. Receiving a donated tree

The names of families who frees up money for families

to pay for other things such as Christmas gifts and holiday travel, Potts said. The LISTEN Center, a

nonprofit organization, offers a day services program at 1407 24th Ave. S. Suite 100, for people with developmental or intellectual disabilities. The program includes activities, such as music and art therapy, visiting speakers and tours of various sites in the community.

The LISTEN Drop-In Center, 624 N. Washington St., is a resource for the whole community, Potts said, and includes computers, a pool table. and "dances every Friday night."

For more information, call the center at (701) 772-7840.

Knudson is a features reporter at the Herald. Call her at (701) 780-1107, (800) 477-6572 ext.1107 or email pknudson@ gfherald.com.

To get your Herald: (701) 780-1215

(800) 811-2580 News tips: (701) 780-1136 Sports: (701) 780-1120

For the very latest in news, read the Herald online at gfherald.com.



State Board committee delays Stone House name change at UND



Tess Williams/Grand Forks Herald The J. Lloyd Stone House at UND.

By Sydney Mook Grand Forks Herald

A committee for the North Dakota State Board of Higher Educabutton on UND's plans to rename the J. Lloyd Stone House.

UND had proposed changing the name of the campus building to the Dr. Kathleen and Hal Gershman Engagement ily had been contact-Center.

Earlier this year the name change. Gershmans donated \$3

vation of the building ing against the Gershpossible. The building mans, it's important for was the original president's home and built in contact with families 1903. The name change tion has hit the pause is meant to honor the in front of the board. He Gershmans' gift.

board's finance committee meeting late Tuesday members questioned whether the Stone famed about the potential ident for finance and

Member Dan Traynor million to make reno- said while he has noth- **NAME:** Page A7

the university to be in before bringing the issue added that this is not the However, during the first time this has hapbudget and pened with UND, noting this has also come up with the Ray Richards family and the family of Ralph Engelstad.

Jed Shivers, vice presoperations at UND, noted

Year: 139 Issue: 152 Copyright: 2018 Newsstand price:

Ş1.50

Calendar: A2 Classified: B4 Comics: A8

Crosswords: A6 Editorial: A4 **Obituaries: A5**

Puzzles: A6 Sports: B1 Weather: A2

RESIGNATION

From Page A1

"I'm so g**damn sick and tired of this bull****."

Stewart allegedly approached Knutson and seemingly towered over her as he berated her before abruptly ending the meeting. Knutson said she began cov-

ering Roosevelt about a year after hearing rumors of ago dysfunction. She said council members are short-tempered and have screamed at citizens during meetings. The council was unable to produce financial records for the past eight years and has repeatedly ignored Freefrom the Herald and Northern Light Region.

Knutson said the council also disregards open meeting laws, which require governing bodies to publicly post meeting information in advance. She questioned the council about the legality of a meeting held without notice in September before Siats and Stewart erupted at her.

Siats resigned shortly after the October meeting.

Over a half-dozen messages to Stewart over the last two months have not been returned.

He pleaded not guilty to a misdemeanor disorderly conduct

dom Of Information Act requests to appear in court again Dec. 10. In this month's election, Roo-

sevelt voters replaced all current council members, other than Stewart, whose term was set to end in two years. The town has been operating without a mayor for over a year.

Landby said newly elected members ran on a platform of transparency and open communication.

"Obviously with media attention and things going on in the news about what has been happening, it's sad. It's disappoint-ing," he said. "We're a much better community than that."

Knutson said incoming council charge Monday. He's scheduled members met Monday to address

issues they may face as they resignation is enough. She said transition into office in January. Knutson said the council has not had access to the mailbox since Siats resigned and current members voted last month to pay unopened bills.

Knutson reported Stewart's resignation included his November meeting notes, which he said should be stored with the rest of the city documents, although incoming council members are unsure where any documents are located.

The Northern Light Region had previously called for an apology and Stewart's resignation. Knutson said she never received an apology, but feels that Stewart's she doesn't have any personal issues with Stewart, but was doing her job by holding a public official accountable.

"We heard of irregularities, inconsistencies and things they were doing that weren't how they were supposed to be doing things, and we just kind of made a concerted effort to shine a light on the situation and I think brought it to people's attention,' she said. "I think it made a difference in the election and kind of solved a problem for Roosevelt that's been ongoing for a long time.'

Reach the writer at 701-780-1267, twilliams@ gfherald.com or on Twitter @ByTessWilliams

TAX

From Page A1

Last year, the city enacted a 10 percent increase, despite Mayor Steve Gander's efforts to pass something smaller. This year, Gander has his sights set on 5 percent, having previously committed to the 4 percent increase in prop-

Avanthairstudio

discussions earlier this year. "We're looking forward (when) the to the day (when) the average individual family would see their tax rate go up at about the level of inflation," Gander said

number during budgeting

Tuesday. increase could mean a 3 to

erty taxes for taxpayers. A 5 or 6 percent levy increase doesn't necessarily mean taxpayers will individually pay that much more. A resident's tax bill is determined by a property's value and annual increases in property assessments.

The city sent out state-He said a 5 percent levy ments showing what property taxes would look like take care of all predicted

on Nov. 19, City Finance any services. Director Karla Anderson public hearing on Tuesday, Dec. 4, before the council votes on a levy increase.

The approximately \$11.1 million budget Anderson presented Tuesday operated under a 6 percent levy increase and it was able to

Gander acknowledged said, and there will be a a challenge in avoiding reductions of services the city offers and maintaining services with less money from the state.

said, East Grand Forks has increase, you already have received a significant part to take 2 (percent) off of of its budget from Local that, and that's 3 (percent) Government Aid, which we have to work with to under a 7.5 percent increase expenses without cutting local governments receive run our city," he said.

from the state. In the last two years, however, Gander said the city has lost 2 percent of its budget because of a decrease in LGA.

"So if we're talking about Historically, the mayor a 5 percent local (levy)



Ask Amy

Amy Dickinson SYNDICATED COLUMNIST 11/29/18

Dear Amy: My husband had a long first marriage. He got divorced two years ago, and we started dating shortly after. We have been married for over a year now, and we have a newborn daughter.

The problem is that my husband talks to and communicates all the time with his ex!

I confronted him about this and told him I was not confident about his choice to do that.

He said that she was a very important part of his life and that I need to wise up.

He said he has a lot of memories with her, and honestly, I understand that part, but it has been almost two years since we got married. I don't think this should continue. What should I do?

-- Upset Wife



Dear Upset: Even if your concerns were NOT valid (and I think they are), it is disrespectful for your husband to respond

You are wise enough to see his relationship with his ex-wife as an encroachment on your marriage. Your husband simply

Nor can you force him to exit from a relationship with his ex that he seems determined to continue.

What you both must do is find respectful ways to communicate and to engage in behavior that grows and strengthens your young marriage. You owe it to yourselves and, of course,

Many ex-spouses find positive ways to maintain a friendship, but if he hasn't successfully emotionally separated from his ex, then she is entangled in your relationship. She is the uninvited guest at your family party. Simply put, both you and your husband need to put one another at the center of your relationship-world.

reading marriage researcher John Gottman and co-author Nan Silver's classic primer: "The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work: A Practical Guide from the Country's Foremost Relationship Expert" (2015, Harmony). Read this on your own and discuss some of these principles with your husband. He

Gottman's research reveals that successful couples create indelible relationship imprints, and turn toward one another

Dear Amy: My neighbor "Sara" and I are not friends, but we

We make small talk when we see each other, usually about

our kids, our town, etc. Sometimes Sara speaks first, other times it's me.

Sara and I have a few mutual friends on social media, so I sent her a friend request. She ignored it.

Her page is very public and she posts stuff often.

Additionally, she has about 350 FB friends, including other neighbors, teachers, town officials etc., so it's not like she's this extremely private person. I feel like asking her, "Hey, what gives?"

Should I confront her regarding this slight, or should I let it go?

- Non-Friended Neighbor

Dear Neighbor: If you never, ever want to be connected with your neighbor on social media, then definitely confront her about it. She may use social media differently than you do, filtering

out people who post political content or who follow pages she

disagrees with. She may like you as a neighbor, but not want you to know the particulars about her life or her own political opinions

Many people keep "friend requests" in a queue and only click through requests periodically.

Or -- possibly "Sara" is happy to chat with you over the backyard fence, but is otherwise not that interested in you. There is nothing wrong with this. It is the way of the world. In some ways, maintaining a cordial bit of friendly distance is the ideal situation for neighbors.

Continue to be personally friendly toward your neighbor, stop FB stalking her and -- yes -- let it go.

Dear Amy: Thank you for warning readers about the dangers of accidental nicotine exposure in the household, due to the popularity of vaping.

My husband was refilling his own device and spilled a small amount of vaping liquid on the floor. He didn't clean it up, and our dog lapped it up. He was extremely sick. We almost lost him.

-- Horrified

Send questions via e-mail to askamy@tribune.com or by mail to Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago IL 60611.



are friendly, or so I thought.

You will gain insight into marriage's trickier dynamics by

to your honesty by telling you to "wise up."

does not get to tell you what to think or how to feel.

you owe it to your child.

should be inspired to read it, too. (not their exes) to tackle life's little and large challenges.



A baby born today has a Sun in Sagittarius and a Moon in Leo if born before 8:08 a.m. (ET). Afterward, the Moon will be in Virgo. HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018: This year you make waves just because vou can. When you focus on a goal, you might be difficult to stop. People who do not know you well often misread you. You are precise and detail-oriented, yet you also love a good risk. If you are single, this year could be the year you meet a life partner. If you are attached, the two of you seem to come to agreements only after you air out each of your points of view. VIRGO can be critical and fussy. The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; I-Difficult ARIES (March 21-April 19) $\star \star \star \star$ You can almost count on someone not understanding what you say A great deal of activity could be triggered as a result of this miscommunication. A boss could be unusually distant or cold. Worrying won't do you any good. Tonight: Clear out some paperwork and errands. TAURUS (April 20- May 20) ★★★★ When your creativity surges, you have little to be worried about. Today, you exhibit unusual imagination and have the ability to focus on whatever issue is at hand. You can't seem to detach from a

problem that has been quietly nagging at you. Tonight: Be naughty and nice. GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★ ★ ★ You could need some time to relax in order to stay on top of a situation. You might not see the logic of slowing down. Try a slower pace, at least for a day. Confusion surrounds your home. Do not be surprised if you are caught in the middle of a disagreement. Tonight: Be a couch potato! CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★ ★ ★ Honor a fast change of pace. Several people are determined to find you, no matter what! Stop for a moment and listen to what each person is sharing. Slowing down and listening will help you to center yourself. Be more of an observer right now. Tonight: The less said, the better. **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) $\star \star \star$ You have good financial sense, which you often display. Of course, everyone enjoys letting go sometimes. Set limits on how far you will go with your spending.

You have a lot of people you want to spoil

and indulge this holiday season. Tonight:

Buy some eggnog on the way home.

crowds Ladd (1935)

A child or loved one craves more of your attention. Tonight: Where the action is. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) $\star \star \star$ You sense that a lot is going on behind the scenes. For now, just do your thing. Be receptive to others' questions, and consider asking some of your own as well. Just remember to be subtle in your approach. Be aware of what is happening behind the scenes. Tonight: Among the SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) $\star \star \star \star$ Emphasize the pros and cons of a situation that comes up in a meeting. If your reaction is very different from that of those around you, you might want to think through where you are coming from. Remember, everyone is entitled to his or her opinion. Tonight: Till the wee hours. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) $\star \star \star$ Pressure builds around your work or your community responsibilities. You might not be aware of how fussy you can get when you're out of your element. You care about precision, yet you're still adventurous and like to take risks. Tonight: Join friends for a fun time out. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) $\star \star \star \star \star$ You detach with ease and understand much more of what is motivating you as well as those around you. You gain a strong perspective, which helps you interact with others. Touch base with someone who has very different insights from yours. Tonight: Note what is not being said. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) $\star \star \star \star$ The best way to handle a partner or key associate is on a one-on-one level. You can root out a problem in order to come to an understanding with this person. Both of you will feel much better after having a long chat. Visit with an older loved one. Tonight: Opt for dinner for two. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) $\star \star \star \star$ You might not agree with a partner, but you ultimately recognize that the two of you have similar issues. What is different is your responses to these issues. You could learn a lot from this person. Respect what each other has to say. Tonight: Go along with a loved one's request. **BORN TODAY** TV host Howie Mandel (1955), football player Russell Wilson (1988), actress Diane Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at www.jacquelinebigar.com

(c) 2018 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

1 Curvy letter 4 Inaccurate 9 Made fun of 16 13 Part of a royal flush 14 As sore as ____ 15 Angelou or Rudolph 25 26 16 Sore 17 Merchant 19 Fraternity letter 20 Pauses 21 Part of a knife 22 ____ than; besides 24 J. Edgar Hoover's agcy. 25 Bar 27 Give a sermon 30 Fess up 31 Sandwich maker's need 33 Know-__; ability 35 Hockey score 36 Compensate 60 37 Actress Delany 38 lsn't ____ to; probably won't 39 Bursting at the ; too full 40 Generous one 41 Wobble 43 Ready for dinner 44 Stewart or Carew 45 Stupid 46 Toss 49 Skate smoothly 13 Jolt 51 Spanish article 54 Not easily restrained 56 Student summons 57 Egg on 58 Spend foolishly 59 Catch sight of 60 ____ away; leaves 61 Follows orders 62 Burro DOWN 1 Apiece 2 Kid in the next desk 3 Firmament 4 ____ together; connect securely

5 Detest

