

## SPORTS: Eagles win over Braham Bombers P8



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# Reaching new heights

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Ice! Shouts a person clinging about 50 feet up on a slippery slag of white and opaque aqua colored ice. The shout is followed by the sound of ice shattering as it makes contact with the frozen ground. The quiet chatter stops for a few seconds as people look towards the sound.

The Sandstone Ice Climbing Festival buzzed with activity as groups of people walked excitedly carrying crampons, ice axes, harnesses and more.

People of all ages were dressed in various stages of ice climbing gear as they prepared for their turn to scale the 100 foot high cliff. Friends stood in groups and talked amongst them-

selves, comparing gear or the latest new item.

Attendance was down from the 2020 fest, said Kendra Stritch, Minnesota Climbers Association president.

"With COVID-19 still making a significant impact in Minnesota, we didn't host large indoor evening events and some people are still choosing to not attend festivals," Stritch said. "We still had about 200 climbers in the quarry this weekend and a couple dozen that camped."

She said ages ranged from an eight-year-old to a man in his 70s.

Brent Monfort attended with his twin boys. One sipped on his warm drink next to a fire pit. The other checked his climbing gear with the help of his dad, then started up the ice.

"It's pretty exciting," said Logan Monfort, 10. "It was a little scary at first." He said his family stays busy by rock climbing in the summer and mountain biking. Brent explained that the family drove two hours from Boyceville, Wisc. for the youth ice climbing clinic. He said the class was a great deal for the price as it included free use of the gear for the boys.

Noah also said he enjoys ice climbing as well.

"I like when I get to the top," Noah said. He said he likes the views at the top of Winona Ice Park better and there are easier routes for climbing than at Sandstone. The brothers agreed that it is easier to climb when the weather is warmer as the ice is

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# City, township reach temporary agreement

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Residents of Sandstone Township will have fire coverage through March of 2022 from the City of Sandstone.

After the recent discussions with the City of Sandstone yielded no compromise to the increased costs of providing Sandstone Township with fire coverage, the township chose to move on from the city and begin to look elsewhere for this service.

Having no contracted fire service was of utmost concern to many township residents. During the public comment portion of the Sandstone Township regular meeting, three residents spoke up requesting the township pay the bill and provide fire service to its residents and one spoke up agreeing with the town board's stance.

At a special meeting the City of Sandstone had extended the contract to

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# What happens at a precinct caucus

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Political caucuses are coming up February 1, 2022. What is a caucus you might ask? A caucus, or precinct caucus is a meeting for those interested in participating in and influencing the election of candidates. Caucuses kick off the next two years of political activity.

### WHO CAN PARTICIPATE/ATTEND?

According to Minnesota State Statute (202A.16) a person can participate and vote at a precinct caucus if they: Are or will be eligible to vote in the next general election, reside in the precinct on the day the caucus is held, agree with the political party and its principles and have not or will not participate in another political party's caucus in the same year.

If a person does not want to participate, they can still attend. The only requirement to attend is that the observer must sign a registration form.

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