

# THE EXPONENT

East Grand Forks' Community Newspaper



**Friday,**  
January 27  
High 28 Low 9 Partly Cloudy

**Saturday,**  
January 28  
High 17 Low -6 Flurries

**Sunday,**  
January 29  
High 13 Low 10 Partly Cloudy

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\$1.00

## Council ponders State legislative priorities

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East Grand Forks is a member of the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC).

Every year the CGMC sponsors a "Greater Minnesota at the Capital Day," during which representatives of Greater Minnesota cities are given the opportunity to meet with State Legislators to discuss issues important to local government.

This year the annual event falls on Wednesday, February 8, in the State Capital in St. Paul.

During yesterday's Council work session, City Administrator Scott Huizenga suggested five issues that Council members might consider discussing with State Legislators on February 8.

In a memorandum to the Council dated January 19, 2012, Huizenga listed the five issues as Bonding - Waste Water Improvements Phase II, Local Government Aid (LGA), Street Improvement Districts, Mandate Relief, and Oppose Supermajority Constitutional Amendments.

### Bonding

Reconstructing the City's sanitary sewer system was designed as a two phase project. Phase I, the replacement of sewer lines and the repair and replacement of lift station pumps has been completed.

Phase II was originally conceived as the replacement of the City's sewage lagoon and settling pond system, but that was set aside during the Council's discussion of the possibility of sending the City's sewage to the Grand Forks sewage treatment plant, commonly referred to as the Interconnect Project.

When the Interconnect Project was vetoed by Mayor Lynn Stauss,

the Council's attention returned to replacing the City's sewage lagoon and settling pond system, and how the City could pay the costs associated with such a project.

In his January 19 memorandum Huizenga discussed potential funding sources for the Waste Water Phase II project when he wrote, "The City continues to discuss options for a potential Waste Water Phase II project, which primarily addresses improvements to the City's waste water treatment facility. Current estimates range from \$7 - 13 million depending upon project scope.

"Project funding options include low-interest borrowing from the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (PFA); and potential state bonding. Currently the City is in the PFA's Intended Use Plan (IUP). The City used PFA loan funding for Phase I improvements, which totaled approximately \$4.2 million."

After discussing how the City had to raise single family, multi-family, and commercial meter rates to finance Phase I of the City's waste water project, Huizenga discussed a similar approach to finance Phase II of the project and wrote:

"Using similar assumptions, rates would have to increase again by \$10 - 15 per month on single-family homes in order to finance Phase II improvements without supplemental funding."

### Local Government Aid

Local Government Aid (LGA) constitutes a substantial portion of the City's revenue stream. Explaining why LGA is an issue that Council members need to discuss with State Legislative leaders Huizenga

**Council**

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## SNOBALL 2012



photo by Bruce Brierley

Senior High held their annual Snoball Coronation Tuesday morning. Those in the Court included: Seated are (L to R) Seniors Jake Schiller, Tyler Hajicek (king), and Zach Lawdermilt. 2nd row (L to R) Freshman attendant Cameron Pederson, Sophomore attendant Luke Beito, Escorts Alexia Meyer, Alyssa Mitzel, Kylie Melby, Laurel Peabody, Lilly Mankie, Rachel Kuznia, Lisa Yanish, Junior attendant Ryan Hammargren.



### 2012 SPEECH MEET

The 2012 speech season begins this Saturday in East Grand Forks. The EGF American Legion/VFW Speech tournament on Saturday, January 28. It is free and the public is welcome to attend. First round begins at 9 a.m. and the tournament runs until 1 p.m. with awards around 2 p.m. in the PAC.

## Northern Lights Figure Skating Club hosts competition

20th annual competition held at EGF Civic Center and VFW Memorial Arena



photo by Bruce Brierley

The Northern Lights Figure Skating Club hosted the 20th annual Northern Star International and Synchro Competition this past weekend. Pictured are members of the Comets Tots Beginners Synchro team of East Grand Forks.

The 20th Annual Northern Star International Individual and Synchro Competition was held in East Grand Forks this past weekend.

145 individual skaters competed in six different events: Free Skate, Artistic, Compulsory, Short Program, Spins and Solo Dance. Skaters range in age from 6-18.

Skaters came from Canada, East Grand Forks, Fergus Falls, Hibbing, Moorhead, Thief River Falls, Grand Forks, Jamestown, Devils Lake, Minot, Fargo, Bottineau, Wahpeton and Bismarck to compete.

15 Synchronized Skating Teams skated in levels from Tots Beginner through Open Juvenile. The skaters ranged in ages 5-21.

There were also approximately 50 Basic Skills Skaters competing. This competition helps promote a fun introductory competitive experience for the beginning skater. The Basic Skills Competition incorporates moves from the Basic Skills curriculum that promotes a competition experience at the introductory level.

There are 10 judges and officials coming from all over the United States. These individuals provide their skating expertise on a volunteer basis. NLFSC pays for all of their expenses to get them to this competition and while they are here for the duration of the competition. For results and more pictures from the event, see page eleven.



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