

wrote: "The state has cut the City's LGA by over \$2.0 million since 2008. The (State's) projected deficit is projected at over \$1.5 billion for the next biennium. LGA funding has been cut over \$1 billion at the state level since 2003.

"The 2012 Certified LGA is identical to 2011, which was already cut nearly 20 percent from previous levels. The Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) has adopted an LGA stance that recommends no further cuts to LGA."

**Street Improvement Districts**

The third issue that Huizenga suggested City Council members discuss with State Legislators concerns the manner in which street and other roadway construction and maintenance costs are funded.

Currently, most of the City's construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of its streets and roadways are financed through special assessments, which means that the residents who reside on the street or roadway being constructed, reconstructed, or maintained pay for such work.

Discussion of creating a Municipal Street Improvement District Authority, as an alternative to special assessments, has been going on for quite some time as evidenced by a 2009 League of Minnesota Cities Bulletin which states:

"The League of Minnesota Cities supports legislation that would give cities the authority to collect fees from property owners to fund municipal

street maintenance, construction, reconstruction, and facility upgrades.

"Municipal street improvement district authority would give cities a tool that would allow maintenance and reconstruction to be performed on schedule. Timely maintenance is essential to preserving city streets, thereby protecting taxpayer investments.

"Cities rely on general revenues (including state aids) and special assessments to fund street maintenance. Consequently, many cities are currently deferring maintenance because of tight budgets and volatile economic conditions."

In his January 19 memorandum, City Administrator Huizenga wrote, "Street Improvement District legislation would allow cities to voluntarily raise revenue through alternative means that could finance street improvements and maintenance. Property taxes alone generally do not provide adequate revenue streams for proper street maintenance."

On April 7, 2009, the City Council passed a resolution requesting, ". . . that the Minnesota Legislature provide authority for the City of East Grand Forks to create a street improvement district. . . ." The City's request was not granted.

**Mandate Relief**

State rules and regulations list page after page of programs that the City must implement or reports that the City must compile and send to the State. Such programs and reports are mandatory and are collectively referred to as

"mandates."

Unfortunately, the State seldom pays the City to implement the program or to compile the report, requiring the cost of such activities to be taken out of the City's operating budget.

In his January 19 memorandum Huizenga wrote, "The State imposes numerous mandates and restrictions that increasingly burden cities as budgets become tighter. Chief among these mandates is the state Pay Equity and Comparable Worth statutes.

"The City unequivocally supports the concept of 'equal pay for equal work.' However, the specific reporting requirements and antiquated computational formulas provide undue administrative burdens in Cities with limited resources. Pay equity in its current form should be repealed."

**Oppose Supermajority Constitutional Amendments**

Describing the fifth issue that City Council members should consider discussing with State Legislative leaders, Huizenga wrote, "Legislators have discussed several constitutional amendment proposals in the upcoming session.

"One proposal would amend the (State) Constitution so that any revenue increase would require a supermajority (60 percent or more) of both Houses in the legislature.

"Limited state revenues will push further service costs to local governments through decreased state aids and higher fees. The City opposes 'budgeting through the Constitution.'"

**Local students graduate from UMC**

The Office of the Registrar at the University of Minnesota, Crookston recently announced its list of fall semester 2011 graduates. Students completed their degree requirements during fall semester 2011. Graduates are listed below with their degree(s) earned.

**From East Grand Forks:** Scott L Johnson, Golf and Turf Mgmt B S and Horticulture BS;

**From Fisher:** Joshua W Koch, Manufacturing Management B M M and Marketing BS.

The University of Minnesota, Crookston enrolls ap-

proximately 1,600 full-time students and is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The U of M, Crookston is a four-year baccalaureate degree granting institution, dedicated to learning, discovery and engagement in northwest Minnesota.

**UND Dean's List released**

The University of North Dakota Deans' list includes students whose grade point averages are in the top 15 percent of the enrollment in each of the University's degree granting colleges and schools. A student must have completed no fewer than 12 semester hours of academic work for the semester, of which eight or more hours must be graded work rather than "satisfactory/unsatisfactory."

Here, listed alphabetically by hometown, are the students who made the win-

ter 2011 list:

**East Grand Forks** - Jeremy Bancroft, Chelsey Beito, Joshua Blair, Fangjian Chen, Molly Driscoll, Stephanie Gagelin, Scott Jensen, Danielle Johnson, Joshua Johnson, Joseph Kulas, Christopher Laue, Daryl Mathsen, Brendan Mochoruk, Clyde Morris, Devon Olson, David Pesch, Samantha Reimer, Dayna Rothenbacher, Abby Schoenborn, Ashley Schomer, Ted Solem, David Steffen, Caitlin Wagner;

**Fisher** - Laura Knox;

**Oslo** - Kendra Nagle, Anna Young.

**NDSU releases Fall 2011 Dean's List**

Area Minnesota students were among the 3,128 North Dakota State University students to be placed on the fall 2011 dean's list.

A student must earn a 3.50 grade point average or higher and be enrolled in at least 12 class credits to qualify.

Students are listed by hometown. Students' majors also are listed.

East Grand Forks -Keely N. Campos, Public Relations and Advertising; Emily G. Custer, Music; Morgan L. Kaiser, Nursing; Jason A. Pecka, Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering;

Ashley A. Tingelstad, Human Development and Family Sci.; David J. Vanyo, Social Science Education;

Fisher - Andrew J. Knox, Agricultural Systems Management; Samuel J. Wagner, Crop and Weed Sciences;

Oslo - Cody T. Kallock, Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering; Laura K. Nelson, Exercise Science; Marit Simonsen-Paschke, Agribusiness;

Warren - Keaton B. Laymon, Natural Resources Management; Justin J. Linder, Mechanical Engineering; Benjamin J. Rehder, Civil Engineering.

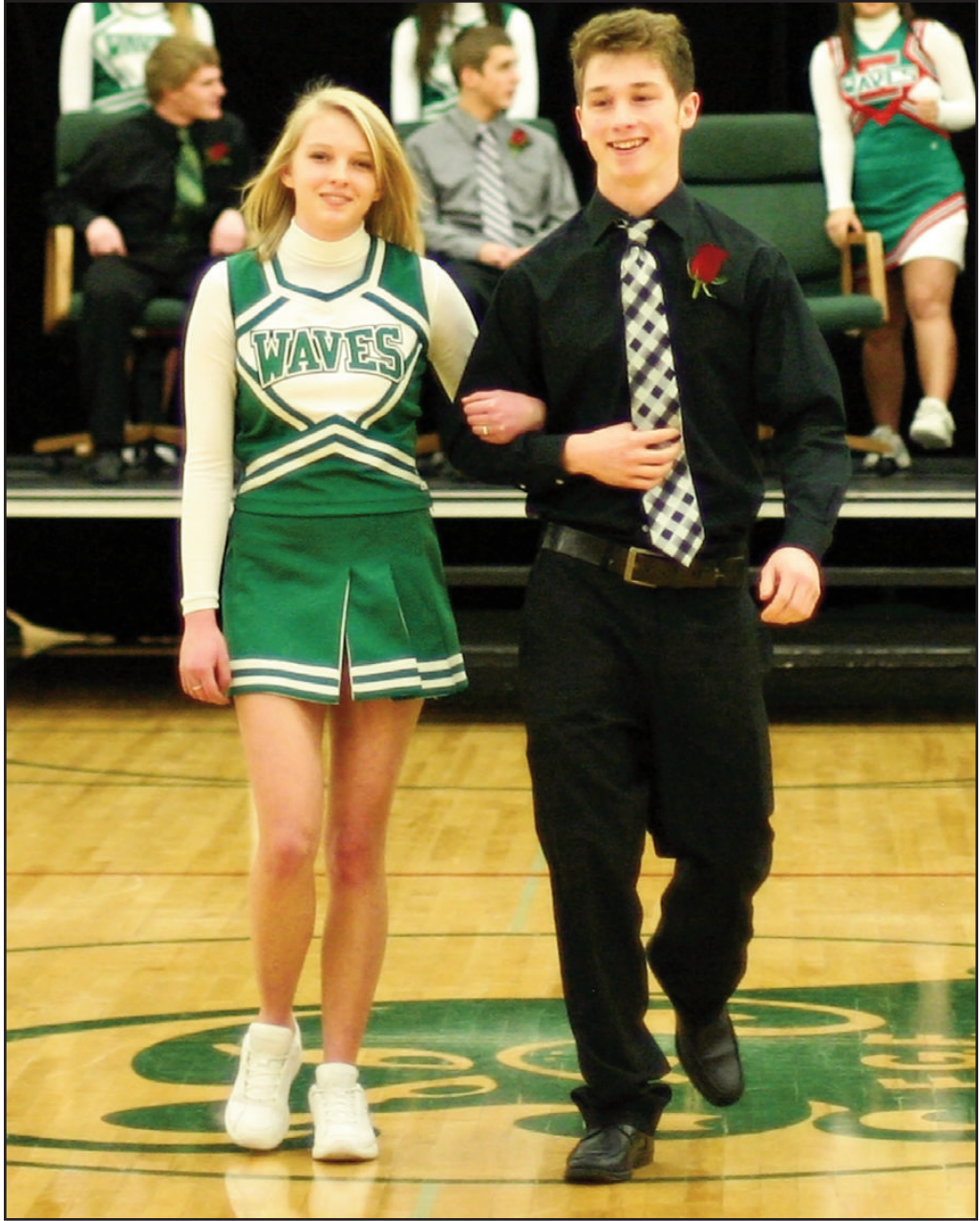


photo by Bruce Brierley  
**Kylie Melby escorts Jake Schiller from the Snoball Coronation Tuesday morning.**



photo by Bruce Brierley  
**Laurel Peabody escorts King Tyler Hajicek from the Snoball Coronation Tuesday morning.**

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 Saturday February 18 / 5 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.

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