



RED WING REPUBLICAN EAGLE



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RED WING, MINNESOTA

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Weekend

Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 2015 • \$1²⁵

A flock of surprises

Annual bird count has some unusual sightings/ **1B**

Winterfest is back

Lake City revives long-standing festival/ **7A**

Mattea coming here

Country singer dips into Appalachian roots / **3B**

GCED short \$670,000 for building

By John R. Russett

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A \$670,000 budget shortfall for the River Bluff Education Center has the Goodhue County Education District exploring alternative funding options to close the gap as construction continues.

Lake City was added to the list of GCED member districts, which includes Cannon Falls, Goodhue, Kenyon-Wanamingo, Red Wing and Zumbrota-Mazeppa public schools, around the time GCED issued its certificates of participation for building debt.

Lake City's addition to the district added approximately 4,000 square feet to the building, which increased line items across the board, according to GCED business manager Jackie Paradis. The use of a funding model conceived prior to the building's expansion resulted in the is-

suance of less debt than was required to cover the inflated costs.

Until another funding source is approved, Paradis said, the district has pulled money from items later in the process to fund the ongoing construction.

"We have been shifting budget costs around to

help cover construction costs right now," she said.

Despite the funding gap, the new building across the parking lot from Red Wing High School remains on budget, GCED Executive Director Cherie Johnson said.

Paradis said member district boards gave

GCED the authority to issue more certificates of participation for a higher amount of debt than were issued.

"We had the authority, we didn't exercise it," Johnson said. "So all of the boards gave us the au-

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Citizens group to talk Zip Rail

Meeting set for 5 p.m. Feb. 5

By Michael Brun

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A group of residents in the path of the proposed Zip Rail high-speed passenger line from Rochester to the Twin Cities will meet Thursday in Red Wing to share research on the controversial project.

Concerned About Rail Line was formed last fall after the summerlong Zip Rail public comment period. Members hold regular meetings on the first Thursday of the month.

Among the topics for discussion will be the finalized Zip Rail scoping document released Jan. 20 by the Minnesota Department of Transportation — which CCARL founding member Nora Bryson Felton said fails to adequately spell out the need for the line.

"If I don't need something, I'm not going to buy it," Felton said, pointing out the lack of an official cost estimate and projected ridership numbers in the report.

The scoping document cites population and employment growth in southeastern Minnesota, spurred largely by biomedical and high-tech jobs in Rochester, and "limited direct and convenient transportation connectivity opportunities" to the area from the Twin Cities as the basis for the project.

Cost and ridership estimates will be included in a Service Development Plan, part of the Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement scheduled for completion in 2015, according to the document.

Two options are being considered for south of the Twin Cities: an eastern route following U.S. Highway 52 passing by Cannon Falls, Wanamingo, Zum-

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Kathleen Rick, left, makes a puzzle with the help of Susie Bordson. The two spend many hours together each day at the ProAct day care center and have developed a special relationship. (Photo by Sandy Hadler, contributor)

Caring for, by adults all day long

By Sandy Hadler

Contributor

ZUMBROTA — One person can make a difference, as Anne Niles of Zumbrota learned when she asked if ProAct, an agency that has served disabled people for over 40 years, provided adult day care.

Niles is a nurse and hoped to enroll her aunt, who had come from Minneapolis to live with her family a year ago in September. She was told that ProAct did not have adult day care in Zumbrota. But Zumbrota site manager Jo Erickson took her request seriously. She said it is ProAct's mission to increase independence for all people, and adult day care fits that need.

The Eagan ProAct site has adult day care, so Zumbrota used it as an example to follow. It was a lengthy procedure that took over a year to get licensing from the state of Minnesota.

ProAct, located on Main Street in Zumbrota, is a nonprofit agency that serves disabled people in Goodhue County. The day care program serves people who are 55 and up, and is customized to individuals' needs.

Niles' aunt, Kathleen Rick, is the first person to attend the adult day care program in Zumbrota. She began attending last September.

Fortunately for her, Susie Bordson began working at the site on Aug. 5, a few weeks before Rick was enrolled, and the two have de-

veloped a special bond. Bordson has seven years of experience working at River View in Wanamingo, an agency that also serves disabled clients.

Rick was making a puzzle in the activity room and she said, "We have fun don't we, Susie."

Bordson responded, "Yes, we have a lot of fun together."

Rick's days are filled with numerous activities. She makes puzzles and loves to paint and color. Her artwork, which is meticulously done, is hung around the activity room. Rick made 74 Christmas cards for soldiers who are overseas. It took her two weeks to make the cards and each one was different.

She participates in an exercise program, and helps the staff teach nutrition through the distribution of healthful snacks. She makes beaded jewelry and helps other clients to bowl and play bingo. She also does community service, and volunteers to fill weekend food bags for needy students at Zumbrota-Mazeppa schools.

Rick proudly noted that she won three Memory games in a row the Friday before she

"This program has been a godsend for our family."

ANNE NILES
Zumbrota

was interviewed. She laughed and said, "And Susie's got a game called Trouble. It's fun."

When weather permits, the two women enjoy walking, and often go to Casey's or to Hub Food Center to pick up food items. They also shop in Rochester for things that ProAct needs.

"Day care gives me something to do," Rick said. "I talk to people. I have lots of nice friends here, and I have lots of fun with Susie and Jared (her physical therapist)."

ProAct also has sites in Red Wing and Hudson. Sixteen people are licensed to work in Zumbrota, and up to 12 more, who are licensed through the other ProAct agencies, join them in Zumbrota, when needed.

Anyone interested in enrolling an elderly person in day care should contact Goodhue County Social Services to see if that person qualifies for an elder waiver.

Erickson said there must be a need for the person to attend. That may be a disability, or a need to socialize with others.

While Rick attends day care all day Monday through Friday and eats at the site, each client's program is tailored to individual needs.

"This program has been a godsend for our family," Niles said.

"Aunt Kathy is very social and was very isolated before this. This is so good for her. She is loving every minute of it. She feels needed and has many new friends. It is good to see her smiling again."

Today's obituaries
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Richard Dougherty, 68
Ellen Varnado, 81
Donald Rohrer, 88
Robert Kastner, 76

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