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Cashton's Zack Mlsna.  
Photo by Logan Everson.

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## QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? CONCERNS?

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Over 4,000 people visited the Snowflake Ski Club's Ski Jump in Westby over the weekend. Visitor's from as far as Norway were in attendance to cheer on their own countrymen. Photo by Kyle Evans.

# Cheers to 100 Years

By Shane Verken  
Staff Writer

Despite the frigid temperatures, the festivities at the Snowflake Ski Jump tournament were not halted on Friday and Saturday. The festivities began on Friday night with the opening ceremony at 6:30pm with a tournament on a lit-up hill directly after. In this tournament, Michael Glasder from the Norge Ski Club took first in the Masters division with a score of 237.5. Anna Zigman from the Minneapolis Ski Club took first in the Female US Cup with a score of 105.2. Isak Nichols from the Norge Ski Club took first in the Male US Cup with a score of 190.5. Finally, in the Senior division, Patrick Gasienica, also from the Norge Ski Club, took first with a score of 252.6.

On Saturday, the conditions became a bit more manageable with the recorded hill temperature going up to 30 degrees, as opposed to the 4 degrees from Friday. The improved weather shows in some of the first place winners scores with Anna Zigman improving her score to 122.9 in the Under 20 Female division. Isak Nichols also improved his previous total going up to 205.6 in his jump in the Under 20 Male division. Patrick Gasienica also jumped in score on Saturday with a total of 260.6 in the Senior division. The only first place winner to end up with a lower score was Michael Glasder whose score lowered to 202.6 in the Masters division. If you

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Loren Oldenberg and Brad Pfaff present Matt Keuler, of the Snowflake Ski Club and Tommy Elefson, President of the Snowflake Ski Club with a plaque celebrating the Snowflake Ski Club's 100th year.

## Record high need for counseling at Cashton School District

By Marcus VonRuden  
Staff Writer

There has been an ongoing increase in students seeking counseling for the past several years at Cashton Middle/High School.

This is unfortunately a common trend among surrounding districts, and likely many more. To combat the alarming increase, the Cashton School District hired a second guidance counselor, Jessica Lepak, who started in time for the 2021-2022 school year. This allowed Greg Stritchko of the Cashton Middle/High School to split his work load and focus on the emotional counseling responsibilities that come

with his job, while Lepak focuses on most of the other responsibilities such as career and enrollment counseling. Despite the efficient teamwork, Stritchko continues to see more and more students every semester. Compared to the 2021-2022 school year, Stritchko is now tasked with helping more than double the number of students.

Although he is not able to diagnose anything, Stritchko has over 10 years of experience as a counselor at Cashton, and finds the best ways to help students face their issues. Stritchko's work is what's known as "tier 1 counseling." Many students are able to resolve their issues at this tier, but

if their situation worsens, they are typically moved to "tier 2", which still involves Stritchko's counseling, as well as a referred counselor with necessary specialties.

Unfortunately, it can be very difficult to get a counselor in a timely manner and with the appropriate specialties partly due to the heavy influx of students seeking counseling.

The most dramatic influx took place in the Fall of 2020 once students could get in-person counseling again. It doesn't take a professional to surmise that the online learning environment took a heavy toll on many students and

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Kimberly Everhart (Alex's mom) on the left presented the check in memory of Alex Everhart to Cashton Village clerk Tammy Bekkum while Kim's grandson Asher Stephenson looked on. Contributed photo.

## Splash pad fundraising kicks off with \$1,500

Contributed Article

The Village of Cashton received the first donation early in January for the inclusive splash pad project. Nasa of Tomah is

working with the village on the project by writing grants and assisting with fundraising efforts.

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## TAX TIME IS HERE

With tax time upon us, have you thought about ways to:

1. Lower your taxable income?
2. Increase your retirement income tax-deferred?
3. Save for your child's education tax-free?

Many of your tax problems may be solved by opening an IRA. Stop by today and learn about wide variety of options available at the Bank of Cashton.