

St. Joseph Newsleader

Friday, Jan. 12, 2018
Volume 30, Issue 2
Est. 1989

Town Crier

**Fare for All
set Jan. 15**
Fare for All's next distribution will be from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 15 at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2, St. Joseph. Fare for All is a budget-stretching program that allows people to save up to 40 percent off fresh fruits, vegetables and frozen meats. Distribution is once a month. This event is open to everyone who wants to stretch their grocery dollar. Cash, credit, debit cards and EBT cards are accepted. For more information please visit our website at fareforall.org or call 1-800-582-4291.

**Library sponsors
winter reading program**
Young people are reading up a storm during "Read on the Wild Side," a winter reading program for teens and adults sponsored by the Great River Regional Library system. The program, which started last week and will end Feb. 28, encourages young people to read at least five books during that time frame. Those who do are eligible for prizes provided by the St. Cloud Friends of the Library organization. Participants must be in sixth grade or older. To register for the reading program, go to any GRRL branch library or register online at griver.org and then check griver.org/events to see what kinds of programs and activities are happening at a library near you.

Water line freeze
While the City of St. Joseph is not experiencing any frozen water lines at this time, the city engineer would like to remind residents to be mindful of long periods of extreme cold weather and the impact to service lines. If the temperatures becomes extreme, residents are encouraged to run a stream of water about as thick as a pencil. The city will make every effort to notify residents via the website, cable access and local newspapers should there be a threat of service lines freezing.

**Skating rink
now open**
The Memorial Park skating rink is open for the season. The rink may be used for both hockey and recreational skaters. A warming house will also be available from 4-8 p.m. Monday-Friday and from noon-8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

For additional criers, visit www.thenewsleaders.com and click on Criers.

2017 Year in Review – Part 1 Filled with growth, changes for St. Joseph

by Vicki Ikeogu
news@thenewsleaders.com

It's been a year of transitions for both the people and the city of St. Joseph. The following are just some of the highlights of the year as culled from the 50 issues of the *St. Joseph Newsleader* during the past year.
(The Year in Review: Part 1 covering January-June was featured in the Jan. 5 edition of the Newsleader and may be read in its entirety by visiting thenewsleaders.com.)

July
Cider lovers rejoice as Cold Spring-based Milk and Honey Ciders prepares to open a cider house on CR 51 in St. Joseph. Owners Peter Gillitzer, Aaron Klocker and Adam Theis said the expansion into St. Jo-

seph would allow them to increase their orchard's production capability and offer a fun atmosphere for cider drinkers to gather.
Thousands descended on the city to celebrate Independence Day with the two-day Joetown Rocks festivities. July 3 had featured a night full of music including a tribute to the late Bobby Vee. The Fourth of July featured a 103-unit parade full of vehicles, floats and trucks.
The St. Joseph Joes are having a great season so far, taking first place in the Sauk Valley League. The team is off to a 7-4 start, but all of the losses were in non-league play so technically those losses don't count.
Bikers along the Lake Wobegon Trail might have noticed a new addition. The Lake Wobegon Trails Association along with the local Li-

YIR • back page

Baby boomers jive to classic songs

by Dennis Dalman
editor@thenewsleaders.com

There were no signs of memory loss or creaky brains at the Sartell Senior Center recently – oh no! – not when Thom Woodward shared dozens of musical blasts from the past.
Nearly 40 senior citizens tapped their feet, and many of them sang along, remembering lyrics word-for-word from old classic rock 'n' roll songs. Some looked eager, as if they were about to jump up and start dancing The Twist or the Wild Watusi.
"Oh yes, remember that one?!" grinning spouses said to spouses or to people sitting at their tables.

Said one man: "I was a senior in high school when that was a hit. We used to dance to it ("Bye Bye Love" by the Everly Brothers)."
The name of Woodward's presentation, which was peppered with snatches of recorded songs, was "Rocking and Rolling Through the Greatest Years of Rock: A History and a Claim."
Woodward, who lives in Sartell, is a lifelong passionate music buff, assistant baseball coach at St. John's University and former director of alumni relations for SJU.
His "claim," as he calls it, is that the years from September 1962 to June 1966 were the great-



photo by Dennis Dalman
The Rifle Guard of the American Legion of St. Joseph proudly leads the St. Joseph Fourth of July Parade as huge crowds all along the parade route applaud loudly. The parade attracted many thousands of people to St. Joseph, with crowds lining the route in some places seven and eight rows wide and spilling into side streets for lack of room.

est years in rock 'n' roll history because of the sheer number of creative singers-songwriters and bands, as well as the remarkable smash hits during that time. To prove his claim, Woodward used statistics culled from extensive research.
But before launching into his claim, he outlined the history of music that led up to the rock 'n' roll revolution. First, in the 1940s and early 1950s, there were Afro-American jump-blues and jazz, elements of gospel singing, boogie-woogie, rhythm-and-blues. Those forms of music, along with elements of country music, cross-bred so to speak, eventually leading to rock 'n'

roll performed by both black and white singers and bands.
Rock 'n' roll is a jolting dose of sound and energy, driven by a backbeat (usually snare drum), as well as electric guitars and sung with attitudes of cheeky naughtiness and in-your-face rebellion, often raucously shouted or wheezed in voices that break all the rules of "proper" singing.
Many of the songs were – and are -- drenched with suggestive words and phrases, a fact that drove some parents nearly crazy in the early years of rock – and even later, even now. Woodward played snatches of songs from early – mostly black – musical in-

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CSB/SJU nursing students train to help prevent diabetes



contributed photo
College of St. Benedict and St. John's University nursing students from 2017 meet in small groups to discuss the characteristics of a lifestyle coach. Sixty nursing students will train in January to be lifestyle coaches for the "I CAN Prevent Diabetes" prevention program.

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

With the start of a new year, many people are making some new year's resolutions to get and stay healthier. One of those choices could include some classes being offered in the area with the Diabetes Prevention Program.
Sixty nursing students from the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University will train in January to be Lifestyle coaches for the "I CAN Prevent Diabetes" prevention program.
Paula Woischke, a

healthy-aging coordinator with CentraCare Health System, said more than 20 I CAN Prevent Diabetes workshops will begin Jan. 22 throughout the St. Cloud area.
"We are working on getting the word out about the opportunity and recruiting participants," she said.
Julie Strelow, associate professor of the College of St. Benedict/St. John's Nursing Department, said it's important for nursing students to engage in health promotion and primary prevention. She said

Diabetes • page 3

People

Lions Club names award recipients; Carlson takes highest honor

The St. Joseph Lions Club held its annual awards ceremony Dec. 19 at the new Millstream Park shelter.

Awards were presented by Joseph Bechtold, president, assisted by Matt Killam, awards committee chairman, and Donna Hoskins, secretary.

Lions highest award, the Melvin Jones Fellowship, was presented to Lion Doug Carlson. He was recognized for his extensive involvement with the city in planning and designing the new facility at Millstream Park. He was also recognized for his work in Guatamala installing stoves for people in need during several weeks there on that project.

Terry Thene, St. Joseph maintenance director, was presented the Helen Keller award for his work coordinating with city planners and the Lions Club in development of the Millstream Park community gathering shelter.

Lions members who received the Helen Keller award were Hoskins, Killam, Ralph Meyer, Nate Molitor and Art Reischl. All were recognized for their work in club projects such as brat sales, St. John’s food service help, fundraiser dinners, the annual parade and numerous committees.

Lions Joanne Bechtold and Kyle Jensen were presented the Lions Leader Dog award. Both have provided leadership in fundraising activities and other club events. Jensen has served as brat sales chairman for several years, organizing each event and supervising their completion. Joanne Bechtold has co-chaired the annual Fourth of July parade for a number of years and schedules involvement for all other club activities.

Lion Joe Bechtold was presented the Dream Catcher award in recognition of his leadership as president for the past two years. He also served as a Fourth of July parade committee co-chair for many years and on many committees usually as chairman.

Lions Scott Bloch, Fran Court and Ken Stommes were presented the Lions Top Dog award. Bloch

was recognized for his work in organizing and maintaining historical records and files as club historian and information officer. Stommes was recognized for his many years of involvement in organizing fundraiser dinners, auctions and for his work as Fourth of July parade chairman for many years.

Lion Jim Meyer was presented the Hearing Research Fellowship in recognition of his effective management of club finance activities for numerous years. Prior to serving as club treasurer Lion Meyer was the District 5M8 Governor.

Service chevrons for years of service were presented to Lion Joanne Bechtold and Sue Kuefler (10 years), Len Walz (15 years), Kyle Schneider (20 years), Steve Shirber and Pete Jansky (25 years) and Fran Court (40 years).

The final presentation of the awards night was a \$5,000 check to the St. Joseph Food Shelf Director Ann Scherer by Lions President Joe Bechtold.



contributed photo

Lion Doug Carlson (center) receives the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award from Matt Killam (left), Lions committee chair, and Joe Bechtold, Lions president.

Lions International names Peace Poster Contest winners

Twenty students from the North Junior High seventh-grade art class have entries in the International Lions annual Peace Poster Contest. The entries were judged by the St. Joseph Lions Club at a recent meeting. First-place winner Elizabeth Ernst received \$75, second-place winner Jayden McCain received \$50, and third-place winner (tie) Jacynl Khongloth and Tamala Savatdy each received \$25. The first-place poster was submitted to District 5MB for further competition; the ultimate winner worldwide is determined by Lions International with all competition starting at the club level.



Lions Peace Poster Contest first-place winner by Elizabeth Ernst.

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Published each Friday by Von Meyer Publishing Inc.

Publisher/Owner Janelle Von Pinnon	Editor: Dennis Dalman	Advertising Sales Jan Glandon
Social Relations & Design Patric Lewandowski	Assignment Editor Carolyn Bertsch	Delivery John Herring
	Operations Assistant Rachel Mohs	

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P.O. Box 324 • 32 1st Ave. N.W. • St. Joseph, Minn. 56374
Phone: (320) 363-7741 • Fax: (320) 363-4195 • E-mail: news@thenewsleaders.com
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ST. JOSEPH NEWSLEADER, P.O. Box 324, St. Joseph, MN 56374.

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Jack Frost temp doesn't deter Polar Run Club

by Vicki Ikeogu
news@thenewsleaders.com

It's a chilly December Saturday morning in Sartell. The thermometer has dipped to around 18 degrees. Fluffy snowflakes are slowly falling as the gentle breeze assists them on their descent to the frost-covered ground.

The air is crisp. Most people would be cuddled under a blanket, enjoying a warm beverage and getting ready to plan their weekend. But for eight local women, Saturday mornings from mid-November to April are spent hitting the paved trails in and around Lion's Community Park in Sartell.

"It's all about being prepared," said Tami Huberty. "Hats, gloves, mittens, leggings. You have to dress in layers."

Now in its second year, the Polar Run Club is giving women the chance to continue developing their running stamina and endurance throughout the winter months.

"A lot of us enjoy running

(outside) during the winter," Huberty said. "And we will be out there running unless it feels like the temperature gets down to zero."

Starting with an 8 a.m. stretching and warm-up session, the group of women sets out on the course, running and/or walking anywhere between three and 13 miles during the morning before gathering for coffee and camaraderie at a local coffee shop.

"We get out there and run and jut have a good time," Huberty said.

The Polar Run Club is an \$85, 22-week running class offered by St. Cloud/Sartell Moms on the Run. Moms on the Run, founded in 2008 by Forest Lake resident Karissa Johnson, is an organization designed to help moms in particular get back into shape after having a baby.

Huberty started the local chapter in the spring of 2015.

"Moms on the Run is actually geared toward teaching women how to run," Huberty said. "We do have quite a few women who are



photo by Vicki Ikeogu

Members of the Polar Run Club including the following (from left to right) Stephanie Cone of Sartell, Tami Huberty of Sartell, Kimberly Johnson of St. Cloud, Melanie Neubauer of St. Stephen, Lisa Van Diest of Rice and Linda Warnert of St. Joseph pose for a photo before their weekly winter run in Sartell. The group is part of the St. Cloud/Sartell Moms on the Run organization's Polar Run Club.

new to running. But a lot of our members are training for races."

And with major races, including St. Cloud's Earth Day run starting as early as April, Huberty said winter is

no time for these athletes to take a break.

"I think the biggest thing about this is people want to continue running," Huberty said. "And that's our goal."

Huberty chose to continue the Moms on the Run outdoor running throughout the winter for three reasons.

"Running indoors on a track is very monotonous," Huberty said. "And running on a treadmill really isn't a natural way of running. It's not very good for different muscle groups. Plus, it's more fun to be able to run with others."

Huberty said students in the Polar Run Club learn how to properly protect their bodies during the frigid temperatures.

"The main focus is on

keeping the core warm," she said.

In addition, she said athletes need to remember just like running in extreme heat, extreme cold can affect the pace.

"The ultimate running temperature is 60 degrees," she said. "You are going to run a lot slower if the temperature is a lot warmer or cooler than that."

But more than anything, Huberty said Polar Run Club students learn the value of friendship through the sharing of fitness goals in frigid temperatures.

"For me, it's about being held accountable," she said. "(The Polar Run Club) is not a race. It's all about exercising and having fun while doing it."

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Jive

from front page

fluences, before rock ‘n’ roll was officially “born”: Louis Jordan’s “Choo-Choo Ch-Boogie,” Arthur “Big Boy” Crudup’s “That’s All Right, Mama” (later a hit for Elvis Presley), Ruth Brown’s “Tear-drops from my Eyes” and Big Mama Thornton’s “Hound Dog” (also a later Elvis hit).

Woodward noted the great bluesman Muddy Waters, sometimes considered the grandfather of rock, once said, “The Blues had a baby and they called it Rock ‘n’ Roll.”

First rock song?

The first rock ‘n’ roll song is considered by most music scholars to be “Rock Around the Clock” by Bill Haley and His Comets. That song blared, full-blast on the soundtrack of a 1955 movie of the same name. The Beatles recalled seeing that movie, hearing that song in a movie theater in Liverpool when they were young teenagers and how that song, that explosive, in-your-face, exhilarating sound knocked their socks off and led to their career.

Elvis, who combined rhythm-and-blues with white Southern-style rockabilly, exploded on the international scene in 1956 with a smash-hit rocker named “Heartbreak Hotel.” His enormous fame and controversy rapidly spread, and he became known as the King of Rock ‘n’ Roll. Soon, on radio stations and record stores, rock ‘n’ roll was ubiquitous, with a mass youth following and with music-dance shows on TV like Dick Clark’s long-running *American Bandstand*.

Woodward noted the “raw” sound of early rock ‘n’ roll alarmed so many parents that companies began to market “safer” singers. The rough, rebellious, erotic “edge” of rock ‘n’ roll began to be replaced, commercially, with a counter-culture of less abrasive teen idols such as Tommy Sands, Paul Anka and Fabian. Such toned-down pretty-boy singers, with their slick-and-shiny pompadour hair-dos, swept many teeny-boppers off their feet, as did young female singers like Connie Francis, Brenda Lee and “girl groups” like The Shirelles.

More influences

In the early 1960s, more mu-

sical blending began to happen with rock ‘n’ roll taking on elements of folk music, poetic lyrics, new instruments – all influences developed by Bob Dylan and the Beatles and by dozens of bands in Britain, the Beatles and Rolling Stones among them – a cultural phenomenon know as the “British Invasion.”

And that, Woodward said, is about the time the greatest four years of rock/pop music began.

There were many styles of rock ‘n’ roll during those years: Motown, Soul, Memphis blues, Chicago blues, Folk-Rock, Surfing Rock and the Garage-Band sound of which Minnesota had lots of them who made, mostly, one-hit wonders like the zany (some would say crazy) “Surfin’ Bird” by The Trashmen of Minneapolis (“Well, everybody’s heard about the bird, b-b-b-bird, b-bird’s a word . . .”). Some music critics to this day consider that song a *sui generis* deranged surrealistic masterpiece. Woodward noted Minnesota’s garage bands, including The Trashmen, definitely made their mark during rock’s greatest four years. They also later influenced the punk-rock movement.

Top songs

Woodward noted during rock’s four greatest years, songs emerged that were not only huge hits but were – and still are – lauded critically.

In 2004, *Rolling Stone* magazine polled dozens of rock-music experts for a list of the 100 greatest rock/pop/country songs of all time. Five songs from 1965 made it into the top 30 on that song list:

Number one, the greatest, was “Like a Rolling Stone” by Bob Dylan, followed by number 2 “Satisfaction” by the Rolling Stones; number 13 “Yesterday” by the Beatles; number 24 “People Get Ready” by The Impressions; and number 29 “Help” by the Beatles.

The Beatles scored all of the top five Billboard hits, all at the same time, during a remarkable weeks’-long period in 1964. Other multiple hit-makers included the Dave Clark Five, Stevie Wonder, the Rolling Stones, the Beach Boys, Sam Cooke, Marvin Gaye, the Supremes, Aretha Franklin, the Byrds and so many more too numerous to mention.

Rolling Stone magazine also did a poll of the 50 most important performers in rock history. Twelve of the 20 most important, including the top five, were all



photo by Dennis Dalman

Thom Woodward (left) shares comments about classic rock/pop music with Sartell resident Jim Berg after Woodward’s presentation about what Woodward maintains are the four greatest years in rock-music history, 1962-1966. Woodward, a Sartell resident, is an assistant baseball coach for St. John’s University and a life-long music fan.

stars during the 1962-66 time period. The top five in order were the Beatles, Bob Dylan, Elvis Presley, the Rolling Stones and Chuck Berry. Although Woodward did not specifically mention it, the Beatles released some of their greatest albums in that four-year period, such as *Rubber Soul* and *Revolver*; and Bob Dylan’s influence was everywhere apparent on the musical scene with the power of his poetic lyrics, especially after his stunning trio

of influential masterwork albums from 1964-66: *Bringing It All Back Home*, *Highway 61 Revisited*, *Blonde on Blonde*.

Background

Woodward grew up in New Jersey and graduated from high school in the mid-1960s. Since his youngest days, Woodward has amassed a huge collection of records (45s and LPs), cassettes, VCRs, CDs and virtually every other type of recorded music and

video performances. He also owns a personal library of books, historical documents, valuable souvenirs and memorabilia of rock ‘n’ roll/pop music, all of which he loves to share with others.

That fact was obvious after his presentation at the Sartell Senior Center when many in the audience met with him to compare notes, reminisce about the old days and marvel about how rock-pop tunes were a daily part of all of their lives – and still are.

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Opinion

Our View

We can all help in fight against global warming

The recent blast of below-zero weather in the nation has been miserable but educational.

Many ask, “How can there be global warming when it’s so cold?”

Most people seem to be learning the difference between weather and climate, thanks to such excellent, factual information in the media during this recent cold snap.

Here are some of those facts:

- Climate is a global occurrence, with all its variations. Weather is a combination of several factors in a given region (temperature, humidity, wind and so forth).

- Colder-than-normal temperatures in one part of the planet, such as the cold blast in the East, does not invalidate global warming. On the contrary, global warming can change climate patterns that make one region on Earth much colder but much hotter in other regions. As of last year, the Earth had warmed up by about 2 degrees F. since 1880 when records began to be kept. That may sound like a piddling number, but it is actually very high – high enough to cause land ice to melt and oceans to rise.

- Green-house gas emissions, almost entirely human-made, have increased by 43 percent since pre-industrial times in the 1800s. Radioactivity is used to distinguish industrial emissions from natural emissions (such as forest fires). Yes, carbon-dioxide levels have increased and declined over thousands of years, but the studies show humans have been pumping green-house gas into the atmosphere at a hugely faster rate than the “natural” rate.

- In the next three decades, global warming is expected to cause more extreme weather. The signs are already here, such as coral reefs dying. Long-term effects of catastrophic global warming (and resulting weather changes) will cause more severe storms (as has already been seen), waves of refugees fleeing areas too hot or too wet for crop productions, extinctions of plants and animals and massive, irreversible flooding of coastal cities.

- Is there hope? Yes, but the hour is getting late. What is needed are clean-energy alternatives (wind, solar, hydro-electric), stricter fuel-efficiency standards, emissions limits for power plants. There have been some great advances toward those goals, thanks to new technologies and increasing awareness.

We can all help by becoming very conscious of the ways we use energy. For example, insulating homes to prevent heat loss; turning off lights when not needed; eating less meat; driving fewer miles; walking, biking or taking public transportation; spurning plastic packaging; supporting companies that make production changes that favor green-energy methods. Doing such simple but collectively effective lifestyle changes can do wonders to reduce green-house emissions and to raise awareness of what a fragile planet we live on – and share.

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The ideas expressed in the letters to the editor and of the guest columnists do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Newsleaders*.

Letters to the editor may be sent to news@thenewsleaders.com or P.O. Box 324, St. Joseph, MN 56374. Deadline is noon Monday. Please include your full name for publication (and address and phone number for verification only.) Letters must be 350 words or less. We reserve the right to edit for space.

Ghosts whisper at Beaver Lake cabins

One of the pleasures of interviewing people for stories are the “small-world” coincidences that pop up during the conversation.

I have often said most people do not really know one another very well, that some relationships are filled with really nifty blind connections that remain invisible.

There’s a name for this mysterious phenomenon. It’s called “six degrees of separation,” which means all people in the world are six or seven “links” away from one another and that somewhere along that “chain,” people can be connected in one way in just six or less connections. The links can be people they know or are related to paths they’ve crossed, places they’ve been, cities they’d lived in and so forth.

We reporters are highly aware of that phenomenon for the simple fact we ask lots and lots of questions when we interview people. Where were you born? Where did you grow up? Which schools did you attend? How did you meet your wife? What was her maiden name?

In decades of reporting, it’s always astonished me how many people I have interviewed, including people not living in this area, who grew up in St. Cloud – often in south St. Cloud, my boyhood neighborhood – and people who attended Tech High School or St. Cloud State University – some of them at the same time I did. Or people who grew up not far from Grandpa’s farm near Benson, where Mom was raised. So many people I’ve met who had Benson connections knew my aunts and uncles and cousins.

“What a small world it is,” they’d marvel when we’d learn of those coincidental links, popping up like ping-pong balls in

Dennis
Dalman

Editor



our talk.

If I had not asked so many questions, we never would have discovered those fun-to-ponder small-world coincidences.

Most recently, that happened when I was interviewing Bonnie Nies of Sartell for a story about her neighborhood’s annual tradition of Luminary Night.

It was a lot of fun to interview Bonnie because she is bright, lively and kind, with a keen sense of humor. How we got on the subject I cannot recall, but one of us, while meandering verbally down Memory Lane, mentioned Beaver Lake near Luxemburg.

“We used to spend a week every summer at Beaver Lake,” I said, “and those were some of the happiest times of my childhood.”

“You did?!” Bonnie gasped. “So did we!”

And then the flood gates of reminiscence burst open.

“Oh yes,” I said, teasing. “You must have been that sun-tanning beauty who was always lounging on the beach and wearing that skimpy yellow polka-dot bikini.”

She hooted with laughter.

“No, that would not have been me,” she said.

“Do you remember how parents wouldn’t let us swim until an hour after we ate?” I asked.

“Oh, my, do I ever,” she said, laughing.

Politicians need to cross divide

In recent weeks, much talk has centered around the Republican tax bill that was passed into law last year. Will it lower my taxes or not? Will it spur investment and economic growth? How much does it increase the deficit? These are all questions that have flown around as the country waits to see how things will be affected.

The finger-pointing is already flying around at usual pace, with the Democrats accusing Republicans of giving a cash boon to the rich and corporations while adding another trillion-and-a-half dollars to the deficit over 10 years. Republicans dismiss these claims and contend lowering corporate and individual tax rates will result in more spending and job creation.

In the midst of all of these arguments, it appears both sides of the aisle are living in different worlds. When Republicans were elected into the presidency and majorities in the House and Senate in 2016, they received a mandate from the voters to enact their policies. The House of Representatives has been very quick in moving on several pieces of legislation, but the real hold-up happens in the Senate. There, where the Republicans now hold 51 out of 100 seats, the threat of opposition filibusters causes bills to need 60, rather than just a simple majority (51) of votes to pass.

It would make sense then that this would result in some sort of compromise deals. But that would be wrong. Two things are preventing this from happening – the intransigence of even moderate Democratic senators to play ball with the

Connor
Kockler

Guest Writer



Republicans and the existence of a rule called budget reconciliation

You would think some Democratic senators, especially those in states Trump and Republicans won by large margins in 2016, would be willing to get on board with tax cuts and propose some of their own ideas to their Republican colleagues. Instead, under the strong direction of the Democratic leadership, all Democratic senators in December voted against a bill to lower taxes for many Americans.

This disappoints me, especially with our Minnesota senators, as now due to their insistence on “resisting” the Republicans rather than trying to tone down unfavored parts of the bill, Minnesotans could now suffer from being unable to deduct all of their state and local taxes above the new \$10,000 limit on their federal filing forms. Republicans certainly deserve blame, but so do our Democratic senators for not speaking up for our interests and offering their votes in exchange for changes that would be better for our state.

Another much criticized part of the tax bill, the “sunsetting” of the individual tax cuts in eight years, could have also been avoided by bipartisan work. Under the budget reconciliation rule I mentioned ear-

“They were sure we’d get a cramp and go right to the bottom.”

Then we shared memories of the little resort-bar just up from the beach, the married couple who owned it and how adults would sit there in its dim interior drinking beer, shooting the breeze, exchanging wisecracks. Meantime, we kids would be on the hot sand beach, sipping Coca-Cola from green-glass bottles, eating Switzer’s licorice, slurping on Popsicles, munching potato chips.

We Dalmans and our good neighbors, the Fahnhorsts, would spend a week in the cabins there every summer in the late 1950s, early 1960s.

“Have you seen those cabins now?” I asked Bonnie.

“Oh yes,” she said. “How sad they look. Really nothing left of them.”

Those five or six old small rustic wooden cabins, once so rough-hewn homely but cozy (especially in a thunder storm), are now sagging, rotting ruins, hunched over, boards loose or broken, gaping holes here and there. They now stand in lapping waves at the lake’s edge, next to the roadway. Now and then, when I’d go to Kimball, past Luxemburg, in recent years, I would park at the edge of the road and just stand there and ponder those forlorn cabins so ruined by time and erosive desolation. From their wreckage, memories of happy summers past would rise up, whispering to me like lake waves. Ah, the ghosts.

Bonnie and I both sighed about time, about life, about loss.

“Those were the days,” she said.

“Yes, they sure were,” I agreed. “It seems as if everybody was so happy back then.”

lier, bills can be passed with only 51 votes, but only if they do not increase the deficit in the time period affected. If Democrats had come on board to support the bill and bring it to 60 votes, these tax cuts could have been made permanent.

Once again, our Democratic elected representatives did not step in to fight for us, preferring rather to criticize and hope to score political points to win the 2018 elections. While probably the best political strategy, the people who suffer are everyday folks who just want stuff to get done rather than all of this partisan sniping.

If we’re not careful, this situation risks turning into the way Obamacare ended up. Like this tax bill, Obamacare ended up being pushed through Congress by only one party under huge resistance by the other. Rather than attempting to find some common ground on the bill, Republicans decided to run as hard against it as they could. While they won the 2010 elections, Obamacare had some large problems we’re still dealing with today.

While you could say what’s good for the goose is good for the gander, this kind of behavior is completely unproductive for our nation. Our political parties are too busy fighting each other to fix urgent problems and needs in our nation. It takes only a few people of goodwill to change the culture and cross the divide. Otherwise, nothing will ever get better.

Kockler is a Sauk Rapids-Rice High School student. He enjoys writing, politics and news, among other interests.

YIR

from front page

ons clubs and private donors have installed Fixit bike repair stations along the trail, including one in St. Joseph. Each bike repair station costs about \$1,100. Others have been installed in Avon, Albany, Freeport, Melrose, Sauk Centre and Holdingford.

A new housing manager was named at Arlington Place Assisted Living in St. Joseph. Morgan Waytashek has recently joined the team after working in a variety of health-care positions. “Through community involvement and a team approach, I am committed to leading Arlington Place toward maximum quality of life for our residents,” Waytashek told the *Newsleader*.

Local disc golfers have the option of purchasing their equipment locally. Hyzer Zone Disc Golf Outfitter has opened inside of “Sliced” restaurant on College Avenue. Owner Adam Gorres said his new business will fill a void for people who have had to travel at least 10 miles or more to find disc-golf equipment. “It’s a great location close to Millstream – one of the area’s favorite disc-golf courses,” Gorres told the *Newsleader*.

The St. Joseph City Council approved spending \$355,000 in rehabilitation funds for water-treatment plant number one. WTP#1 was constructed in the 1970s. The city currently operates two plants. Funds were designated to be used to replace the 1996 steel gravity filter and other treatment equipment.

Thousands of mink were released from a farm in Eden Valley. Stearns County deputies reported the incident during the late night or early morning hours of July 16 or 17. An estimated 30,000 to 40,000 mink were set free. The Minnesota Duty Officer and state and federal law enforcement partners were brought in to investigate.

Serenity Place on Seventh has

opened. The new 55 + , 47-unit facility provides independent and assisted-living options for the area’s seniors. The units range in price from \$1,250 to \$2,500 a month which include all the utilities. As of its opening, only a few units were still available for rent.

Fire Fest attendees had the chance to see one of St. Joseph’s own on stage. St. Joseph native Angela Beutz took the stage as keyboard back-up for country music solo artist Chris Hawkey. Beutz, the daughter of St. Joseph Mayor Rick Schultz and his wife Tammy, is a special-education middle-school teacher in Becker.

Four local businesses were honored with historical plaques by members of the St. Joseph Area Historical Society. The Drug Store (now The Local Blend), First State Bank of St. Joseph (now Rockhouse Productions), Loso’s Store (now Minnesota Street Market) and the St. Joseph Meat Market were presented the markers by Ellie and Cathy Studer. Plans for additional plaques to mark other historical sites in the city are in the works.

August

The St. Joseph Police Department along with the police departments from Sartell, St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids and Waite Park are seeking out applicants interested in participation in the Metro Citizens Police Academy. The eight-week course provides citizens hands-on lessons on what it takes to be a police officer.

The St. Joseph Joes continue to show their dominance on the field with a 6-3 win over the Clear Lake Lakers and a 13-3 win over the Foley Lumberjacks. With these two wins the Joes will travel to the region’s baseball playoffs on Aug. 5 in Hinckley.

Harley Davidson motorcycle enthusiasts can be found all over Central Minnesota, including St. Joseph. Jerry and Mary Jane Rudy along with Dotti and Rod Karls and their friends Brian and Pennie Albers of



photo by Dave DeMars

You can’t see his number but that was Peter Nelson who ate some dirt as he slid into third base under the tag of the Eagan Bandits’ third baseman during the June 18 St. Joseph Joes game.

St. Cloud; Keith and Mary Jane Nelson of St. Cloud; and Bill and Shari Grabinski formerly of Sauk Rapids, hit the road on their way to Sturgis, S.D. for the annual motorcycle rally. “What I love best about our trips is just our friendships. We have a tight-knit bonding after all these years. Our friendships just keep growing stronger and stronger every year. We feel really blessed,” Mary Jane Rudy told the *Newsleader*.

LowCarbon Crossing makes a stop at Minnesota Street Market. The bicycle group held a discussion Aug. 13 to talk about climate change. St. Joseph will be the group’s first stop on its eight-day, 350-mile trip through Central Minnesota.

Jim Read announces his run for Minnesota House of Representatives District 13A via Facebook. The district includes St. Joseph, Collegeville, Avon, Cold Spring, Richmond, Paynesville, Rockville, Roscoe, Kimball and Eden Valley. “I am running because we face a number of critical decisions at a time of deepening political division,” Read said. “I believe the best way to bridge these divisions is through individual face-to-face conversations.”

The *St. Joseph Newsleader*, along with its sister paper the *Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleader*, participated in the Minnesota Newspaper Association’s “Whiteout Campaign.” The front page of the Aug. 18 edition was blank in order to remind readers what it would look like if there were no hometown newspapers. About 200 of Minnesota’s 350 newspapers participated in the movement.

More than 100 children from the St. Joseph area participated in a week of Vocation Bible School at Resurrection Lutheran Church. Kids ages 4 through sixth grade learned about faith through the theme of “Hero Central – Discover your strength in God.” In addition to learning about their faith, the kids also participated in service projects, including donating items to first responders and law enforcement.

Minnesota Street Market was among six food cooperatives to receive funding from the National Joint Powers Alliance of Staples. The cooperatives will use the grant money – totaling \$49,600 – to work together to educate the public on the importance of food cooperatives in central Minnesota.

An 8-year-old St. Cloud girl has a special place in her heart for local law enforcement. Sophina Lindquist spends quite a bit of her time baking cookies for local firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, flight medical crews and dispatch operators. The 8-year-old girl also has a lengthy list of about 700 names of emergency responders whom she prays for every night.

Chuck and Lucy Rieland and their family have organized the 12th annual Lake Wobegon Regional Trail Ride to help benefit Day Services at Catholic Charities’ St. Cloud Children’s Home. The couple, now in their 70s, hopes to push their donation total over the \$1 million mark this year.

After making their way to the state finals, the St. Joseph Joes were shut out 2-0 by the Maple Lake Lakers in Hamburg.

Year in Review Part 3 will be published in the Jan. 19 edition.

(To read any of the above stories in their entirety, visit thenewsleaders.com and search for your favorite stories.)



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