Reaching Everybody! eaching Everybody! COVSICACION Postal Patron Postal Patron Postal Patron

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 Volume 30, Issue 35 Est. 1989

Town Crier

Sartell Farmers' Market to be held Dec. 15

Sartell Farmers' Market will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15 at the Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Looking for that unique gift? Come shop at the Farmers' Market and find items not available anywhere else.

Free Christmas meal set Dec. 15 at RLC

A free Christmas Community Meal will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15 at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2, St. Joseph. Dine-in, take-away or delivered meals are available. For more information, call RLC at 320-363-4232 or Angela Haynes at 320-845-7789.

Anna Marie's Alliance needs donations

Anna Marie's Alliance is looking for gift-card donations to help residents during this holiday season. Gift cards take up less space, they can be used as needed, if women are leaving the shelter they will have less to haul and women may not know what they need until they need it. Visit www.annamariesalliance.org to view a complete donation list of needed items or cntact Kim at Anna Marie's Alliance at kims@annamaries.org or 320-251-7203 ext. 210.

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Recently, The Newsleaders began testing providing daily news. We are excited to say our tests were successful and we are ready for prime time! For \$5 a month, or \$50 a year, you can subscribe to thenewsleaders.com and access daily news, exclusive stories and download digital copies of The Newsleaders.

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

INSERT: Woodcrest of Country Manor

Good tidings, merriment at Winterwalk



Moved by the live jazz band playing the song "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," Wesley Hazen, 2, grabs the hands of Eddie Marie Thomes, 2, (left) and Sophia Nordmann, 1, to dance Nov. 30 at the St. Joseph Winterwalk event. All three children are from St. Joseph.

New council member Theisen views his role as a problem solver

editor@thenewsleaders.com

When new St. Joseph City Council member Brian Theisen is sworn in Jan. 7, he'll bring years of problem solving and public-service experience.

Theisen, 40, is a Stearns County deputy and member of the St. Joseph Fire Depart-

"I'll be problem-solving for the city. That's what I do 50 hours a week as a deputy," Theisen said. "You listen to both sides and you make a de-

Voters re-elected Anne Buckand elected Brian Theisen to four-terms on the City Theisen Council. In-



cumbent City Council member Dale Wick lost his bid for re-election in a three-way race for two seats. Buckvold received 1,555 votes, Theisen won 1,381 votes and Wick collected 1,013 votes. Mayor Rick termination of what's best for Schultz ran un-opposed for an-

Council revisits rec center project

by Dave DeMars

news@thenewsleaders.com

Despite missing two of its members, the remaining quorum of the St. Joseph City Council was able to wade through a short agenda that included an open hearing on Truth in Taxation and discussion of a feasibility study dealing with capital funding for the Jacob Wetterling Community and Recreation Center project.

The Jacob Wetterling Community and Recreation Center projcame under council scrutiny. In the past, the council established a committee to work with architect Murray Mack of HMA to create a concept drawing, which the city approved. At that time the city acknowledged that \$6 million needed to be raised before the project could move forward. A deadline of May 2019 was set. The project was submitted to the Legislature for bonding money.

With a deadline looming in Center • page 7

Theisen emphasized two issues during the campaign - crime-free housing and business development - and he's looking forward to working on those topics when he takes

Crime-free housing focuses on apartment buildings.

"The big thing for apartment buildings is to secure (the) front door with access only to tenants or they have to allow people in," Theisen said. "A lot of it has to do with lighting. You want the entrances lit up, bushes and shrubs neatly trimmed around ground-floor apartments so you can't have someone hiding and staring in the windows."

Theisen suspects city ordinances will need to be modified to accommodate those standards.

"Waite Park, Sartell and a lot of the area towns have it," he said. "We do not. It's a way to keep the city safe."

He wants the city to maintain its base of locally-owned businesses but to also attract new companies that may not be able to find space or a location in St. Cloud.

"It's important to keep the local businesses that are

owned by local people," Theisen said. "But St. Joseph has the opportunity to get some bigger and different businesses. St. Joseph has the opportunity to be a major suburb."

In preparation for taking his council seat, Theisen has met with Schultz about his committee assignments including parks, planning and economic development.

He's interested in all of them but hasn't been assigned yet.

"I see things from a different perspective because of my law enforcement career," Theisen said. "There are certain things people want to bring to the city that maybe they don't think about.

"It's gonna be a fun and exciting challenge," Theisen

Theisen has been a Stearns deputy since 2001 and before that worked in the Albany and Avon police departments. He's been on the fire department for six years.

Theisen graduated from Kimball High School and earned a law enforcement degree from Ridgewater College in Willmar.

He and his wife have five children ages 5 to 15 and have

Theisen • page 9

www.thenewsleaders.com

Girl Scouts from the '70, '80s plan reunion

Newsleaders staff report news@newsleaders.com

Were you a Girl Scout in the '70s and '80s in St. Joseph area? If so, former Troop Leaders Delores Giroux and Sharon Toogood Froehle would love to see you again.

The event will be from 3-6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27, at Giroux's home, 103 Minnesota St. E. RSVP by Thursday, Dec. 20, to Froehle at 320-493-8493 or Stoogoodfroehle@gmail.com

The organizers have scrapbooks made by Girl Scouts in the '70s and '80s filled with tons of pictures from events at Peck's farm, riding horseback, making crafts, ice fishing at the tournament on Lake Minnewaska in Glenwood, visiting nursing homes and camping at Smokey Timbers.

Giroux, troop leader for Junior Troop 130, and Froehle recently got together to look at the scrapbooks and reminisce about all of the fun they had while earning Girl Scout badg-

"We talked about how wonderful it would be to see the young ladies from the Girl Scout troops and fellow troop leaders," Froehle said in a statement.

"Delores and I are inviting all the girls and leaders who were Girl Scouts with us in the '70s and '80s to the reunion. We need all of you to pass this invite to girls and leaders who you still have contact with," Froehle wrote. "Many of our Scouts have moved away, so please share this invitation with your friends and family that were Girl Scouts.'

Have any Achievements?

Graduate from HS/College, Military Honors, Awards

Submit to news@thenewsleaders.com

For contact purposes only, please include first/last name and phone.



Girl Scouts and leaders from about 1980 (front row) Cindy Klassen and Rachael Durkee; and (back row) Marilyn Killoran, Sharon Froehle, Delores Giroux and Susan Froehle.

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Healing Center

Dr. Brian Koltes 103 College Ave. N • 320-363-4573 exponentialchiropractic.com

CHURCHES

Resurrection Lutheran, ELCA

Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. 5:30 p.m. meal; 6:30 p.m. Worship 610 N. CR 2, St. Joseph 320-363-4232 www.rlcstjoe.org

St. Joseph Catholic Church

Masses: Tuesday-Friday 8 a.m. Saturday 5 p.m. Sunday 8 & 10 a.m. St. Joseph • 320-363-7505 www.churchstjoseph.org

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Your Business Address City • Phone • Website

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St. Joseph • 320-363-7741

Call the St. Joseph Newsleader at 320-363-7741 if you would like your business included. Check out the online Business Directory at thenewsleaders.com which hyperlinks to each business' website.



Brownie Troop 131 from the late 1970s.





Sartell-St. Stephen • St. Joseph

Reaching Everybody! leaders

www.thenewsleaders.com

<u>Newsstands</u>

Arlington Place Casey's General Store Coborn's Holiday Kay's Kitchen Kwik Trip

Local Blend

St. Joseph Meat Market St. Joseph Newsleader Office Sliced on College Ave. Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict SuperAmerica

we've fallen short of these standards are urged to call the Newsleader office at 320-363-7741. If matters cannot be resolved locally, readers

are encouraged to take complaints to the Minnesota News Council, an independent agency designed to improve relationships between the public and the media and resolve conflicts. The council office may be reached at 612-341-9357. 1608 11th Ave SE, St. Cloud, MN 56304

mailing address: 1622 11th Ave SE, St. Cloud, MN 56304

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-People -



contributed photo

St. Joseph Lions President Mary Stommes (right) presents a \$5,000 check to Ann Scherer, chair-person of the St Joseph Food Shelf during the Lions Dec. 4 meeting at Millstream Park. The Skalicky Foundation will match the contribution along with other contributions made by local service organizations.

Obituaries

Catherine 'Cotton' E. Petters, 55 St. Joseph

Oct. 2, 1963-Dec. 9, 2018

Catherine "Cotton" E. Petters, 55, of St. Joseph, died peacefully in her sleep on Dec.

A Celebration of Life will be held from 2-6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15, with a time of sharing at 3 p.m. at the Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home, St. Cloud. Anyone who knows Cotton or her family is welcome.

Petters was born on Oct. 2, 1963, in St. Cloud to Fred

Daniel T.

Nierengarten, 94

St. Joseph

Oct. 26, 1924-Dec. 2, 2018

Daniel T. Nierengarten, 94,

of St. Joseph died peacefully

surrounded by his family on

Sunday, Dec. 2 at the St. Cloud

VA Medical Center. His funeral

was held Friday, Dec. 7 in St.

Joseph's Catholic Church in St.

Joseph. The Rev. Jerome Tupa,

OSB, officiated. Burial with mil-

itary honors was in the parish

Nierengarten was born at

home in St. Joseph on Oct.

26, 1924, to John and Mary

(Euteneuer) Nierengarten. He

proudly served in the U.S. Army

during WWII. He was a combat

medic assigned to the First Infan-

try Division with the 26th Reg-

iment. He landed on Omaha

Beach as part of Operation Over-

cemetery.

and Rosemary (Boyle) Petters. Cotton enjoyed gardening and planting beautiful flowers in the Spring.



She brightened the lives of so many through her kind nature and desire to help people as an advocate for women at Anna Marie's Alliance. Cotton was a peacemaker and was always concerned about people and was the matriarch of her family. She sought to bring peace to women and their families, the same way she cultivated and

maintained a loving, warm, safe place for her own family.

Survivors include her husband, Mike Nordmann and children, Alex Swingley (Dave Rausch) and Robin Swingley (Shelby Weisen); siblings Fred (Kim) Petters, Becky (Steve) Randa, Jon (Colleen) Petters, and Tom and Chris Petters; and brother-in law Joe Hoover.

She was preceded in death by her parents and sister Mary Hoover.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to Anna Marie's Alliance (P.O. Box 367, St. Cloud, Minn. 56302) in memory of Cotton.

lord during the Normandy Invasionon on D-Day, June 6, 1944, and was a Bronze Star recipient. After



serving, he returned to St. Joseph where he met his future wife. He married Jean Wise on June 19, 1965, at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Watkins. Nierengarten was employed as a guard at the St. Cloud Reformatory prior to working at the St. Cloud Teacher's College and retired from the St. Cloud VA Medical Center. He was a member of St. Joseph's Parish, the St. Cloud Granite Post VFW #428, the Disabled

Joseph Planning Commission.

Nierengarten enjoyed the north shore, dancing, fishing, biking, and above all, treasured spending time with his family

American Veterans and the St.

(especially his grandchildren). He will be remembered for his love of God, family, country and fellow soldier.

Survivors include his wife of 53 years; children, Doug of St. Cloud, John (Kathleen) of St. Cloud, Mary Schnettler of Sartell; grandchildren, Nicholas (Kayla) Nierengarten of Monticello and Madelyn Schnettler of Sartell; two great-grandchildren, Rylee and Kason Nierengarten; and brother, Francis of St. Joseph; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Alphonse, twin brother Donald, Leo and Lawrence; and sisters, Alvina Nierengarten, Rose Reber and Lorraine Jost.

A special thank you to all of the staff of building 49-2 at the VA Medical Center. Thank you for your compassion, kindness and care of Dan.

PUBLIC NOTICE -

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEARNS

IN DISTRICT COURT SEVENTH JUDICIAL DIS-TRICT

In Re: Estate of Lawrence Earl Storms, Deceased

Court File No. 73-PR-18-10232

ORDER AND NOTICE
OF HEARING ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL PROBATE
OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSON AND CREDITORS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 11th day of Jan. 2019, at 8:45 o'clock a.m., a hearing will be held at the above named Court at St. Cloud, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the above named decedent, dated Sept. 16, 2014, and for the appointment of Darrell J. Storms, whose address is 21722 County Road 44, Clearwater, Minnesota, 55320, as personal representative of the estate of the above

named decedent in unsupervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, a personal representative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate.

Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.

Dated: Dec. 7, 2018

John H. Scherer Judge of District Court

George Lock Court Administrator

Daniel A. Eller #26438 Attorney at Law 2103 Frontage Road N. Suite 25 Waite Park, Minn. 56387 (320) 253-3700 daneller@ellerlaw.com

Publish: Dec. 14 and 28, 2018

Newspaper Audit Report

St. Joseph • Sartell-St. Stephen

Newsleaders

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GOT A COMMENT?

Post it on our website at www.thenewsleaders.com.

Church of St. Joseph raises \$1.63 million for capital campaign

The Church of St. Joseph raised \$1.63 million during a capital campaign to renovate their sanctuary, the parish announced Dec. 10. The parish had set a stretch goal of \$1.5 million.

"As with any very old building, you never know what surprises we might encounter during construction," said Dean Budde, campaign co-chair, in a statement. "We are thankful for the financial leeway that exceeding our goal provides to deal with unforeseen issues."

The church is the oldest consecrated church in Minnesota. Early settlers brought stones from their fields for the construction of the church, which has stood on this spot since 1871. The interior was renewed in 1971 to reflect revisions to the liturgy brought about by the Second Vatican Council, but the current updates will go further, supporting the integrity of the church structure and increasing accessibility and safety, according to the parish's statement.

Construction is set to begin shortly after the New Year with a completion date set for early summer. During construction, Masses will be held in Heritage Hall.

The floor substructure will be reworked to address uneven floors. Insulation has been added to the ceiling. Renovation of the sacristy, the former winter chapel, includes in-floor heating and removal and restoration of a mural segment found behind one of the walls.

The church interior will be completely renewed. The walls and ceilings will be repaired and repainted. The pews and kneelers will be refinished and re-upholstered. The lighting and fans will be replaced and the sound system will be upgraded. This will allow those with hearing loss to more fully participate in Mass.

A ramp will be built up to the altar and choir area so

This drawing is a preliminary rendering of the planned renovation at Church of St. Joseph.

everyone can fully participate in ministry. Additional space for wheelchairs and assisted seating will be added near

allow music ministers and the recommendation of the the choir to see the director Diocese of St. Cloud to bring at the organ console or the the church up to local and piano. A sprinkler system for state building codes.

aphor of a football team, ev-

ervone in the military has an

assigned job and duty. Others

depend on you to carry out

no vardage unless the unsung

heroes on the line make a hole

to run through. The aircraft

The running back will gain

your responsibilities.

A larger tiered area will fire safety will be installed on

Veterans profiles will mark Legion's 100th anniversary

The American Legion will be celebrating its 100th birthday in 2019. In addition to national and statewide activities commemorating this milestone, American Post 328 of St. Joseph is planning a number of festive and patriotic activities for the community.

One of those special events will be profiles of St. Joseph-area veterans published in each Newsleader during 2019. The Newsleader is joining with Post 328 to recognize veterans and Legion members who served during World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and other theaters of conflict and Cold War tensions. Veteran and Legion member Joe Klecker is interviewing veterans for the stories.

Klecker wrote this introduction to explain why these profiles of local veterans are important.

"Hopefully these articles will engender a renewed sense of appreciation for the sacrifices made. Veterans represent a diminishing number of all citizens; at present only about 5-6 percent of the population are veterans.

Citizens should know the two important factors the military experience demands.

Most all who enter the military, (be it by enlistment or



On the 100th anniversary of the American Legion, profiles of St. Joseph area veterans.

drafted) usually do so during a critical period of physical, moral and psychological development.

Most are transitioning from the self-centeredness of adolescence to an environment that demands obedience to authority, self-discipline and a responsibility for others.

Most veterans report the discipline imposed in the military was beneficial in their transition from youth into more adult personality traits and be-

Secondly, to use the met-

does not fly and carry out the mission if the ground crew did not do its job. The ship does not reach its assigned destination and thus carry out the mission if sailors deep in the bowels of the hot and noisy en-

Some veterans had a choice as to their military occupational specialty, others were assigned as needed.

gine room did not do their jobs.

It cannot be overstated: every veteran, regardless of service branch, well knows that the success of the mission requires a team effort. It is expected that you give it your

Regardless of the particular branch of service, the location assigned at a point in time, every man and woman who served can take pride in the part they played in the defense

While every citizen can rightfully challenge the wisdom of our elected politicians as to decisions made about military involvements, past and present, the veteran now and the soldier then did not seek to

as to the adjustments required of a 19-year-old from St. Joseph. Upon induction into the military there is the loss of substantial freedom, little privacy, diminished individuality and association with others

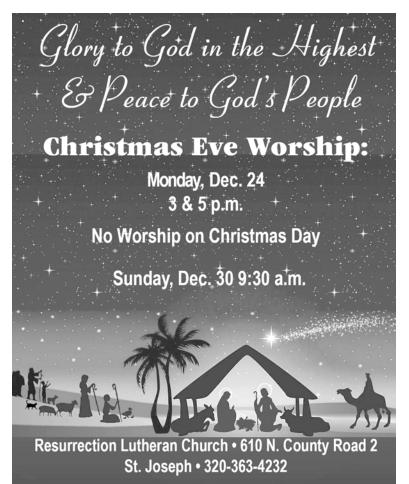
that you are not familiar with, about places you may have never heard of before and being called upon to do things you never considered previously. Talk about being forced out

of your comfort zone. Most all of the veterans profiled in the upcoming articles are your neighbors and friends. They have chosen to tell their stories not out of any self-promotional notoriety or fame. Rather they all believe the military experience, be it filled with terror, boredom, adventure, friendships, loneliness, fear, elation or pride. Service had a significant influence on how they made choices throughout their lives.

The military is certainly not for everyone. It is just one of a number of ways individuals plot a course through life. A course that reflects their values, traditions and their sense of obligation to self and others.

Veterans, particularly the older ones, may well in their private reflections share the following:

I'm not all that lean and mean a fighting machine as in youth I once was. Now I'm shorter, weaker, slower, arthritic, balding and my hearing is going. But there was once a time, as God was my witness, there was a time I was a part of something so much more than just myself. A cause for something that has or likely will be debated in the dusty books of history. That being said I will always hold close to my heart the memories of sacrifices endured by myself and others, and how that time likely changed me forever."



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light meal prep, medication administration and light to moderate housekeeping. If interested please stop by

for an application or call Kristi Plafcan at (320) 363-1313. 21 16th Ave. SE

St. Joseph, MN 56374

If you have a tip concerning a crime, call the St. Joseph Police Department at 320-363-8250 or Tri-County Crime Stoppers at 320-255-1301 or access its tip site at tricountycrimestoppers.org. Crime Stoppers offers rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for a crime.

Nov. 3

10:28 a.m. Warrant arrest. CR 75 E. Officers spotted a man wanted on a warrant. When officers approached, he attempted to flee from the car. He was arrested and taken to Stearns County Jail.

Nov. 5

9:19 a.m. Threats complaint. College Avenue S. A woman reported a call from a person looking for drugs and asking for her address. The officer told the woman to block the caller's number and to call 911 if anyone she does not know comes to her workplace or residence.

10:31 a.m. Theft. College Avenue N. A person reported the theft of two large refillable coffee cups. The officer watched a video and saw a man take the cups. The office recognized the man and went to his residence. The man offered to pay for the cups.

PUBLIC NOTICE -

CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME STATE OF MINNESOTA

Pursuant to Chapter 333, Minnesota Statutes, the undersigned, who is or will be conducting or transacting a commercial business in the State of Minnesota under an assumed name, hereby certifies:

- 1. The assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted is: TRP Auctions.
- 2. The stated address of the principal place of business is or will be: 255 28th Ave. S., Waite Park, Minn. 56387.
- 3. The name and street address of all persons conducting business under the above assumed name including any corporations that may be conducting this business: The Rusty Pick LLC, 311 28th Ave. S., Waite Park, Minn. 56387.
- 4. I certify I am authorized to sign this certificate and I further certify I understand by signing this certificate, I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Minnesota Statutes Section 609.48 as if I had signed this certificate under oath.

Dated: Aug. 8, 2018

Filed: Aug. 16, 2018

/s/ Todd Scott

Publish: Dec. 14 and 28, 2018

Blotter -

Nov. 6 6:54 a.m. Warrant arrest. Cedar Street E. An officer went to the residence of a man wanted on a warrant. The officer took the man to Stearns County

6:29 p.m. Collision. Birch Street W. and First Avenue NW. Driver one was stopped on Birch Street W. and First Avenue NW. heading east. While turning left onto First Avenue, vehicle one collided with vehicle two that was heading north on First Avenue. There were no injuries.

Nov. 7

6:58 a.m. Crash. CR 133 and CR 75. A driver called to report a collision that happened at 4:55 a.m. The driver was heading south on CR 133 when he attempted to merge onto westbound CR 75. The driver lost control on the icy road and struck a road sign.

Nov. 8

10 a.m. Collision. CR 133 and CR 75. Vehicle one was merging into traffic from CR 133 to CR 75. Driver two thought vehicle 1 was already merged and sped up to get into traffic, rear-ending vehicle one.

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7:42 p.m. Collision. CR 75 and CR 134. Driver one was westbound on CR 75 and went through a red light at Ridgewood Road. Vehicle two was in the turn lane on CR 75 to go north on Ridgewood Road. When the light turned green, driver two attempted to go north and collided with vehicle one.

Nov. 9

5:55 p.m. Collision. Second Avenue SE. Driver one backed out of a driveway and collided with vehicle two, which was unoccupied and parked on Second Avenue SE.

Nov. 15

6:42 p.m. Collision. CR 75 and Eighth Avenue NE. Vehicle one was stopped to turn west on CR 75 when it was rear-ended by vehicle two.

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MON, DEC 31

7:00PM & 10:00PM

\$24 - \$28

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Funeral Homes & CREMATION SERVICES

— Since 1881 —

Author of new book caddied for O.J.

by Dennis Dalman

news@thenewsleaders.com

When he was a kid playing with buddies on a farm near Milaca, little did Mitchell Mesko know that he would one day, years later, meet a football hero who figured in one of his roughand-tumble kids' games.

The hero was O.J. Simpson, and so many years later Mesko, much to his astonishment. served as his golf course caddie. That includes the very morning of the evening Simpson was alleged to have stabbed to death his ex-wife, Nicole, and acquaintance Ron Goldman.

Mesko's long-ago childhood game was dubbed "Razzle Dazzle." Based loosely on the game of football, the ball would be in constant hectic play until all participants grew dog tired or someone got hurt. The whole point was to see which kid could

keep the ball longest, and most rules were tossed out in a brutal game of "give it up" or "get be slammed."

this way:



Mesko, Mesko

who now lives in St. Cloud, is the author of the just-published memoir, "Confessions of a Caddie." In an interview with the Newsleader, he shared some anecdotes from the book, and his memory of the kids' game Razzle Dazzle ends

"I never liked to give it (football) up, and I sure as hell didn't like to get slammed. So to keep out of harms' way when things got tight in those crazy games, I used what (friend) Pete call my 'O.J. jitter-bug moves,' with me yelling at the top of my lungs, 'I'm the Juice, I'm the Juice!'

Flash forward 30 years, and other tasks and got back home there was Mesko the caddie, aka "The Mitchell Man," caddying for world-famous O.J. 'The Juice" Simpson. It was to be it the nextto-the-last day of his caddying for Simpson - the morning of June 12, 1994.

On the next morning, June 13, there was a charity golf event at the Riviera Country Club where Simpson and his buddies, known as the "Group," gathered for a game. Mesko noticed that morning Simpson was ill-tempered and loudly cursing at a movie producer about petty annoyances. Simpson, Mesko told the Newsleader, was often verbally abusive on the golf course, though mostly the legend's charisma and charm conquered hearts and won the

Mesko recalled after the charity game, at about 11 a.m., he said to Simpson, "See ya later, Juice." Mesko completed some

to his wife, Susan, at about 5 p.m., and just one look at his wife's face told him something was terribly wrong. Then he noticed the TV news that was on, a flurry of news that the bloodied bodies of Nicole Brown Simpson and a man named Ron Goldman were found on the walkway right outside Nicole's condominium in a suburb of Los Angeles. The two had been killed the night before, on June 12. O.J. Simpson was a suspect in the savage murders.

Like millions worldwide, the news left Mesko and his wife "stunned, shocked, horrified."

Mesko said he believed right away that Simpson had likely committed the awful crime. As a caddie who'd known Simpson on the course for five years, Mesko notes in his book that he had seen firsthand the "the little-known and alarmingly crude side of this famous ("Juice") persona."

The long subsequent televised trial, one of the most sensational in U.S. history, ended with the astonishing acquittal of Simpson. Families of the victims then filed a civil lawsuit against Simpson, which resulted in a \$33.5-million judgment against him for wrongful deaths. Still later Simpson was convicted in robbery and kidnapping in Las Vegas related to some of his personal property he said was stolen from him. He was sentenced to 33 years in prison and paroled in 2017. Simpson continues to play golf, a game he loves as much as he loved football.

Although the Simpson story figures prominently in "Confessions of a Caddie," it is only the dark and tragic part of a book that is - more than less - an ecstatic valentine to the sport of golf. "Confessions" is written in a direct, conversational, lively vivid style with plenty of humor and keen insights into the roles that caddies perform for golfers experts on every aspect of a particular course, morale-boosters, conversational buddies and keen knowledge of their clients - their strengths, weaknesses and peculiar foibles. "Confessions," as the name implies, is also bluntly frank about Mesko's own life, including the three-and-a-half years he served in prison for felony theft when he was a young man. In the Los Angeles area, Mes-

ko caddied for or knows scores of famous people who loved to golf. To name just some: late actor James Garner, whom Mesko said was a great guy, the best; Jack Nicklaus; Tiger Woods; Magic Johnson; Bill Russell; Ernie Banks; Terry Bradshaw; rocker Alice Cooper; actor Joe Pesci; the late Glenn Frey (singer-songwriter for The Eagles) and Bill

"I never caddied for Clinton," he said. "But I did meet him, and the Secret Service that day were all over the (Riviera) course. It was a crazy scene."

Return home

Mesko, now 60, left Minnesota for southern California when he was 22. After several jobs, including a golf-course greenskeeper, he said he fell into the caddie business eventually, quite by accident, because people trusted him, liked him, he knew how to be discreet and so recommended him for caddy jobs. He caddied at many of Los Angeles' nearly 100 golf courses for seven years, and more than five years he worked at his all-time favorite one - the Riviera Country Club at Pacific Palisades near Santa Monica.

Mesko returned to the St. Cloud area in 2001, worked at Electrolux, then sold men's clothing at a Crossroads store for 10 years and also worked selling for an aerial-photography service.

It took him three years to write "Confessions" in longhand. The book is dedicated to "caddies the world over, the members and staff at Riviera Country Club and the hundreds of golfers that allowed me into their lives."

In his introduction, Mesko writes this:

"First and foremost, this is a book about the most wonderful sport ever invented - the game of golf. It can be rewarding, joyous, raise your aspirations and self-esteem with one swing! Then turn on you the next. Like a monster, leaving you shamed, embarrassed, frustrated, ready to quit. As if somehow you had miraculously turned into the notorious Greek statue by Alexandros, Venus de Milo (statue missing its arms). Golf is at best a fickle mistress. The devil is in the details and the details are in this book."

"Confessions of a Caddie" is available via Barnes and Noble and online at amazon.com.







Center

from front page

less than seven months, the council sought to revamp its plans and authorized the hiring of Four Winds Consulting to help with the planning and fundraising. The first part of the planning by Four Winds is to conduct a feasibility study to see if the city can support and raise the required funds. In short, is there enough interest to embark on a full-scale building and improvements project for the community center?

To that end, the council approved spending \$25,000, using funds from the half-cent sales tax to fund the study, to determine how to raise the funds for the proposed Jacob Wetterling Recreation Center.

Truth in Taxation

During the Truth in Taxation hearing, Mayor Rick Schultz extended the chance for any members of the public to step forward to speak directly to the council, but there were no takers. Schultz closed the meeting and the council held its discussion.

According to Minnesota statutes, the city must adopt a final budget for 2019 and certify its property-tax levy for payable 2019 to the county auditor on or before Dec. 28. The final levy cannot be higher than the adopted preliminary levy.

Total proposed spending for

2019 was up about 14.5 percent or \$3.6 million, amounting to about a \$456,000 increase. Most of the tax money, some \$2.2 million (10.9-percent increase) in 2019 will be used to pay wages to city workers. The day-to-day tasks of policing, clearing snow from roads, maintaining parks, water and sewage are labor intensive.

Other areas saw increases as well; Repair and Professional services up 17.6 percent to \$1.1 million. Capital Outlay up 3.4 percent to \$281,475. The need for equipment took up most of the Capital Outlay budget. Things such as computer replacements, pond-maintenance plan, squadcar leases, mowers and sewage-line television gear need to be purchased.

Capital projects such as street improvements, industrial park expansion, adding sidewalks and improving parks are part of the 2019 plan.

City Administrator Judy Weyrens noted there was about a 2-percent increase in the General Levy, while the Debt Levy portion of the 2019 tax bill actually decreased slightly (2.75 percent), and that allowed for a small decrease overall. It amounts to a \$9.10 tax decrease on a \$150,000 home and a \$66.61 decrease on a \$500,000 business. All this is predicated on a property's taxable value being unchanged from 2018.

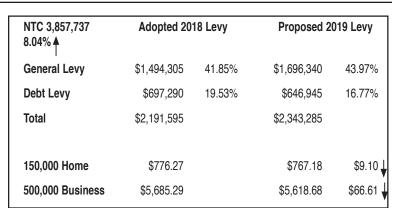
Part of the General Levy increase was the result of the funding of a new public-works garage

in the amount of \$60,000. This led to council member Dale Wick asking what the impact would be if that building were not done and the money used in other ways or given back to the public. But the fact remained that at some point a new public-works garage would have to be planned and built.

Public Works Director Terry Thene told the council there is no addition of equipment right now.

"I don't disagree that we need to (unintelligible), but I also think it's important we need to start setting aside even not knowing

Center • page 9



contributed photo

This chart shows the proposed levy for 2019. Note the debt levy has decreased as has the total levy for 2019. Property owners should see a slight decrease in their taxes, all things remaining equal.





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Jeff Howe sworn in to the Senate



contributed ph

Lt. Gov. Michelle Fischbach (left) issues the oath of office to Jeff Howe (right) as his brother, John Howe (center) looks on. Howe (R-Rockville) was sworn in to the Minnesota Senate on Dec. 11. Howe, who was elected in a November special election for the seat formerly held by Fischbach, represents District 13, which includes communities in Stearns and Benton counties.





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STATE OF MINNESOTA **COUNTY OF STEARNS**

IN DISTRICT COURT SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

In Re: Estate of Delmar Arthur Rosha Deceased

Court File No. 73-PR-18-10589

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTA-TIVE IN UNSUPERVISED AD-MINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PER-**SONS AND CREDITORS:**

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 18th day of January 2019, at 8:45 - PUBLIC NOTICE ·

o'clock a.m., a hearing will be held at the above named Court at St. Cloud, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the above named decedent, dated Aug. 7, 2018, and for the appointment of Brandon Jon Rosha, whose address is 20510 County Road 7, South Haven, Minnesota, 55382, as personal representative of the estate of the above named decedent in unsupervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, a personal representative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate.

Notice is further given that

ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.

Dated: Dec. 12, 2018

William J. Cashman Judge of District Court

George Lock Court Administrator

Daniel A. Eller #26438 Attorney at Law 2103 Frontage Road N. Suite 25 Waite Park, Minn. 56387 (320) 253-3700 daneller@ellerlaw.com

Publish: Dec. 14 and 28, 2018

Center

from page 7

how big that monster might be out there," said Mayor Schultz in reference to the building of the maintenance/storage building. "Our responsibility is to prepare for the future whatever that might be from a facilities and growth perspective."

Discussion revealed removal of all or part of the funding resulted in small savings. Finance Director Lori Bartlett estimated the savings would be about 1 percent or \$12.76 on a \$150,000 home.

Theisen

lived in St. Joseph since 2004.

and knew I was going to stay

"Once I became established

from front page

"It's not a big number," Wick said, "but it's just the philosophy of as soon as the debt comes off then we are spending it on something else."

Schultz pointed out the city had added miles of road and something needed to be done in anticipation of housing equip-

After a good discussion, the council approved the fee schedule increases proposed for next year unanimously.

Schultz suggested there should be more discussion on capital planning and any action on that front was delayed until the next meeting.

I wanted to see what else I could do to help the city," Theisen said. "Joining the fire department was one way. Now on the City Council, I want to do what I can to make sure it's a decent place. Helping people and public safety are in my

blood."

Community Calendar-

Is vour event listed? Send your information to: Newsleader Calendar, P.O. Box 324, St. Joseph, Minn. 56374; fax it to 320-363-4195; or, e-mail it to news@thenewsleaders.com. Most events are listed at no cost. Those events are typically free or of minimal charge for people to attend. Some events, which have paid advertising in the Newsleaders, are also listed in the calendar and may charge more.

Saturday, Dec. 15

Winter Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church fellowship hall.

Community Meal, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR. 2, St. Joseph. Free. Dine in, take away or delivered meals available. 320-363-4232 or 320-845-7789.

Historic Salem Church Christmas Program, 4:30 p.m., four miles north of Paynesville on 220th Street. Sleigh rides from 3 - 4:15 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 16

Breakfast, 8 a.m.-noon, Waite Park American Legion, 17 Second Ave. N.

Monday, Dec. 17

St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.

St. Cloud Area Parkinson's **Disease Support Group,** 1- **forcement Together),** 9 a.m., 2:30 p.m., Independent Life- Sartell Police Department, 310 styles, 215 Benton Drive N., Second St. S., Sartell.

Sauk Rapids.

St. Joseph City Council, 6 p.m., council chambers, St. Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. 363-7201. cityofstjoseph.com.

St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club, 7 p.m., American Legion, 101 W Minnesota St., St. Joseph.

Tuesday, Dec. 18

Memory Writers group develops topics and turns in stories. 10 a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S, St

Community Lunch and Entertainment, sponsored by Helping Hands Outreach, noon-2 p.m., St. Stephen Parish Hall, 103 CR 2 S. 320-746-9960.

St. Joseph EDA, 5 p.m., council chambers, St. Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. 363-7201. cityofstjoseph.com.

St. Cloud Area Genealogists meeting, 7 p.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. stearns-museum.org.

St. Joseph Lions Club meeting, 7:30 p.m., Millstream Park Pavilion 101 Fifth Ave. NW., St Joseph. Joanne Bechtold, 320-363-4483.

Wednesday, Dec. 19 SALT (Seniors and Law En-

Нарру Holidays!

Advocates for Independence, 2-4 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids. 320-529-9000.

Thursday, Dec. 20

Coffee and Conversation, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S.

St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.

St. Cloud school board, 6:30 p.m., St. Cloud City Counci Chambers, 400 Second St. S.

Friday, Dec. 21

St. Joseph Area Historical Society, open 4-7 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave NW. stjosephhistoricalmn.org.

Dave Cofell's 10th Annual Christmas Show, 7-10 p.m., Local Blend, 19 Minnesota St. W., St Joseph. Traditonal stories, songs and poems. Free.

St. Cloud Singles Club Dance, 8 p.m.-midnight, American Legion, 17 Second Ave. S., Waite Park. 320-3394533. stcloudsingles.net.

Sunday, Dec. 23

Joe Town Table, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., American Legion, 101 W. Minnesota St., St. Joseph.

Monday, Dec. 24

St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.

Christmas Eve services, 1, 3, 5 and 9 p.m., Celebration Lutheran Church, 1500 Pinecone Road N.

Christmas Eve worship, 3 and 5 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, 620 CR 2.

Christmas Mass, 5 and 9 p.m., Church of St. Joseph, 12 Minnesota St. W.

Christmas Eve Mass, 6 p.m., St. Stephen Catholic Church, 103 Central Ave. S., St. Stephen.

Christmas Eve Caroling and Eucharist, 9-10 p.m., St. Benedict's Monastery. https:// sbm.osb.org/event/christmas-eve-caroling-and-eucha-

Tuesday, Dec. 25

Christmas Day Mass, 7:30 a.m., St. Stephen Catholic Church, 103 Central Ave. S., St. Stephen.

Christmas Mass, 9 a.m., Church of St. Joseph, 12 Minnesota St. W.

Christmas Day Eucharist, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., St. Benedict's Monastery, https:// sbm.osb.org/event/christmas-day-eucharist/.

Thursday, Dec. 27

Coffee and Conversation, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S.

Kids Can Blood Drive, noon-6 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2, St. Joseph. Contact either Tamara 320-282-8266 or Mary 320-493-1937 to set up an appointment or go to www.redcrossblood.

St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.



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Our View It's time to talk to strangers

Don't talk to strangers.

That advice is widely given, especially to children.

Don't talk to strangers because they pose a threat to your safety. Don't make eye contact. March forward. Avoid the homeless people on the street corner. Don't exchange glances with politicians looking for votes or with folks ringing bells next to kettles.

No commitment. Don't talk to strangers.

It may be time to take a chance and start talking to strangers, even for young children.

When we don't talk to strangers, we continue to connect with people just like us. People who live in the same neighborhood, vote the same way, attend the same school and church, work in the same type of jobs, cheer for the same teams and drink at the same bars.

That's safe and comforting but it's not working.

As 2018 comes to an end, ask yourself what have you done to make your community better?

Social scientists like to talk about social capital – the networks of relationships among people who live and work in a particular society, enabling that society to function effectively. Talking to strangers is one way to improve social capital.

Over and over we hear about tribes and partisanship. While voters told candidates they wanted to elect officials who could work together, to compromise to come up with solutions instead of bickering. Too many candidates, especially at the national levy, focused on fear and anger.

Following the death of President George H.W. Bush, we read about how Bush, a Republican, worked with a Democratic Congress to pass spending and tax legislation, improve the environment and protect people with disabilities from discrimination. Globally, Bush talked to strangers to build a coalition of nations to drive Iraq out of Kuwait.

Closer to home, there are more examples of people talking to strangers. In the Sartell-St. Stephen school district, citizens are working on how to move forward after voters rejected an operating levy. The school leaders scheduled a series of listening sessions to find out, in the words of Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert, "what we did wrong, what we did right and what to do next."

At the first meeting last week, there was plenty of talking to strangers. Those who supported the measure spoke up, but so did opponents who explained "what we did wrong" with respect and engaged with others to offer solutions. Nobody assigned blame or turned to anger. The meeting included parents with children in schools as well as people with no kids, teachers, coaches and retirees.

Most of the two-dozen people in attendance offered opinions but they also asked for facts to shape the road ahead.

In the year ahead, it's time to show our children how to safely talk to strangers and build social capital.

Instead of a New Year's resolution to lose weight or to eat more vegetables, resolve to talk to strangers. There are some big challenges out there. What are we going to do about climate change, health care, income inequality, education funding and crumbling roads and bridges?

Solutions come from talking to strangers, not talking about fear and anger.

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.

Sartell-St. Stephen · St. Joseph
Newsleaders

Steatters Reaching EUERYbody!

-Opinion-

65 is no longer a magic number

Life's milestones are measured in different ways.

Births, deaths, weddings, divorces, funerals are markers on life's timeline.

For the more numerically inclined, there are birthdays.

The numbers that increase with each trip around the sun clearly stamp crucial passages

A first birthday is always a big deal for a new family member. At 13, the teenage years begin. Sixteen-year-olds look forward to a driver's license and at 18, it's time to vote and officially become an adult. Twenty-one-year-olds enjoy a legal drink with friends.

After that though, the years don't mean much and birthdays slide by, pushed to the side by other more important life events – marriage, children, a new home, a promotion at work.

All of a sudden, you are 65. It used to be a big deal.

Not so much any more.

After years of work, people looked forward to retirement....many leaving the same employer where they started their careers.

Not so much any more.

At 65, it's time to collect Social Security and Medicare, benefits partially funded through decades of payroll deductions.

Not so much any more.

At 65, it's time to stop working and enjoy your remaining years. When the Social Security Act became law in 1935, life expectancy was 61. The generous federal government was betting you were gonna die before you collected much.

Not so much any more.

Today's life expectancy is just shy of 80, although it's dropped because of a rise in what public-health experts call

Mike Knaak

Editor



"deaths of despair" - suicide and opioid addiction.

Today I hit the magic milestone of 65, although it's no big deal. My wife and I left the full-time workforce more than two years ago and we are enjoying travel, volunteering and part-time jobs that offer intellectual challenges but with considerable flexibility.

We're not cashing Social Security checks yet. We're waiting a few years to collect higher benefits and betting we outlive the government's actuarial tables.

I did receive my Medicare card, which along with a good supplemental plan, will provide me with health benefits many Americans either can't afford or don't qualify for.

I haven't announced my approaching milestone, but the telemarketers and direct mailers certainly have my number.

My mailbox is full of offers for hearing aids, knee braces, health insurance, senior condos, step-in tubs, cell phones with big buttons, stair chairs and financial-planning services.

These folks have missed their mark. While their databases list my age, name and address, they have not zeroed in on my current situation.

My iPhone and my knees work just fine.

I laughed at the step-in tub brochure that arrived in the mail. So the creaky senior user doesn't have to step over the side of the tub, it has a swinging door. The unit features a special drain that quickly empties the tub so you don't have to soggily sit waiting to open the door. The tub reminded me of the Mad Tea Party ride at Disneyworld with the cups' little swinging doors.

A solicitation for financial planning at age 65 is about 40 years too late. Starting a financial plan at 65 really means carefully spending your Social Security check and keeping an eye on the lottery. I was tempted, though, by the free meal that was offered to those who want to hear the pitch.

These mailings go straight to recycling. I do like taking advantage of "senior" discounts for food, movie tickets and museums. A good financial plan always includes wise purchases.

Age is less about a number but more about your health or how you feel.

Doctors are working on calculations to determine your biological age by using various measurements of your body and its functions.

Dutch TV personality Emile Ratelband, age 69, feels a good deal younger. He wanted to change his date of birth to 49 to boost his dating prospects. But a court disagreed last week, highlighting that many rights in law are based on a person's age, and changing it at will could cause many problems.

"Mr Ratelband is at liberty to feel 20 years younger than his real age and to act accordingly," the court said, but changing his legal documents would have "undesirable legal and societal implications."

Although I'm not worried about my dating prospects, I will continue to act how old I feel.

Today is just another Dec. 14.

Will 'National Restoration' soon begin?

Come January, the National Restoration just might begin – a restoration of voting integrity, of the rule of law, of checks and balances, of strengthened treaties with our long-time allies, of rededication to environmental health, of renewed respect for science and facts.

Time to make America decent again, sane again, democratic again.

But will that restoration actually begin? Yes, but probably only with "baby steps."

A "Blue Wave" did indeed sweep the nation. The United States House of Representatives will be Democrat-controlled. However, if Democrats are wise, they had better not act like hotshot vigilantes itching to impeach the president.

What they should do, from Day One, is get to work to pass whatever legislation they can, to fulfill the promises that brought them victory. That's a tall order, though, considering the Republicans still control the Senate and the president has the power of the veto. There is the possibility, however remote at this time, that the president and Republicans might join the Democrats in some legislative efforts.

The real power now in the House is to put the kibosh on Trump's most extremist proposals. Never mind impeachment threats. The best way to put the brakes on the president's crazier notions is to work aggressively on the following issues so a full restoration can begin in 2020 if Democrats take full control. And, just maybe, the president and Republicans might join the Democrats in some legislative efforts.

One: Retain Nancy Pelosi as House majority leader. A master legislative tac-

Dennis Dalman Reporter



tician, she knows exactly how to herd cats to get legislation approved. In this critical time, the Democrats must let leadership stay in Pelosi's expert hands and not take a chance on a newcomer.

Two: Protect the Mueller investigation. If they cannot prevent his firing or crippling, they should accelerate House committee investigations concerning the president.

Three: Push to reunite immigrant children and parents ripped apart at the border.

Four: Approve ways to protect those with pre-existing medical conditions and, beyond that, find ways to preserve key provisions of the Affordable Care Act, with improvements.

Five: Appoint a nonpartisan (or at least bipartisan) Committee for the Restoration of Voting Integrity. Uniform standards must be set in stone for every voting jurisdiction in the nation to prevent meddling, sabotage, voter suppression and polling mistakes. There must be new laws to prevent the blatant partisan jiggering of legislative-district boundaries (aka gerrymandering).

Six: The Comprehensive Immigration Reform Bill, rejected years ago, should be dusted off, tweaked and reconsidered for approval in 2020, if not now. Until they pass such a bill, illegal immigration, loopholes and anti-immi-

grant demonization and fear-mongering will continue. Strict, specific and fair laws allowing for legal immigration are essential.

Seven: Democrats should insist Dreamers be allowed to stay in the nation, along with a way for them to attain full citizenship.

Eight: Make strides toward gun-safety legislation, including mandatory universal background checks and a ban on military-assault-style rifles for civilian use.

Nine: Work to make college more affordable and options for loan paybacks, including public service alternatives.

Ten: Pass a resolution condemning Saudi Arabia's complicity in the murder of Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi and a condemnation of Trump's business-as-usual comments in the wake of that sadistic crime.

Eleven: At long last, work to pass a bipartisan infrastructure bill.

The Democrats cannot afford to fritter away precious time with political bickering. That is exactly what their antagonists most hope for – divisive feuds among Democratic factions.

Voters elected Democrats partly as a repudiation of Trumpism but mostly because they are worried about the issues noted above, and more. If this new House can start solving even some of those problems, voters' faith in them will be renewed by the next presidential election, and the restoration effort will continue, perhaps with help from a "Blue" U.S. Senate and a new president – one that unites, not divides.

Recharged with hope, voters will know the building blocks for the National Restoration are solidly in place.

You wouldn't know it, but I live a life of privilege

I live a privileged life. I don't worry when I'm walking down the street about that guy I see if he's following me. When I'm with a group of my friends, I don't worry about people mistaking us for a gang. In my younger days, I could have a firstfloor apartment. Even better, when I get stopped for having a headlight out, I don't have to worry about it turning it into a major altercation.

What? This doesn't sound special to you? Then congratulations, you're probably white, male or both. It's like winning the societal lottery in

I want to talk about privilege. I know you're already probably about to stop reading, writing me off as a libtard whacko, but I implore you to please just stick with me for another 400 words. Hear me out, I'm just asking you to listen to another perspective. You're free to disagree with me afterward, but I ask you to please politely listen.

There are a lot of people in our country who have difficulty or fear navigating the simple day-to-day of their lives simply because of who they are. It might be because they are female, of color, or because of their sexual orientation. For nonwhite males, the act of walking through a store may mean they are followed. Maybe a woman is being followed by a man, or perhaps a person of color is followed by store employees. It's creepy. Or, perhaps you have a routine traffic stop. If

you're of color, you suddenly have fear because what if it escalates? What if the white officer suspects you of something?

Patric

Lewandowski

Guest Writer

White males, when we say you're privileged, we mean it ironically. We mean you don't live in fear of being judged by virtue of what you look like. People don't automatically suspect you are criminal, you don't have to walk with your keys in your fist as a make-shift weapon to fend off a sexual assault.

Ask the women in your life about

their daily life. If you know people of color, ask them about these things. Fear for these people is real. It sucks to go through normal life activities afraid it's going to take a terrible turn because of what you look like.

The ability to live your life without fear of attack shouldn't be a privilege. All these things I'm describing to you should sound insane and terrible. If you don't believe me, I implore you to talk to any nonwhite male in your life about this. Find out for yourself what others in your life are going through.

The first step to solving a problem is recognizing the problem, but I argue step one-and-a-half is empathy. I'm a white man, but even though I've never experienced these things, I can try to understand how it feels when a friend tells me how a man followed her through Walmart one day when she was shopping. I can imagine how it feels when another friend tells me how their child of color walks down the street with their friends, also of color, and people cross the street to avoid them fearing they are a gang, when in truth, they're just going to play at a park.

I may just be a libtard whacko, but I hope that doesn't lessen the truth of my words. The next time you see a woman, or a person of color, or someone who is trans, I hope you look through the stereotypes to see the person who is just trying to buv some milk.

George H.W. Bush

In these divided political times, it takes an event of great significance to be able to bring the country together. There is infighting over even the smallest of political issues, as politicians and parties fight for advantage. Often, it seems like the two political halves of the country couldn't even agree on what kind of pizza to order. A recent event though has managed to cut through the divide at least for a small while. George H.W. Bush, the 41st President of the United States, died on Nov. 30.

Although I have no personal memory of his presidency, Bush always struck me as a well-reasoned and capable commander in chief. Bush led a long career of public service, first enlisting in the Navy in 1942 at the age of 18. In 1967, he was elected to public office as a congressman and later got his first job in the Nixon administration as Ambassador to the United Nations. Further working as director of the CIA, he last served as Ronald Reagan's vice president for eight years before he was elected president.

His term included some of the most significant moments in modern world history. On his watch, the Berlin Wall came down, and the former Eastern Bloc was finally freed from communism. President Bush assembled an international coalition to quickly and decisively win the First Gulf War against Saddam Hussein. The Soviet Union also collapsed and was replaced by many new states coming into the international

On the domestic front, President Bush signed the NAFTA trade agreement between the United States,

example for better politics

Connor Kockler

Guest Writer



Canada and Mexico. He also signed the Americans with Disabilities Act and authorized bills in areas including civil rights, the environment and immigration.

One of these actions is often cited as both a symbol of his bipartisanship, but also a major reason why he lost re-election in 1992. Campaigning in 1988 for the presidency, Bush said the famous phrase "read my lips: no new taxes." Eventually, Bush broke this pledge in 1990 when he needed the Democratic-controlled Congress to agree to a budget. The Republican Bush wanted no tax increases to

balance the budget, while the Dem-

ocrats wanted to raise existing taxes. Bush relented and signed the budget including the higher taxes.

After losing re-election in 1992 to Bill Clinton, Bush stayed involved in public life and went on to see his sons George W. Bush and Jeb Bush elected governor of Texas and Florida respectively, while George W. Bush went on to become President himself, marking the second time in American history when both a father and son have held the presidency (the first was John Adams and his son John Quincy Adams).

What I have found remarkable over the last week has been the amount of political unity that has been seen over this event. I noticed during the memorial service at the Capitol that Nancy Pelosi, the leader of Democrats in the House, and

Kevin McCarthy, the new Republican leader, were standing next to each other. President Trump and former President Obama shook hands at the funeral. Which other event has brought such strong political rivals together in one purpose?

As the nation reflects and remembers George H.W. Bush, perhaps some of the lessons of humility and respect he taught as president and in public service can be perhaps integrated into our modern political life. Rather than just lamenting public figures like Bush as symbolic of a bygone era, we should be trying to bring back those values and apply them today. Our politics and our daily lives might just be better for it.

Connor Kockler is a student at St. John's University. He enjoys writing, politics and news, among other in-

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