

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Jan. 11, 2019
Volume 31, Issue 1
Est. 1989

Town Crier

Travel Thursday to explore England, Wales on Jan. 17

Join Dennis Herschbach and Vicky Schaefer at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17 at the Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S., when they present a PowerPoint talk that follows their recent trip to England and Wales with friends Gary Berg and Maggie Brossoit.

The four spent a week on the Llangollen Canal system, piloting an nmTow boat from Ellesmere, England to Llangollen, Wales. After motoring to the Lake Country of England they spent two weeks in Windermere, exploring the countryside from Hadrian's Wall to William Wordsworth's Dove Cottage and many other points of interest.

Volunteer drivers needed for Tri-CAP

The Tri-CAP Volunteer Driver Program needs drivers to provide rides to medical appointments. Volunteer drivers use their own vehicles, determine their own schedules and are paid a mileage. Call Tri-CAP at 320-251-1612 or visit the website at <https://tricap.org/volunteer/>.

Help provide childcare for ESL classes

Hands Across the World uses English-as-a-second-language techniques to provide a classroom environment to educate parents and children in their first attempt at acquiring English language skills.

Volunteers are needed to provide childcare at the St. Cloud Library while parents are in class. Hours needed are Monday-Thursday, Noon-2 p.m. and Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.. Contact Brianda Cediell, 320-260-1072 or info@handsacrosstheworldmn.org.

Help with donations

Anna Marie's Alliance is looking for people to sort and put away donations. Volunteers work 8 a.m.-noon or noon-4 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Fridays. Contact Kim at 320-251-7203 Ext. 210 or kims@annamaries.org.

INSERT: PineCone Vision Center

Stories only
on newsleaders.com
CR 2 collision
injures one person
Video: Sartell
robotics tournament



photo by Mike Knaak

New St. Joseph City Council member Brian Theisen (left) takes his seat at the council table next to Mayor Rick Schultz after being sworn in on Jan. 7. Schultz, re-elected mayor, also took the oath of office. Re-elected council member Anne Buckvold was not at the meeting.

Restaurant will feature New Orleans cuisine

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

A New Orleans-style Cajun/Creole restaurant is coming to St. Joseph this spring in the 24 North Lofts building under construction on College Avenue.

The restaurant, Krewe, will feature a locally sourced farm-to-table menu and full bar.

Krewe is owned by Mateo Mackbee and Erin Lucas who also own The Model Citizen, a farm-to-table teaching restaurant in New London.

In addition to the restaurant, the 100-year-old Loso building behind the restaurant is being renovated into a Scandinavian/French walk-up bakery that will make pasties and breads for both restaurants and for public sale.

24 North Lofts, owned by Jon Petters and Gustavo Pena, includes 17 residential lofts and is across the street from the old city hall now being renovated by Bad Habit Brewing.

Petters called Krewe “the shining star of downtown St. Joseph” that also includes other dining and entertainment businesses such as Bad Habit, Bello Cucina, Gary's Pizza, Sliced and Bo Diddley's.

Lucas, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, New York, is known for her fruit and custard pies and for featuring vegetables in her dishes.

Mackbee grew up in Minnesota but spent childhood summers in his mother's hometown of New Orleans experiencing Creole-style food.

“Erin came up with that



photo by Mike Knaak

Krewe owners Erin Lucas and Mateo Mackbee describe their plans for the Cajun/Creole-style restaurant under construction on the first floor of 24 North Lofts.

name,” Mackbee said. It comes from an old English word that found its way to the Creole

Restaurant • page 2

After WWII, Schmitz defended the Panama Canal

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.

by Joe Klecker
St. Joseph American Legion

Othmar Schmitz, 91, U.S. Army WWII era

Prior to being drafted into the army on Dec. 7, 1945 (Pearl Harbor Day anniversary), Othmar was a farm worker.

Othmar completed basic training at Fort Bliss, Texas. His advance training at Fort Ord, California, was in anti-aircraft-artillery. Having completed training, he boarded what was then called a troop train. The train traveled across

the width of the United States, stopping along the way to pick up other soldiers. The train carried 1,800 soldiers, upon arrival at Fort Pickett, Virginia. Fort Pickett was a receiving station where soldiers were assigned to certain duty posts.

Contrary to Othmar's expectations, he was not ordered to Germany or Japan as part of an occupation force. He

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Restaurant

from front page

language.

“The idea behind the name is a group of people who will come together collectively to make something beautiful and present it,” Mackbee said.

Right now the space still has dirt floors and exposed utilities but the duo described what the finished space will look like.

“As you walk in the building, we’ll trans(port) you to New Orleans,” Lucas said. “The goal is to have a living wall which would be all greenery plants, brass copper, jazz instruments, chandeliers, velvet. It’s going to be gorgeous. And you’re going to hopefully be transported straight to New Orleans.”

The restaurant includes a stage and Lucas and Mackbee hope to partner with regional and national musicians to complete the New Orleans transformation.

Petters showed off one of eight handmade gas lanterns that will be installed on the building’s exterior.

While Lucas and Mackbee shared some samples of the menu items, Petters conducted a short tour of lofts on the building’s second and third floors. He said six of the 17 units are still available.

Each one features large windows looking out on private balconies above College Avenue.

Petters expects the lofts will be ready for occupants in the early spring.



photo by Mike Knaak
New Stearns County Sheriff Steve Soyka takes the oath of office from District Court Judge Sarah Hennesy on Jan. 8.

Obituary

Kenneth H. "Ken" Twit
St. Joseph
Feb. 3, 1954-Dec. 30, 2018

Kenneth H. “Ken” Twit, 64, of St. Joseph, died Dec. 30 at the St. Cloud Hospital with family at his side. A memorial service was held Jan. 4, 2019 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Cloud. The Rev. Dee Pederson officiated.

Twit will be remembered for his generosity, wit and love. He dedicated his time to numerous organizations including St. Joseph Fire and Rescue, St. Joseph City Council, Community Theatre, RSVP and Crew 52 to name a few. He shared his knowledge and skills, and taught in a meticulous way. He showed his love by sharing his time and passions with others.

Twit was born Feb. 3, 1954 in St. Cloud, Minn. to Jerome and Lillian (Theisen) Twit. He fulfilled his desire for helping



others through his practice of pharmacy. He began his career as a pharmacist in St. Joseph and ended at the VA Medical Center in St. Cloud. On June 12, 1998 he married Audrey Staller (Foss). Together they enjoyed many travels, projects and their love of being together.

Survivors include his wife Audrey; his children from his first marriage: Katie (Bill) Larkin, Kelly (Steve) Ring, his children through Audrey: Tom (John) Staller, and Brock (Laura) Staller, five grandchildren: Keaton, Noah, Leela, Olivia and Harper, and sisters: Sandy Haggerty, Jeanne Bonfig and Kathy Twit.

Ken was preceded in death by his parents.

Memorials are preferred.

People

The Central Minnesota Arts Board awarded \$144,416 in support of 24 regional arts projects.

The College of St. Benedict was awarded \$7,000 for "We Shall Overcome: A Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." The Feb. 15 event will showcase African American music that unified a generation of civil rights activists with recordings of King’s speeches interwoven between songs.

They received \$7,000 for "Songs for Schools" a series of activities scheduled for January-April 2019 to engage local schoolchildren in high-quality choral experiences through free concerts at 10 area schools.

Brady Birch of St. Joseph has been selected to the fall dean’s list at the University of Jamestown (N.D.). Students must maintain a grade-point average of 3.50 or higher to earn this status.

The **St Joseph Lions Club** presented its annual awards on Dec. 18.

Three members received Melvin Jones Fellowships, the highest recognition given by the Lions International Foundation. **Leonard Walz** was recognized for his leadership on committees involving brat sales, July Fourth parade, finance and



contributed photo
Lions receiving awards are (left to right) Scott Bloch, Kyle Jensen, Gail Rucks, Keith Schleper, Mary Stommes, Len Walz, Greg Kacures, Doug Carlson and Nate Molitor.

food service. **Kyle Jensen** distinguished himself as brat sales chairman, chicken and ham dinner committee member and in organizing the club fish fries. **Nathan Molitor** serves successfully as membership chairman, works as a parade committee member and volunteers at St John’s food Service.

Mary Stommes received the Helen Keller Sight Award. She was recognized for her work as July Fourth parade co-chair, chairman of the Fundraising Committee, Building Committee, Ham Dinner, Gambling and Peace Poster committees.

Two members were awarded Hearing Research Fellowships. They are **Scott Bloch** and **Keith Schleper**.

Bloch serves as the club gambling manager, the program and entertainment chairman, meat raffle chairman and serves on the parade committee. Schleper received the president’s award. He currently serves as the building committee chairman.

The Dream Catcher award was presented to **Doug Carlson**. He has served as a member of the building committee and finance committee, while also co-chairing the scouting committee and food shelf committee.

Greg Kacures and **Gail Rucks** were honored with selection for the Lions Top Dog award.

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(formerly Index 53)

Larry Rudolph, Optician

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Kennedy VEX Robotics gearing up for competitions

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

VEX Robotics students at Kennedy Community School have been busy gearing up for competition.

Robotics students competed Jan. 5 at the Sartell Sabres VEX Turning Point Tournament in Sartell. Two Kennedy teams won two awards presented by VEX judges after judges' interviews. The sixth-grade girls team won the VEX Robotics Energy Award and the sixth-grade boys team won the VEX Robotics Judges Award.

They will also participate from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, in the Kimball Area Schools Super Mega VRC Tournament – middle school and high school at the Kimball High School in Kimball.

Currently, 41 middle school and more than 40 high school teams statewide are registered.

Kennedy robotics students also entered several online challenges for the chance to win VEX gift cards to be used to purchase equipment for the team. These online challenges are given by the Robotics Education and Competition Foundation and include creating a website for your team, designing a promotional video about the school's VEX Robotics team, an online photography challenge and what VEX means to you through photos. Both all-girls teams wrote an essay about what Girl Powered means to them.

The VEX Robotics State Tournament, which will be held Feb. 2 and 3 at the St. Cloud Convention Center, is open to those who qualify at one of the tournaments between September and January. (If a team wins one or any of the Design Award, Excellence Award, Robot Skills or Tournament Champion areas.)

The Kennedy program is for middle school sixth- through eighth-grade students and is in its second year at the school. The students begin practicing in September and meet through January.

Science teacher Alissa Keil coordinates the five VEX Team Kennedy Bolts teams consisting of 25 members and helps them learn how to design, create, build and code a robot, design a website, create a video, all while having fun doing it. Two of the five teams are all-girls teams.

Keil started the program her first year at Kennedy, with administration support.

“VEX Robotics is how we prepare our students to lead in a world that is driven by technology,” Keil said.

She said robotics is an amazing chance for students to experience building life skills in science, technology, engineer-

ing and mathematics (STEM). It gives students a chance to practice teamwork, leadership, communication and problem-solving while applying science, technology, engineering and math to create, design and build a robot to compete in live competition against other middle school and high school VEX Robotics Teams.

Several students in the program commented on their experiences.

“I like that I have been able to make new friends,” said sixth-grader Olivia Beniek, Team Lead. “I get to use tools and I don’t usually do that every day. I like that we do other things like write Girl Power essays, and create websites and build robots. I get to work with others and I am usually an independent kind of person. It has been eye-opening for me.”

“I like that I am learning how to problem-solve,” said sixth-grader Asma Ahmed. “This is what I need to help me in my life as a student. I like working with other girls on my team. I get to build robots and I probably wouldn’t do that at home by myself. I get to be part of a team doing what is cool.”

“All the teams’ robots are different,” said seventh-grader Carl Shobe. “It is cool to see others’ ideas.”

“It is a fun way to spend time with your friends,” said seventh-grader Emily Hammond, Team Lead. “You problem-solve all the time. It is fun to problem-solve. I am good at that.”

“You’re not just building a robot, you are building a website, writing a Girls’ Power essay and using critical thinking to do it all,” said seventh-grader Sophie Birkholz.

Keil said robotics will have a significant impact on our workforce in the coming years.

“How will we best prepare our students to meet the coming challenge?” she asked. “We have our VEX Robotics Competition Team and VEX Robotics classes at Kennedy for middle school. We need to engage our students so they have the opportunity to gain robotic literacy and strong STEM skills. It has become the fourth “R” in reading, writing, arithmetic, robotics. I have seen VEX transform the students involved.”

Many of her students ask her about the type of work engineers do. She said that is an easy question to answer in VEX Robotics. Kennedy students work in teams similar to industry, while communicating, collaborating and using critical thinking skills to solve the VEX engineering challenge which is new every year. Students problem-solve for many months how to de-

sign, create, build and test an innovative robot to compete in the engineering challenge. The engineering challenge takes place in the form of a game.

Keil said this year’s challenge is even more challenging than before, and students learn by doing. This brings them closer to the real jobs that await them in the STEM field. Even if they don’t become an engineer, the life skills they learn in robotics will serve them well in any career they choose.

“Not many subjects can offer both creativity and fun simultaneously, but robotics does both plus helps students build preparedness and perseverance,” she said.

Each middle school and high school must register all of their teams which costs money. Robots are also expensive and cost around \$1,200 each. Keil said the program has received a great deal of support from the local area in the form of donations.

In addition, she has written and applied for two grants and was awarded two VEX robots for the school’s all-girls teams. VEX Robotics Competitions in the St. Cloud area also require registration fees to participate. Local businesses have stepped up to help the VEX Team Kennedy Bolts pay for all expenses.

The program has received monetary donations from the Kennedy Parent Teacher Association, St. Joseph Lions Club, Rock On Trucks, Rotochopper, Stearns Electric-Operation Round-Up and also received four computers from Computers Unlimited.

“Team Kennedy Bolts are extremely grateful for all of the community support,” Keil said.

The program has also received help from the St. Cloud school district support tech Paul Novak, who allowed Kennedy students to use his Boy Scouts’ robot so the girls’ team could assemble a robot until their robot arrived in the mail. Novak also discussed designs with students.

Kennedy custodial staff Richard Romness, a civil engineer, also helped students understand how gear and torque work together on the VEX robots to help them do their job.

“I am so proud of Team Kennedy Bolts,” Keil said. “We have come so far and done so much.”

Keil, who grew up in the Kimball area, has been teaching since 1999 and has worked in the St. Cloud school district for four years. She previously taught fifth grade at Madison Elementary School in St. Cloud. She also taught at a year-round science school in St. Paul.



contributed photo
Kennedy Community School seventh-grade and second-year Bolts Team participants (clockwise) Carl Shobe, Ethan Duncan, (Kennedy Bolts Team President), Lily Howe, Kaleigh Anderson and Cade Jacobson practice in Alissa Keil's science room.

Both she and her husband, Matthew Keil, are very active in the district robotics program. Matthew works in technology education/career and technology education at Tech High School and is the VEX Robotics coach for both Apollo and Tech high schools.

Matthew’s students have helped answer questions Alis-

sa’s students have had about how to make certain design ideas work.

Previously, both Alissa and Matthew worked at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. She served as the education coordinator for

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if you would like your business included. Check out the online Business Directory at thenewsleaders.com which hyperlinks to each business' website.

VEX

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NASA Explorer Schools for NASA's eastern service region of 13 states from Maryland to New York. Keil helped K-12 teachers incorporate STEM into their classroom.

She then moved to NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, and worked on NASA Reduced Gravity Aircraft, working with colleges and universities from

around the country who flew their microgravity projects onboard NASA's Reduced Gravity Aircraft in a micro-gravity environment.

Keil additionally worked with high school and college interns to place them with scientists, researchers and engineers in various internship positions at NASA Johnson Space Center.

Many of her former student interns speak to her current science classes at Kennedy through Google Meets,

from around the country, to help her inspire the next generation of learners and get them thinking about STEM.

Alissa and Matthew have three children Lincoln, 4, Abby, 6, and Benjamin, 8. Abby and Benjamin both attend Kennedy Community School.

"My students get so excited about making new discoveries each time we are in practice," Keil said. "I enjoy seeing them learn new things and helping each other systematically test solutions during practices and during competitions. My favorite part of robotics is when students see why robotics is part of our everyday life and how they can turn a toy into so much more. I appreciate the work this community has done to support my students (and) I am grateful to live and work in St. Joseph."

For additional information about the VEX Robotics program, visit the website vex-robotics.com/vexedr.



contributed photos

(Above right) Kennedy custodial staff Richard Romness (center), a civil engineer, explains to Ethan Duncan (left) and Karl Shobe (kneeling) how gear and torque work together on VEX robots to help them do their job.

(At right) Kennedy Community School sixth-graders and first-year Bolts Team participants (left to right) Olivia Beniek and Hanna Ramnierz practice in Alissa Keil's science room.



St. Joseph Lions Club Annual
'CHICKEN & HAM' DINNER
Friday, Jan. 18 from 4:30-7:30 p.m.
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Community Calendar

Is your event listed? Send your information to: Newsleader Calendar, 1622 11th Ave. SE., St. Cloud, MN 56304., 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, Jan. 12
Winter Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church fellowship hall, 610 CR 2, St. Joseph.
Central Minnesota Chapter of the Federation of the Blind of Minnesota, 12:30 p.m., American Legion, 17 Second Ave. N., Waite Park.

Monday, Jan. 14
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.
St. Joseph Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 75 Callaway St. E.
St. Joseph Township Board, 8 p.m., St. Joseph Township Hall, 935 College Ave. S.

Tuesday, Jan. 15
Adult Coloring and Conversation, 3-4 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids. Call Michelle at 320-281-2041. All abilities welcome.
St. Joseph EDA, 5 p.m., City Hall, 75 Callaway St. E.
St. Cloud Area Genealogists, 7 p.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. stearns-museum.org.
St. Joseph Lions Club, 7:30 p.m., Millstream Park Pavilion 101 Fifth Ave NW, St. Joseph. Contact Joanne Bechtold 320-363-4483 for more information.

Wednesday, Jan. 16
Advocates for Independence, 2-4 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids. 320-529-9000.
St. Cloud school district board meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council chambers, 400 Second St. S., St. Cloud.

Thursday, Jan. 17
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.
St. Joseph Senior Citizens, 1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Community Fire Hall, 323 Fourth Ave. NE.

Friday, Jan. 18
St. Joseph Area Historical Society, open 4-7 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave NW. stjosephhistoricalmn.org.
Chicken and Ham Dinner, sponsored by the St. Joseph Lions, 4:30-7:30 p.m., Sal's

Bar and Grill, 109 Minnesota St. W.
St. Cloud Singles Club Dance, 8 p.m.-midnight, American Legion, 17 Second Ave. S., Waite Park. 320-339-4533. stcloudsingles.net.

Saturday, Jan. 19
Being, Belonging, Becoming in Our Benedictine Community, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Learn about what life is like at St. Benedict's Monastery. If you are a single, Catholic woman under 45, you are invited. To register, contact Sister Lisa Rose, director of vocations, at lrose@csbsju.edu or (320) 363-7180.

Sunday, Jan. 20
American Legion Breakfast, 8 a.m.-noon. 17 Second Ave. N., Waite Park.

Monday, Jan. 21
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.
St. Cloud Area Parkinson's Disease Support Group, 1-2:30 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids.
Fare for All food distribution, 3:30-5:30 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2, St. Joseph. Visit fareforall.org or call 800-582-4291.
St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club, 7 p.m., American Legion, 101 W Minnesota St., St. Joseph.

Tuesday, Jan. 22
National Alliance on Mental Health, 7-8:30 p.m.,

Calvary Community Church, 1200 Roosevelt Road, St. Cloud. The group helps parents raising a child with mental illness learn coping skills and develop problem-solving skills. 320-654-1259.

Thursday, Jan. 24
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.

Sunday, Jan. 27
Joe Town Table, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., American Legion, 101 W. Minnesota St., St. Joseph. every fourth Sunday of the month. centralmncw@gmail.com.

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Our View

All should agree on voting rights

When the Minnesota Legislature convened this week, legislators focused on how state government will deal with a \$1.5-billion budget surplus. Democrats will demand increased funding for programs such as education and health care and Republicans will urge a tax cut.

While agreement on the budget may be months off, there's one set of legislative proposals that should be supported by both parties. Secretary of State Steve Simon announced what he calls his "Investing in Democracy" agenda aimed at maintaining Minnesota's nation-leading role for voter turnout and voting rights.

Simon's agenda includes four components: increased security, decreased barriers to voter registration, restoration of voting rights for those who were formerly incarcerated and protecting voter privacy.

To improve Minnesota's voter security, Congress allocated more than \$6.6 million. Unfortunately, legislators and the governor could not agree last session and these funds were not allocated, making Minnesota the only state not to receive this federal investment in time for the 2018 election. Democrats and Republicans should quickly agree on legislation to get this money.

To make voting easier, Simon proposes automatically registering people when they interact with government agencies unless they opt out. Automatic voter registration would update the current "motor voter" law, which allows eligible Minnesotans to register to vote when they apply for a driver's license.

While Minnesota routinely leads the nation in voter participation, the turnout in the 2018 general election was just 64.25 percent and only 86.8 percent of eligible Minnesotans were registered to vote. Automatic voter registration will save money and improve voter participation.

Easy access to the ballot is a central tenet of Minnesota's elections. However, a person who has been convicted of a felony but has left prison behind is ineligible to vote while on parole or on probation. Approximately 60,000 Minnesotans are currently barred from voting because they have been convicted of a felony and have not had their civil rights restored. Simon proposes making Minnesota the 17th state in the nation in which voting rights are restored as soon as a person convicted of a felony is released from prison.

Passed in 2016 by the legislature, the law creating the 2020 presidential primary requires separate ballots for each political party, requires all voters disclose to election officials the party ballot they choose and makes that data public record. Minnesotans have not had to disclose their party affiliation while registering or at the polls. That privacy should be protected.

The primary would replace the straw polls taken at precinct caucuses, events sponsored by the political parties. But the local taxpayers will fund the presidential primary.

The legislature should repeal the section of the presidential primary law that mandates revealing voters' party preferences and the legislature should vote to conduct the presidential primary by mail, saving millions of dollars. In other states, mail ballots have resulted in increased participation.

The last legislative session ended with deadlock on key issues and frustrated voters. Early action on Simon's proposals should give both parties a win, showing Republicans and Democrats can work together to solve Minnesota's problems.

St. Joseph Newsleader • www.thenewsleaders.com

Friday, Jan. 11, 2019

Opinion

Now we've really lost Tom Emmer

We've lost Rep. Tom Emmer. We've never really had him you say, and there could be an argument for that position. Emmer rarely visits central Minnesota and much of his financial support comes from outside our area and outside the district.

But now we've really lost him.

Emmer's GOP colleagues recently appointed him to lead the National Republican Campaign Committee. The NRCC is the campaign arm of the House GOP. It raises money for incumbents and challengers and develops campaign strategy.

Emmer has said his task for the next two years is to win back Republican control of the House of Representatives. He'll do this by traveling around the country, recruiting candidates and helping them raise money. His weekend trips away from Washington, D.C., won't be to central Minnesota but to congressional districts where Republicans hope to post a win.

A former member of the Minnesota House of Representatives and failed candidate for governor, Emmer was re-elected to his third term in 2018. He was an early Donald Trump supporter and continues to stand by Trump's side at political rallies and with his votes, including voting in December for \$5.7 billion for Trump's wall...a vote that touched off the government shutdown.

Emmer was elected in 2014 to replace Michele Bachmann in the 6th District, a district Trump carried by 26 points. Emmer probably figures his position in a deep-red House seat will allow him to focus on running the NRCC rather than having to worry

about winning re-election.

Democrats should start now looking for a strong candidate to challenge him in 2020 and give him something to think about as he flies around the country trying to reclaim the House.

With Emmer joined at the hip to Trump, Democrats need to find a strong candidate to challenge him on his past positions.

On the environment, Emmer supports mineral exploration in the Superior National Forest.

On finances Emmer sponsored the Home Mortgage Disclosure Adjustment Act. The law eased disclosure and compliance requirements for mortgages and benefited smaller lenders instead of borrowers.

On gun safety, Emmer supported making it easy for people with mental illness to buy guns. That measure was the first law the Republicans sent for Trump's signature two years ago.

We've also lost whatever legislative clout Emmer had as part of the House majority. Emmer and his Trump team buddies won't be able to act so fast this time. Republicans are in the minority now, so don't look for Emmer to get any of his conservative ideas passed into law. Since his election, Emmer has never been part of the minority. A Dec. 29 New York Times story described

Mike Knaak
Editor



Following 'house rules' prolongs Monopoly

During the holidays, my extended family engaged in one of our annual traditions, a game of Monopoly. Though my family has played many times before, there is often confusion about the exact rules, as many people have house rules they are used to. With this in mind I decided to read through the official rules once again, and clear up some of this uncertainty. In the actual rules I learned about many things people do wrong while playing the game. I also learned by employing the correct rules, Monopoly games that can stretch on "forever" under house rules shortened to more reasonable periods of time.

Monopoly, for those who maybe haven't played, is one of the most popular and enduring board games in America and the world. The object of the game is to buy property, negotiate with others and attempt to be the last person standing in the game by bankrupting your opponents. First published in 1935, it is played in dozens of countries.

Monopoly is so popular and well-known most people in the United States have at least a basic understanding of the game's rules. Though this is great for finding people to play at a family gathering, this often creates a lot of confusion because people believe they know the rules to the game and so they don't often read them, creating a litany of house rules and exceptions that slow down the pace of the game and hurt its dynamics.

The largest of these house rule headaches is the "Free Parking" space. Situated on the second corner of the board after the start at "Go," this area is home to many a misconception. Many people play "Free Parking" as being some sort of lottery space. Money is placed into the center of the board, either a base amount and/or money collected from fines, and is then cashed out as a jackpot to the lucky person who lands on the space.

Not only is this against the rules, it actually hurts the game. The rules state "Free Parking" is just that, a free space to land where you don't have to pay anyone rent. By putting additional money into the game as a jackpot, it prolongs the game by putting money into the game that isn't supposed to be there and allowing players to continue longer than under the actual rules.

Contrary to popular belief, getting sent to jail in the game isn't as bad as you would often believe either. Some players state going to jail keeps you from collecting rent, or you have to stay in jail for a full three turns if you don't roll doubles first. Both of these rules are incorrect.

You can absolutely collect rent

Connor Kockler
Guest Writer



what it's like in the minority this way:

"Unlike the Senate, where individual members can exert some influence whether they are in the majority or not, those on the sidelines in the House have few options. After years of being in the know about the House agenda and majority strategy, Republican lawmakers will now struggle to even ascertain what the schedule is.

"'You control nothing,' said Rep. Peter T. King, the New York Republican who will be experiencing his fourth transition in House power. 'As far as calling the shots, we have nothing like the Senate where one guy can filibuster. You have no recourse.'"

When we look at financial contributions to Emmer's campaigns, it's easy to see why we lost him and why he focused on a narrow set of issues.

In the last election cycle, Emmer raised more than \$2.4 million. Individuals and PACs associated with the insurance, securities, banking and real estate industries accounted for more than \$580,000 of that total.

And where did the money come from? The top two contributors were associated with Davisco Foods, a cheese and food ingredient company headquartered in St. Peter, and Hubbard Broadcasting, owners of the KSTP empire based in St. Paul. A total of 12 individuals in Sartell and St. Joseph contributed to Emmer's last campaign out of 648 individual contributors.

While we've lost Emmer for a number of reasons, Democrats may have found a chance to win the 6th District if they can find a strong candidate who challenges Emmer's record.

while in jail and tournament-level Monopoly players often try specifically to get into jail so they can sit and collect rent without risking landing on other players' properties. You can also buy your way out of jail as soon as your next turn by paying \$50.

Another issue that often comes up is that of houses and hotels. These can be bought and placed on complete colored sets of properties in the later game, increasing rent and helping you to bankrupt your opponents. The game includes 32 houses and 12 hotels. In my experience, many players often resort to finding objects to simulate these pieces if they run out during gameplay. However, adding additional houses and hotels is against the rules.

There is intentionally only so many houses and hotels in the game in order to create scarcity. If all of the houses and hotels are in use, players are supposed to wait until some are returned to the bank, and if there are multiple interested buyers, the bank is supposed to auction them off.

Though I can't cover all the house rules and changes people might be playing with Monopoly in this column, just implementing these three major rules correctly can have a massive impact on the game. So the next time your family wants to start up a game of Monopoly, skim over the rules first. You might save yourselves a lot of confusion, and time.

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

WWII

from front page

was ordered to Fort Amador. Fort Amador is on an island in the Pacific ocean, off shore from the strategically important Panama Canal.

Othmar had six months additional training on the big 16-inch guns, and also 14-inch guns. The large guns had an accuracy range of up to 20 miles. His five-man crew was then transported to the tiny island of Taboga.

To say this assignment was in an isolated location would be an understatement. The men on the island had their mail and provisions/supplies brought out to them by boat and sea plane. As young “invincible” and daring soldiers, they swam with the sharks.

After a while, Othmar and others welded two fuel tanks salvaged from an airplane. They fashioned for themselves a two-man raft. Having determined the raft reasonably sea worthy, Othmar and his buddies took turns paddling this raft to an island five miles away. The journey to Taboga took six to seven hours in shark-infested waters. Why might one ask as to the reason

for such a risky undertaking? On Tabogo they could buy a case “very good rum for \$10.”

On a much more somber note, Othmar related a tragic event that took place on June 11, 1946, 6-11-1946 (Father’s Day). An airplane carrying wives, children and army personnel, heading for the main base at Fort Amador, crashed into the top of a mountain on an adjacent island.

One young soldier in particular was so looking forward to spending a brief visit with his wife and his baby whom he had not yet seen.

For two days Othmar and the other soldiers searched the area and recovered body parts they placed in plastic bags. One can only imagine how traumatic this experience likely was for 19-year-old Othmar.

After six months Othmar rotated back to the main base at Fort Amador. He was given another job, that of truck driver. On one trip, Othmar relates how a tie rod broke where upon he lost control of the vehicle. It crashed into the ocean. He sustained a concussion and spent two weeks in the hospital. When he was able to resume his duties, he just “drove people around shopping and keeping the staff cars clean.”



contributed photo
Othmar Schmitz in 1946.

In due time Othmar boarded a hospital ship that was returning stateside from Germany. After five days at sea, he arrived at the port of New Orleans from which he was discharged from active duty.

Othmar was waiting to take a train home to Minnesota. While waiting in a USO bar, the train started to pull out of the station. Othmar literally had to run after the train. Mix up in departure times?

He arrived at Union Station, St. Paul, and took a Greyhound bus to St. Cloud. Finally he got home at 11 p.m. Everyone was sleeping. He woke his mom.

When Othmar got home, the money he sent home was spent by his mother given the



contributed photo
Othmar Schmitz today.

acute needs of the family.

Reflecting on his military experience, Othmar was grateful he did not contract any tropical illnesses. While separation from family and friends was difficult, he remembers “how hard it was on the married guys.” Mail came in twice weekly.

He hated food in basic training but found it got better later on. He remembers frequent movies, good buddies, no tattoos, Sunday religious services and free coffee, donuts and rolls when available. When Othmar was asked to reflect upon his military experience this is what he shared.

“Before the army I pushed around, considered farming,

worked from one farmer to another. He found the army “interesting. I’m glad I served, it was a good experience. Being away from home, I definitely felt more independent and grown up.”

After his discharge from the army, Othmar worked at a number of jobs: farm work, Cold Spring Granite and Cold Spring Brewery. When the Korean War broke out he was classified A-1, but was never called back to active service.

After a one-year courtship he married Marilyn in 1949. They had eight children (three of whom are deceased).

To support his large family, Marilyn and Othmar bought a farm north of St. Joseph. Each morning before going to work at the Great Northern Shops, he would feed the baby and milk the cows. As an electrician, Othmar worked for the Great Northern-Burlington Northern Railroad for 36 years. Othmar and Marilyn have been married for 69 years.

Besides parenting eight children, they have 20 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren. When asked to what he attributes his active life and longevity, Othmar says volunteerism, exercise, travel, spirituality and sociability.

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News for Refugees

Ogeysiis! Importante para Usted, por favor léalo Please read!

Announcements brought to you by Cultural Bridges of St. Joseph, a volunteer-run organization and committee of Central Minnesota Community Empowerment Organization. We are dedicated to easing your transition into our community.

Check this space to make announcements that especially apply to our Refugee Neighbors in St. Joseph as well as those whose first language is other than English.

Please tell your family and neighbors about this information.

Community Center open gym

Open Gym at the St. Joseph Community Center is 6-9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The Community Center is at 124 First Ave. SE., behind the Government Center.

The fee is \$2 per visit.

Punch cards are \$30 for 20 visits – one punch card may be used for several members of a family and may be purchased from the attendant at the Community Center or from the Government Center during working hours.

Basketball, floor hockey and pickleball equipment can be checked out.

Adult education

St. Joseph Cultural Bridges ESL classes are at St. Benedict's Spirituality Center, 104 Chapel Lane. Contact Monica at 320-529- 6500, ext. 6211. Classes are 9-10:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday.

Go west on Minnesota Street to Third Street and turn left into the North Entrance of the College of St. Benedict. Turn right at the first stop sign and then left at the white barn.

ESL classes at St. Joseph Parish School, 12 Minnesota St. W., are 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Contact Monica at 320-529-6500, ext. 6211.

If you have any questions, please contact Dianne DeVargas at 320-345-0593. Please share this message with other refugees and immigrants you know who live in St. Joseph.

SJP students test design skills at local robotics tournament



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Members of the St. John's Prep Robotics Team perform maintenance to their robot Jan. 5 prior to their next match at the Sartell Middle School Robotics Tournament. They are (left to right) Kane Baumen, 13, of Avon; Nick Hansen, 12, of St. Joseph; Grace Dauer, 14, of Sartell; and Oscar Cheeley, 13, of Cold Spring. To watch a video from the robotics tournament, visit thenewsleaders.com.

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A black and white portrait of a man, Ryan Holter, wearing a suit and tie. He is smiling and looking towards the camera.

Haga Kommer CPA's is excited to announce their merger with Schmitz & Ketchum and welcome Ryan Holter, CPA, MBT to our office!

Schmitz & Ketchum, a division of Haga Kommer, CPA's, will continue to operate from its current office.

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