

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Nov. 16, 2018
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Town Crier

Winter Market this Saturday

Sartell Farmers Winter Market will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday Nov. 17 inside Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St S. Many items for sale include the following: Unique Thanksgiving treats, baked goods, canned goods and much more.

Winter Wonderland set Saturday, Dec. 8

Winter Wonderland, for children 12 and under and their families, will be held from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8 at the Lake George Municipal Complex, 1101 Seventh St. S., St. Cloud. Santa and Mrs. Claus have taken time off from their busy schedule to join you and your family for a winter celebration. Create arts and crafts, decorate a cookie, see the reindeer exhibit, enjoy a hayride around the lake and much more. Don't forget your camera. The big trucks will be rolling in again this year for Touch-a-Truck, where children can see, touch and safely explore their favorite big trucks and heavy machinery.

Ring bells for Salvation Army

Volunteer to ring bells for The Salvation Army during the Christmas season. There are locations in Sartell, St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids and Waite Park. Ringers stand outside for at least two hours. Call 320-257-7437.

Full election reults

Read the full midterm election results for our area on page 8.

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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.

INSERTS: Country Manor Housing Rapid Recovery

Stories only
on thenewsleaders.com

- Sartell girls finish first in section swim meet
- Full election results

Sartell Coborns' stores thank veterans



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Veterans Bob Kmitch (left) and Roger Lortz, both of Sartell, enjoy conversation and a complimentary chicken dinner Nov. 12 at Coborn's on Pinecone Road in Sartell. The store served 292 meals, which was an increase from 192 meals last year. The Riverside Coborn's location also participated serving 71 free meals.

Mayor-elect Fitzthum has busy, good week

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

After Sartell City Council member Ryan Fitzthum learned late in the evening of Nov. 6 that he will soon be called officially Sartell Mayor Ryan Fitzthum, he didn't celebrate; he couldn't.



Fitzthum

He had to be up at 9 a.m. the next day to fly to Las Vegas for a business convention about heavy machinery.

The week following his win over contender council member David Peterson was a very busy week, he told the Sartell Newsleader in a Nov. 12 interview.

"But it was a very good week," he quickly added.

Back home from Vegas Nov. 9, he felt inclined to go hunting, as he has always done in early November. But he quickly changed his mind, thinking it best to spend quality time with his wife, Cindy, and their three young daughters - Carly, Rory and Elly.

One night Ryan and Cindy went out for a quiet celebration - a dinner and a cou-

ple drinks at a local restaurant. After dinner, they rolled up their sleeves and drove around Sartell in the rain and the sleet, picking up dozens of "Vote Fitzthum for Mayor" signs.

Fitzthum chuckled fondly when telling about his oldest daughter, Carly, a kindergartner. She and classmates learned in school some basics about elections with two "candidates" - a bunny and a turtle and their qualifications for office.

Carly said she wanted them both to win, and - in real life - she wanted both her daddy and David Peterson to win. In "real life," however, this is what happened Nov. 6:

Voters gave 3,886 votes for Fitzthum, which is 53 percent of the total votes cast. Peterson garnered 3,402 votes. There were 20 write-in votes. Registered voters totaled 10,498 voters as of 7 a.m. on the day of the election.

At the Monday, Jan. 14 city-council meeting, current Mayor Sarah Jane Nicoll will pass the gavel to Fitzthum. Two others will also be sworn into office that evening - newly elected council members Tim Elness and Jeff Kolb.

Mayor • page 2

Soyka excited to start as new Stearns sheriff

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Steve Soyka has gone from learning about the Stearns County Sheriff's Office as a teenage Explorer three decades ago to his election as sheriff on Nov. 6.



Soyka

Soyka, 49, defeated Waite Park Police Chief Dave Ben- trud to become the county's first new, elected sheriff in 16 years. He'll assume his new duties on Jan. 7.

In the next seven weeks, his to-do list includes numerous meetings to assure a smooth transition, but more importantly, thinking about how he'll put in place the goals he set during the campaign.

Soyka says his No. 1 priority will be to emphasize community policing with patrol deputies and jail officers. His second priority will be to actively recruit and train officers, especially for the jail.

Last Sunday, Soyka took a break from picking up

about 600 campaigns signs posted around the county for a hearty breakfast of two eggs, bacon and toast at Kay's Kitchen in St. Joseph. While he ate his breakfast and answered questions about his plans, residents stopped by the table to say hi and to congratulate him on his victory.

In the coming weeks, he'll be shadowing current Sheriff Don Gudmundson, meeting with judges, the county board and the county attorney.

When he gathers the deputies, he said he wants to "explain community oriented policing, the mindset and philosophy." He wants the officers to regularly connect with citizens whether it be by stopping in a café or business, attending a city council meeting or walking through a school. Soyka said some of those actions take place now but he wants to stress how important it is for the entire department, even the sheriff, to make connections.

"My intention is to come out and work and be con-

Sheriff • page 9

Mayor

from front page

One of the first orders of business is for the council to decide how to fill Fitzthum’s former council seat – by appointment or via special election. There are still two years to go on that four-year council position.

But the first couple of meetings and workshops Fitzthum would like to be “getting to know you” time and a time to “take a breath” before heavy-duty work on hot topics begins.

“Mike (Chisum) and I will be the only carry-overs from the current council,” he said. “That’s why it’s important we learn the perspectives of the new council members

and so they can learn our perspectives. That’s an important step I learned from business, to get a functioning team going – in this case, a functioning council. Then we can jump in and start to tackle issues.”

Fitzthum said there will be some “getting acquainted” workshops scheduled at which the new members can learn the backgrounds and current status of city issues from city staff.

As mayor, Fitzthum said he is going to emphasize strongly that residents should always feel free to share their

concerns and ideas with the council and city staff. That kind of input, he said, is vital for decision-making.

Fitzthum said he was pleased St. Joseph Mayor Rick Schultz and Sauk Rapids City Council member Kurt Hunstiger called him to offer their congratulations and support. Cooperation among cities is one of Fitzthum’s high priorities. One example, he added, is a possible option for Sartell and Sauk Rapids to order new fire trucks and get a deal, saving money, if they buy them from the same company. Fitzthum said he would like to see the city of Sartell pursue more such options with surrounding cities for cooperative endeavors, networking and other forms of mutual support.

Fitzthum, 33, is branch manager at CH Robinson, a national third-party logistics company with a large office in Sartell. He is also a captain on the Sartell Fire Department. Among his other memberships and civic commitments, past or present, are board member of Metro Transit (bus), member of the Sartell-St. Stephen Education Foundation, the United Way, the Sartell-Le Sauk Township Joint Planning Commission, Mississippi River Partners Commission and the Sartell-St. Stephen school district Facilities Committee.

Peterson, 47, has served on the city council for 12 years and has been a member of the Minnesota National Army Guard for 19 years for which he works as an attorney, having served two tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. He has also been both a prosecutor and a private-practice attorney. He is currently an employee of the VA Health Care System in St. Cloud, working with its human-resources department.

School leaders asking why levy failed

by Dave DeMars
news@thenewsleaders.com

The votes are in and tabulated and the leaders of the Sartell-St. Stephen School District are asking themselves what went awry with the attempt to pass an operations levy referendum in the district. The proposed levy, titled Levy for Learning, was defeated by more than 1,600 votes.

What happened?
“Well, I’m not sure,” said Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert in a recent phone interview. “That’s one of the reasons the board and I have talked and we are going to go out and do some listening sessions and get a good understanding of what the patrons would like us to do differently.”

With 60 percent of the electorate opposed to the proposed referendum, Schwiebert and the board members are more than a little discomfited by the rejection.

“We had a large turnout which is great,” said Schwiebert, “but that also means we need to do a better job of informing everyone.”

The board made efforts to inform the public with Schwie-

bert and board members giving information briefings to the public, publishing explanatory material in the Newsleader and the Times, and online at the district website. But apparently it was not enough.

The board was asking for an additional \$82.62 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation. The present levy is \$37.72 per \$100,000. The new levy, which would have replaced the present levy, would have added the \$82.62 to the present levy for a total of \$120.34 per \$100,000. If the rejection of the referendum is any indication of voter thinking, that tax increase was simply too much to swallow.

At this point, Schwiebert said no decision has been made about trying to make a run at passing a different levy. “We need to go out and listen and find out what the people want, and we need to make sure we understand what is going on,” Schwiebert said again.

One thing Schwiebert was confident of was the opening of the new high school.

“We will open the new school – we said that all along that we would open that, but the cost to open that will have to come out of the budget that

we currently have,” Schwiebert said. “In order to make our budget balance we are going to have to do some reductions.”

But Schwiebert was unwilling to name the kinds and amounts of reductions that might have to be made.

“It’s way too early,” he said. “We have to go out and listen to what our patrons said, and then listen to our own people internally. Then we can decide where we want to make the most appropriate reductions in our budget.”

Schwiebert cautioned there is no need to rush, adding the board needs to be thoughtful about the whole issue.

“About 85 percent of our costs are people who are in the midst of a year, and it’s a little tough to make people reductions in the middle of the year,” Schwiebert said.

Schwiebert added there is a lot of rumor and gossip, but nothing has been decided. Still, the \$1.7-million increase (about four percent of the present \$38 million dollar budget) the referendum would have provided will need to be made up somewhere, he added.

People

Two Sartell students are studying abroad during the fall semester 2018 through the Center for Global Education at the College of St. Benedict/St. John’s University.

Dean Amundson, son of Charmin and Ben Amundson, is studying in the Austria program. Amundson is a junior social studies/secondary education major. **Matthew Immelman**, son of Pamela and Aubrey

Immelman, is studying in the Chile program. Immelman is a senior economics/hispanic studies major.

The primary objectives of the Austria program are the acquisition of German language skills and an appreciation of the Austrian culture. Located in Salzburg, students take advantage of topics pertaining to both Eastern and Western Europe

The Chile program is hosted by Universidad Adolfo Ibañez, a private university in Viña del Mar, a city of 350,000 residents. The campus is situated in central Chile, 70 miles west of Santiago, the country’s capital.

Two Sartell students graduated spring semester from North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, N.D.

Brooke-Lynn Grasswick re-

ceived an associate’s degree in health information. **Cole Moritz** received an associate’s degree in welding technology.

Sartell High School volleyball player **Miah Gessell** has signed a letter of intent to play volleyball at **Gessell** North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton. Gessell is a four-year starter for the Sabres and a two-time all-conference selection. She was voted best offensive player on her team and was in the Top 10 of the conference for serving and hitting.



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Calendar

Is your 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@the-newsleaders.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.

Friday, Nov. 16

Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

Soup, Craft and Bake Sale, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 340 Fifth Ave. S., St. Cloud.

Silent Auction and St Cloud Singles Dance, 7 p.m. silent auction, 8 p.m. singles dance. Waite Park Legion, 17 Second Ave. S., Waite Park. www.StCloudSingles.net.

“Anne of Green Gables,” presented by Apollo students, 7 p.m. Apollo High School Performing Arts Center.

Saturday, Nov. 17

Soup, Craft and Bake Sale, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 340 Fifth Ave. S., St. Cloud.

Winter Market, featuring locally grown and produced agricultural, culinary and hand-crafted products, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S.

Toy Bingo, sponsored by Avon Women of Today. 10 a.m., Avon Community Church, 204 Avon Ave.

Community Meal, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1107 Pinecone Road S., Sartell.

Breast Cancer Benefit for Missy Hammer, including both a silent and live acution, 1-7 p.m., American Legion in Royalton. Hammer is battling breast cancer.

“I Don’t Mean to Offend” panel discussion, a Q & A session with Muslim community members, 3-5 p.m., Atonement Lutheran Church, 1144 29th Ave. N., St. Cloud.

“Anne of Green Gables,” presented by Apollo students, 7 p.m. Apollo High School Performing Arts Center.

Sunday, Nov. 18

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

Fundraiser for Chris Stoeckel, 1-5 p.m., VFW, 901 N. Benton Drive, Sauk Rapids. Stoeckel was recently diagnosed with ALS.

Music at St. Mary’s, featuring performances by St. Cloud State University’s Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, Women’s Choir and Men’s Choir, 2 p.m., Cathedral of St. Mary, St. Cloud.

“Anne of Green Gables,” presented by Apollo students, 2:30 p.m. Apollo High School Performing Arts Center.

Monday, Nov. 19

Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

Lunch and cards, sponsored by Helping Hands Outreach, noon-3 p.m., Rusty Nail, 4 CR 2 S., St. Stephen. (through February)

Medicare Plan Options information, 1 p.m., Peace United Church of Christ, 402 Eighth Ave. S., St. Cloud. Laurie at loppel@gmiainc.com or 218-343-4702 or Jackie at jackie2creverinsurance.com or 320-293-9660.

St. Cloud Area Parkinson’s Disease Support Group, 1 to 2:30 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids.

Sartell-St. Stephen school board, 6:30-8:30 p.m., 212 Third Ave. N., Sartell.

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

Tuesday, Nov. 20

Medicare Plan Options information, 10 a.m., Peace United Church of Christ, 402 Eighth Ave. S., St. Cloud. Laurie at loppel@gmiainc.com or 218-343-4702 or Jackie at jackie2creverinsurance.com or 320-293-9660.

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

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

Wednesday, Nov. 21

SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together), 9 a.m., Sartell Police Department, 310 Second St. S., Sartell.

Advocates for Independence, 2-4 p.m. Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids. Become a bettr advocate for people with disabilities. 320- 281-2042.

Friday, Nov. 23

Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

“Anne of Green Gables,” presented by Apollo students, 7 p.m. Apollo High School Performing Arts Center.

St. Cloud Singles Club Dance, 8 p.m.-midnight, American Legion, 17 Second Ave. S., Waite Park. 320-339-4533. stcloudsin-gles.net.

Saturday, Nov. 24

“Anne of Green Gables,” presented by Apollo students, 7 p.m. Apollo High School Performing Arts Center.

Sunday, Nov. 25

“Anne of Green Gables,” presented by Apollo students, 2:30 p.m. Apollo High School Performing Arts Center.

Monday, Nov. 26

Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

Lunch and cards, sponsored by Helping Hands Outreach, noon-3 p.m., Rusty Nail, 4 CR 2 S., St. Stephen. (through February)

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

St. Joseph Park Board, 6 p.m., St. Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. 363-7201. cityofstjoseph.com.

Sartell City Council, 6 p.m., Sartell City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N. 320-253-2171.

Tuesday, Nov. 27

Medicare Plan Options information, 3 p.m., Peace United Church of Christ, 402 Eighth Ave. S., St. Cloud. Laurie at loppel@gmiainc.com or 218-343-4702 or Jackie at jackie2creverinsurance.com or 320-293-9660.

National Alliance on Mental Health, 7-8:30 p.m., Calvary Community Church, 1200 Roosevelt Road, St. Cloud. 320-259-7101.

Thursday, Nov. 29

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

Medicare Plan Options information meeting, 1 p.m., Peace United Church of Christ, 402 Eighth Ave.

S., St. Cloud. Laurie at loppel@gmiainc.com or 218-343-4702 or Jackie at jackie2creverinsurance.com or 320-293-9660.

Friday, Nov. 30

Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

Festival of Nativities, 5-8 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church, 2163 Mayhew Lake Road NE., Sauk Rapids. Nativities from around the world will be displayed. The free festival features local musicians performing Christmas music, a live historical nativity and a children’s area where a Christmas craft can be created.

Winterwalk, sponsored by St. Joseph Y2K Lions and St. Joseph Church, downtown St. Joseph. 6-8 p.m. tree lighting, Santa, crafts, refreshments and music; 4-8 p.m. light supper, crafts/vendors, Heritage Hall, 12 Minnesota St. W.

Saturday, Dec. 1

Winter Market, featuring locally grown and produced agricultural, culinary and hand-crafted products. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S.,

Homespun Holiday Sale, 1-4 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Home, 1115 Fourth Ave. N., Sauk Rapids. Arts, crafts and holiday gifts.

Festival of Nativities, 2-6 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church, 2163 Mayhew Lake Road NE., Sauk Rapids. Nativities from around the world will be displayed. The free festival features local musicians performing Christmas music, a live historical nativity and a children’s area where a Christmas craft can be created.

If you have a tip concerning a crime, call the Sartell Police Department at 320-251-8186 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. This information is submitted by the Sartell Police Department.

Oct. 31

11:10 a.m. Theft, CR 120. Officers were called about an individual who had taken items from a store without paying for them. The store employee watched the individual on camera. Officers issued a citation for the stolen items.

Nov. 1

3:15 p.m. Traffic stop. Second Street S. An officer witnessed a vehicle come across a bridge at a high rate of speed. The officer stopped the vehicle. The driver admitted to the speed and had thought the speed limit was different than what was posted. Officer issued a citation for the infraction.

Nov. 2

10:30 a.m. Fraud. Pinecone Road N. Officers spoke with an individual who was the victim of fraud. The individual was disputing the charges on his card

that were made out of state and officers took his statement.

Nov. 3

4 p.m. Traffic stop. Riverside Avenue S. An officer witnessed a vehicle traveling without headlights during inclement weather. When stopped to address the issue it was discovered the driver had a revoked license. The driver was cited for the infraction and the officer allowed a licensed driver to take possession of the vehicle.

Nov. 4

10:50 p.m. Traffic stop. Highway 15. An officer witnessed a vehicle driving without safety equipment. When stopped, the driver of the vehicle admitted to officers that she had a revoked license. When asked if there was anything in the vehicle, the individual admitted to possession of narcotics and paraphernalia. The narcotics and paraphernalia were seized and the driver was issued a citation for the infractions. The passenger in the vehicle took over for the driver and both were released.

Nov. 5

1:15 a.m. Suspicious items. Second Street S. Officers were called by a concerned citizen about a large quantity of drugs being placed in a garbage can.

Officers searched the garbage can and discovered a significant amount of marijuana and other drugs. Officers seized the items and retrieved the video surveillance footage showing who put the items in the garbage can.

Nov. 6

10:15 a.m. Fire. Riverside Avenue S. Officers were dispatched to a fire on Riverside Avenue where a large amount of smoke could be seen coming from the building. The officers evacuated nearby homeowners and worked traffic control to ensure a safe distance away from the fire. The officer rerouted traffic until it was safe to return to using Riverside Avenue.

Nov. 7

11 p.m. Weapon. 20th Avenue N. A concerned citizen contacted police about an individual with a knife. Officers stopped the individual and smelled marijuana. The individual was searched and drug paraphernalia was found. Individual was cited and released.

Nov. 8

9:20 p.m. DWI. Highway 15. Officers received a call from a citizen reporting a vehicle driving erratically and speeding. Officers met with the citizen and the driver of the vehicle. The individual was given a sobriety test and failed. The individual was arrested for DWI.

Nov. 9

2:45 a.m. Driving after revocation. CR 1. Officers witnessed a moving vehicle with extremely dark tint on its windows. Officers stopped the vehicle and the driver gave officers a false name. Officers discovered the driver’s real name and arrested the driver for driving after revocation and giving a false name.

Nov. 10

4:30 p.m. Traffic stop. Highway 15. Officers saw a vehicle with expired tabs driving on Highway 15. Officers stopped the vehicle and advised the driver of their expired tabs. Officers gave a warning for the infraction.

Nov. 11

3:40 p.m. Traffic stop. Riverside Avenue. An officer ran a license-plate check that showed a suspended license. The officer stopped the vehicle and cited the driver for driving after suspension. The passenger in the vehicle had a valid driver’s license and she took over as driver.

Nov. 12

7:30 p.m. Stolen vehicle. Benton Drive. An officer assisted a county deputy with a stolen vehicle stop. Driver gave officers a false name and stated he borrowed the vehicle from a friend prior to being stopped. Individual was arrested and transported to Stearns County Jail. The juvenile passenger was transported home.

Nov. 13

12:20 a.m. Traffic stop. Heritage Drive. Officers witnessed a vehicle driving down the road with no headlights on. Officers stopped the vehicle and warned the driver to turn on their headlights.



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Spring Florida and Cajun Country-13 days. Nashville-2 nights; Pensacola, FL-2 nights; N Orleans-2 nights; Natchez; Memphis and more.....March 18-30

AMERICA’S Washington, DC-10 days. Lancaster, PA- Amish; Gettysburg; Washington, DC 4 nights-Marriott; Dayton, OH.....March 25-April 3

Spring Washington, DC & New York-12 days. Gettysburg, PA; Washington, DC – 3 nights; New York City-2 nights, Nappanee, IN - Amish.....April 1-12

PLUS Spring Nashville & Memphis.....April 10-17

Spring Branson Tour April w/ “Samson”.....April 22-27

ARC Encounter & Creation Museum w/ Nappanee-Amish.....April 24-29

Pella Tulip Festival & Amana Colonies.....April 30-May 3

Door County (2 nights) and Mackinac Island (2 nights).....June 23-28

plus more including ALASKA Motorcoach Tour and Cruises

Sen. Howe has hopes, concerns for next session

by **Dennis Dalman**
news@thenewsleaders.com

Jeff Howe's Nov. 6 special-election victory as senator for District 13 is a momentous tie-breaker for the Minnesota State Senate.

Starting in January, Republicans will control the Senate by one vote – 34 to 33. Howe's election is what made the difference.



Howe

He will serve the last two years of the four-year term begun by Sen. Michelle Fischbach. After she was named lieutenant governor earlier this year, her exit from the state Senate left that chamber with a tie vote – 33 Republicans, 33 Democrats.

Former Sartell Mayor Joe Perske, vying against Howe, lost his bid for a seat in the Minnesota State Legislature.

"I feel very good," Howe said "I expected to win but not by that big of a margin. I campaigned hard and didn't get much rest."

Howe said during his frenetic campaigning in the district, he wore a pair of tennis shoes at times and sometimes a pair of boots.

"I had to get the boots re-soled," he said.

District 13 was a Republican sweep Nov. 6. Besides

Howe, District 13A Rep. Tim O'Driscoll (R-Sartell) was re-elected to his fifth term, and Lisa Demuth (R-Cold Spring) was elected as District 13A representative.

Howe, a Rockville resident, won the election with a vote total of 21,714 (57 percent of the total votes cast). Perske garnered 16,2018 votes. There were 49,244 registered voters in the Senate District 13 election.

Four years ago, Perske lost his bid for the 6th District U.S. House seat to Tom Emmer. Emmer was re-elected to that seat in the Nov. 6 election.

Howe currently serves as state representative for House District 13A. After Fischbach (R-Paynesville) left that seat to become lieutenant governor, Howe decided to file for the senate seat, and Perske also decided to file. Fischbach, who was a longtime senator for that district, was president of the senate. She became lieutenant governor after Dayton appointed then-lieutenant governor Tina Smith to fill the U.S. Senate seat vacated by Sen. Al Franken after he resigned.

Senate District 13 is west of St. Cloud and includes St. Joseph, Sartell, St. Stephen, Cold Spring, Paynesville, Le Sauk Township, Sauk Rapids Township, Precinct 4 of Waite Park, Sauk Rapids, Holdingford and Avon.

Howe, a longtime National

Guard member, said veterans' issues are his "number-one passion," and he hopes to keep working hard to make Minnesota a leader in how it treats its veterans.

"Just six years ago, our state was near the bottom five in the nation as to care for veterans," he said. "That's changed, and now we're one of the best. I don't take all the credit for it. We still have more to do. So many of the men and women under my command came home and couldn't find good jobs despite their good skill-sets. I often quote George Washington, who said you can judge the character of a nation by how it treats its veterans."

Other issues high on Howe's senatorial priorities list are the following:

Legislative action to ensure agencies and jurisdictions can share information regarding mental-health issues so crimes can be prevented and people can get the treatment they need before catastrophes happen. Locally, more than \$3 million is spent to put people with mental-health issues in jail or in detox units, then they are released after receiving no treatment, Howe said.

Recent mass shootings, he said, are not caused by guns but by people who have mental-health issues.

"I'm hoping Gov. (Tim) Walz gives commissioners latitude to cross-pollinate

agencies so information about people with mental-health issues can be shared," he said.

That way, he added, a multi-disciplinary team can intercede and ensure such people get the help they need.

In addition, Howe is in favor of giving incentives, such as scholarships, to people willing to make a career in the mental-health field so there won't be such a shortage as there is now, particularly at VA hospitals and in rural areas.

Transportation, Howe said, is also near the top of his do-list:

"We need to get roads fixed and identify the life expectancy of roads," he said. "We continue to do mill-and-overlay, filling cracks and making roads smooth. That's only good for 10 to 15 years and has to be done over and over. We should spend money to do them right, in a way that will last up to 25 years."

Howe said both parties must work on a way to bring the state's tax system into conformity with tax changes that were made at the federal level.

Health care is another priority, he said.

"I'd love to help fix health insurance," he said, "but I don't think we'll solve it this time. Maybe we could get a waiver from the ACA (Affordable Care Act) to rebuild insurance the way it was before the ACA. We (Minne-

sota) used to be the leader in health care, but we've had so many losses. A single-payer system? We have one now, Medicare, and private-insurance riders (in supplemental-insurance plans) dictate medical choices people have."

Howe said he has both hopes and concerns for the next legislative session.

"We're going in with a billion-dollar surplus," he said. "It will be interesting how that money is used. (A) dream is to make Minnesota a great place for veterans and a state that will attract other veterans and their skill sets."

Howe was first elected in District 13A in 2012. He owns his own consulting firm and served 35 years in the Minnesota National Guard, including two deployments to Iraq. He retired from the Guard last year with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Howe served on the Rockville City Council and recently retired as a city firefighter after 27 years. He had been at various times fire chief, fire marshal and fire-and-emergency coordinator.

Perske, longtime teacher and soccer coach, has been a Sartell City Council member (2005-2010) and was later elected as the city's mayor (2011-2014). He was elected county commissioner in 2016, a seat he will maintain through his term.

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'Festival of Nativities' set for 2 days

Nativity displays from around the world will be displayed soon at Trinity Lutheran Church in Sauk Rapids.

Residents from the greater St. Cloud area will be involved in the Festival of Nativities. The free events are open to everyone and will take place from 3-5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 30, and from 2-6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1.

The festival will features local musicians performing

Christmas music, a live nativity scene, as well as other nativity set-ups and a children's area where Christmas crafts can be made.

Trinity Lutheran Church is at 2163 Mayhew Lake Road NE., Sauk Rapids. Take Golden Spike Road east from Hwy. 10, then at the third roundabout go south, and the church is clearly visible on the right.

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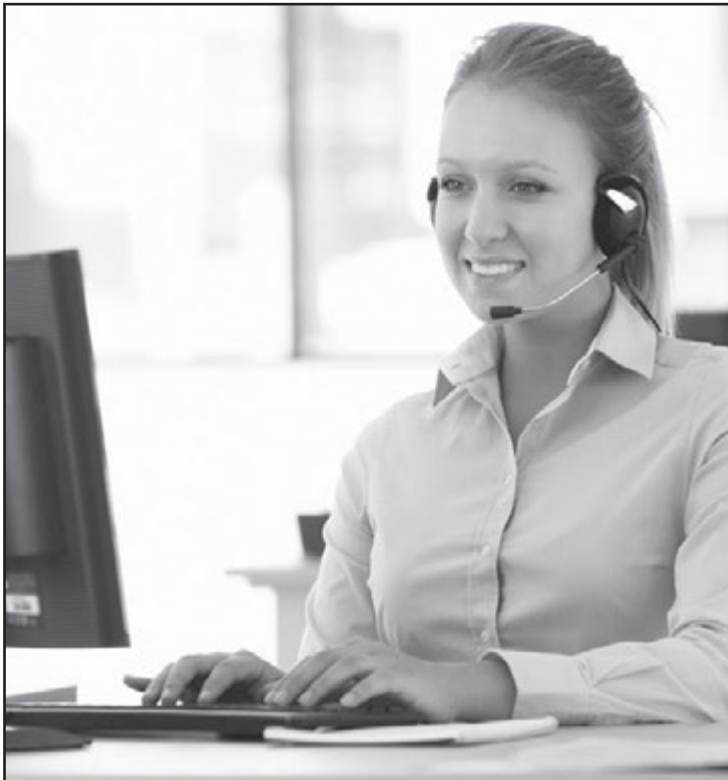




photo by Dennis Dalman

At the Sartell Middle School’s Lunch with Veterans Day, Norbert Olson, 92, gathers with wife Bette, daughter Nancy Olson-Drake (right) and granddaughter Audrey Olson-Drake, an eighth-grader. The lowest photo between Norbert and Bette is of Norbert when he was in the U.S. Navy during World War II. The Olsons came from Alexandria to have lunch with their granddaughter Audrey and her mother, who live in Sartell, along with grandson Evan Olson-Drake, a fourth-grader.

At SMS, veterans lunch with loved ones

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

The crowded cafeteria at Sartell Middle School was a buzz and roar of conversation Nov. 9 as students and their military veteran relatives enjoyed lunch together.

It was the annual SMS “Lunch with Veterans” event, in honor of veterans and Veterans Day, and this year the luncheon accommodated 75 veterans and their young loved ones and friends.

SMS Academics Extension Coordinator Lori Dornburg said she was pleasantly surprised at the turnout. Originally, 40 veterans signed up, but in the last day or two, 35 more signed up.

At one of the many lunch tables sat Lucas Jones, 44, of Sartell, who served nearly 10 years in the Minnesota National Guard. Also at the table was his daughter, Liberty Jones, SMS seventh-grader. Several of her friends also joined the conversation – Allie Hubert and Brodi Pflueger, both Sartell seventh-graders.

Jones is a forklift driver for Big Rock Sports in Sauk Rapids. “I’m very proud of my father,” Liberty said. “I’m proud he took the time to serve our country.”

Liberty’s friends nodded their heads in agreement.

Near the Jones’ lunch table was Norbert Olson in a wheelchair looking up at a wall exhibit filled with photos of veterans related to SMS students. One of the photos was of Olson, taken when he was a U.S. Navy sailor 74 years ago during World War II when he served in the Pacific, mainly in the Philippines.

Raised in Faribault, Olson, now 92, and his wife Bette now live in Alexandria and came to SMS to have lunch with their granddaughter, Audrey Olson-Drake, an eighth-grader. She is the daughter of Nancy Olson-Drake and Steve Drake of Sartell, Nancy being the daughter of Norbert and Bette. She is also the mother of Evan, a fourth-grader in the Sartell-St. Stephen School District.

“My grandfather is a very

brave person,” said Audrey, who would later sing in the choir for the school’s “Tribute to Veterans” assembly program.

For many decades, Norbert Olson was an executive for the Boy Scouts program councils in Minnesota, South Dakota and Iowa. Granddaughter Audrey is a Girl Scout, mother Nancy noted.

One of the highlights of Olson’s life, he said, was being asked to fly to Washington, D.C., on an Honor Flight to view the World War II Memorial. That flight in 2010 was made possible by the St. Cloud VFW Club.

Norbert and Betty Olson said they were happy and honored to be part of the SMS veterans’ salute and happy to spend some time with their daughter, son-in-law, granddaughter and grandson.

After all the lunches were served, many participants attended one of two tribute assemblies in the gymnasium with music, speeches and guest speakers.

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SMALL BUSINESS APPRECIATION GUIDE | EVENTS

Small Business Saturday

November 27, 2010 marked the inception of Small Business Saturday. It is meant to recognize the contributions these hard-working companies provide to their communities. This year's celebration will be held on Nov. 24.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday was chosen to correlate with the busy shopping traditions of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, which features big savings at large retailers and e-commerce stores. This year, take the time to show your appreciation toward the locally owned stores in your neighborhood.

HISTORY OF THE DAY

According to the Farm Bureau Financial Services, Small Business Saturday is the brainchild of American Express. The celebration has gained in popularity since its first year and has since encouraged entire communities to show their support.

Per the National Federation of Independent Business, in 2015, the Saturday celebration included 95 million consumers and accounted for \$16.2 billion in sales.

Here are some other statistics regarding the holiday from the FBFS:

- 54 percent of United States sales occur at a small business;
- When spending \$100 at your local business, about \$68 stays within your local economy; and
- Small businesses donate about 250 percent more to non-profits and community causes than large businesses.



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The economic impact that happens when you support small businesses can be felt throughout the entire community.

HOW SMALL BUSINESSES CAN CELEBRATE

It is in the best interest of owners to take advantage of Small Business Saturday. This is a great way to excite local consumers and invite them into

your doors. Plan to impress them by holding an event with special promotions or even showcasing a hometown celebrity to draw in clients.

Treat your customers to an enjoyable day while proving to them that your products and services will meet their expectations.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

The most effective way to contrib-

ute to the cause is keeping your dollars in local businesses.

Don't make it a once-a-year celebration, show the companies in your neighborhood that you appreciate them year-round.

You also can help spread awareness of the celebration by sharing posts on social media and informing your friends and families on the importance of supporting the little guys.

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SMALL BUSINESS APPRECIATION GUIDE | DO YOUR PART

Support Hometown Businesses

While it might be true that your locally owned stores can carry slightly higher price tags than national chains, paying them ensures your money is re-circulated throughout your community.

Being a part of the solution that helps feed the families in your neighborhood is far more rewarding than saving a couple of bucks.

According to the Center for Community and Economic Development, when dollars are spent locally, they can in turn be re-spent locally, raising the overall economic activity, providing higher salaries and building the local tax base.

Support the hometown heroes who operate with local resources by giving them your business.

Here's a look at a few of the small businesses you likely have in your own backyard.

LOCAL GROCERY STORE

Most communities in the United States have several options when it comes to shopping for groceries. This makes it difficult for independent grocers to stay afloat and competitive against their big-box counterparts.

Aside from shopping in a



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family-friendly environment, the local grocery store in your neighborhood likely purchases produce from local farmers. This means the fruits and vegetables on your family's plates will be much fresher and healthier.

FLORIST

Flowers are a great way to show someone you appreciate them or to honor the memory of a loved one who has passed. When you decide to visit your local florist rather than a “flower department” or an e-commerce store, the experience will be much more personal.

Local florists have the expertise of creating beautiful masterpieces with locally grown flowers that are sure to be a topic of conversation. Plus, most have a reliable delivery service that will bring a bouquet to the doorstep of the recipient.

If you really want to impress the special someone in your life, a local florist will be much more involved and dedicated to the process.

BUTCHER VS. MEAT DEPARTMENT

Meat is typically the centerpiece of backyard barbecues and family meals. Purchasing your meat from a local butcher has several advantages over buying from the meat department in a national store.

If you spend some time talking to your local butcher, it is easy to see they have a deep appreciation for animals. Many will only purchase from farms where animals are treated respectfully.

You also will notice that the quality and selections of meats are much more involved. Don't be surprised if you learn some incredible cooking tips from a professional butcher.

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2018 midterm election round-up

Election results reported to the Minnesota Secretary of State on Nov. 7 from the Nov. 6 general election.

Soyka elected Stearns sheriff

Steve Soyka will be Stearns County’s new sheriff.

Soyka, a Stearns County Sheriff’s Office sergeant, beat Waite Park Police Chief Dave Bentrud.

Soyka won 56 percent of the vote. He collected 34,771 votes while Bentrud picked up 26,309 votes.

Soyka will replace Sheriff Don Gudmundson, who was appointed in May 2017 after John Sanner retired midway through his term.

The sheriff’s race contrasted “insider” candidate Soyka, who has spent his entire career as a Benton or Stearns county deputy, against “outsider” Bentrud who was a St. Cloud Police Department officer before taking over the Waite Park Police Department.

Soyka won by big margins in the Kimball, Rockville, Cold Spring and St. Joseph areas while Bentrud recorded the strongest showing in parts of St. Cloud as well as Waite Park and Sartell.

In other countywide races, Auditor/Treasurer Randy Schreifels defeated John William Beuning, 45,995 to 11,843.

County Attorney Janelle Kendall was re-elected without an opponent.

Howe wins Senate 13 special election

The state Senate will remain in Republican control after Jeff Howe beat Joe Perske in the Senate District 13 special elec-

tion.

Howe, who currently represents District 13A in the state House, collected 57 percent of the vote. Perske, a current Stearns County commissioner and former Sartell mayor, received 16,108 votes to Howe’s 21,714 votes.

The special election was needed when longtime senator Michelle Fischbach resigned last spring to run for lieutenant governor with Tim Pawlenty. They lost in the August primary. With Howe’s win, Republicans will have 34 Senate seats compared with the Democrats’ 33. Meanwhile, Democrats claimed control of the state House of Representatives with big wins in the Twin Cities suburbs. Democrats kept their control of all statewide officers with Tim Walz winning election as governor and Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith winning re-election to the U.S. Senate.

Howe performed well in the Rockville, Cold Spring and Richmond areas, places he represented in the state House. Perske racked up his strongest showing in St. Joseph, parts of Sartell and Sauk Rapids.

Howe will serve a two-year term.

District 13 runs from Sauk Rapids, Sartell and St. Joseph south through the Kimball area and then west to the Paynesville area.

Demuth elected to 13A state House seat

Rocori school board member Lisa Demuth is the new representative from House District 13A.

Republican Demuth won with 61 percent of the votes over Democrat Jim Read.

Demuth collected 11,348

votes compared with Read’s 7,243.

Demuth will replace Jeff Howe in the state House. Howe won the Senate District 13 race.

House District 13A runs from St. Joseph southeast to the Kimball area and then west to Paynesville.

Not surprisingly, Demuth recorded her strongest showing in the Cold Spring, Richmond and Rockville precincts, areas she has represented on the school board.

Read lead the voting in St. Joseph and Collegeville. Read is a professor at the College of St. Benedict/St. John’s University.

Sartell-St. Stephen school levy defeated

Sartell-St. Stephen voters overwhelmingly rejected an operating levy. There were 3,230 yes votes and 4,924 no votes. The levy would have raised \$1.8 million to fund operations that were part of the district’s master plan.

Incumbents Jeremy Snoberger and Patrick Marushin along with newcomer Amanda Byrd were elected to the Sartell-St. Stephen school board.

They will serve four-year terms.

In the five-person race, Snoberger received 4,503 votes; Byrd received 4,255 votes; Marushin received 3,525 votes; Melinda Vonderahe received 3,511 votes and Taryn Gentile received 2,478 votes.

Fitzthum elected Sartell mayor; Elness, Kolb win council seats

Ryan Fitzthum will be Sartell’s new mayor. He defeated fellow Sartell City Council member David Peterson.

Fitzthum won 53 percent of the vote. Fitzthum collected 3,886 votes compared with Pe-

terson’s 3,402 votes. Fitzthum replaces current Mayor Sarah Jane Nicoll who did not seek re-election.

The mayor serves a four-year term. Peterson’s term on the council ends this year.

	Fitz	hum	Peterson
Precinct 1	653		640
Precinct 2	332		395
Precinct 3	555		461
Precinct 4	655		599
Precinct 5	419		398
Precinct 6	373		293
Precinct 7	899		616

Timothy Elness and Jeff Kolb won the two City Council seats in a four-way race.

The vote totals for council: Elness, 3,571; Kolb 3,205; Brady Anel, 3,016; and Barika Davis, 1,804.

Council members serve four-year terms.

Buckvold, Theisen win St. Joseph council seats

Incumbent St. Joseph City Council member Dale Wick lost his bid for re-election in a three-way race for two seats.

Voters re-elected Anne Buckvold and elected Brian Theisen to four-terms on the City Council

Buckvold received 1,555 votes, Theisen won 1,381 votes and Wick collected 1,013 votes.

Buckvold was appointed to the council in May to fill a vacancy created when Matt Kilam resigned.

Mayor Rick Schultz ran un-opposed for another two-year term.

O’Driscoll re-elected to state House 13B seat

Tim O’Driscoll handily won re-election to the Minnesota House of Representatives representing District 13B.

Republican O’Driscoll de-

feated his Democratic challenger, Heidi Everett, by winning 64 percent of the vote.

O’Driscoll received 12,146 votes to Everett’s 6,731 votes.

He will serve a two-year term.

District 13B includes the Sartell, St. Stephen and Holdingford areas.

Dorholt, Ringsmuth, Green elected to St. Cloud school board

Zachary Dorholt, Natalie Ringsmuth and Les Green were elected to the St. Cloud school board in a six-candidate race.

They will serve four-year terms.

The vote totals:	
Dorholt	15,702
Ringsmuth	15,273
Green	14,271
Beth Schlangen	13,616
Larry Hosch	13,194
Peter Hamerlinck	10,924

St. Stephen leaders re-elected without opposition

There will be no changes in St. Stephen’s city government after all incumbents ran without opposition in the Nov. 6 election.

Mayor Jeff Blenkush was re-elected to a two-year term with 386 votes.

City Council members Danita Traut and Gene Skaj were re-elected to four-year terms. Traut received 304 votes and Skaj received 314 votes.

In the special election for a two-year council seat, Stephen Trobec received 382 votes.

Heinen elected Benton District 2 commissioner

Sartell residents who live in Benton County elected Steven Heinen to represent them in Commissioner District 3. Heinen received 1,423 votes to beat Bonnita Bernhardt.

Heinen will serve a four-year ter; he replaces Jim McMahon who did not seek re-election.

There were no other contested county races in Benton County.









Sheriff

from front page

nected,” he said.

Second on the list is recruitment and retention of officers, especially jail staff. Staff shortages mean mandatory overtime and pulling deputies off the road to transport prisoners. In addition to increased costs, those conditions affect morale and officer safety.

“We have to figure out why we are losing people,” he said, so he plans to contact former and current jail staff to hear their concerns.

“I want to get a group together to sell the agency,” Soyka said. The outreach team would include a patrol deputy, dispatcher and jailer.

He compared his plans to how colleges recruit top high school athletes.

“We should reach out to criminal justice programs and job fairs instead of waiting for them to come to us,” he said.

The sheriff manages an annual budget of more than \$20 million – half of it to operate the jail. The sheriff supervises more than 200 employees including deputies, dispatchers, correctional officers and support staff. The dispatch center answers more than a quarter-million phone calls a year. The jail booked 7,785 prisoners in 2017.

Soyka says he’s frequently asked who will be his chief deputy. He hasn’t decided, but he’s leaning toward selecting someone from inside the department.

Soyka says he wants to rebrand and remarket the department with the community policing emphasis and recruiting.

While lawsuits remain to be settled from the investigation, solving the Jacob Wetterling abduction puts the department’s highest profile crime behind them.

Gudmundson released more than 40,000 pages of investigative documents on Sept. 20, and highlighted instances where the investigation of the 1989 crime went off track. The key players in that crime are dead, retired or have moved on, but the case is still associated with the department.

“He wanted to clear the air and be done with it so the incoming sheriff wouldn’t have it hanging over their head,” Soyka said. “There’s nothing wrong with admitting mistakes. We have to move forward and learn.”

During Gudmundson’s presentation, he mentioned two other Stearns County cold cases, the 1974 Reker

murders and the 1981 Mrytle Cole murder.

Soyka said the investigators have never stopped working on those crimes. He said he might “reach out to outside agencies for new eyes” or send investigators to cold case conferences where detectives share expertise and experience.

In addition to his major goals, Soyka said he’ll be looking at other issues as well such as expanding the school resource officer program with the help of funding grants, creating a child abduction response team that one of the department’s lieutenants suggested and raising the department’s social media and online presence.

Social media, he said, is part of community policing and transparency.

He wants to continue the department’s newsletter and thinks he might want to post online short videos explaining department operations. And rebranding even extends to new squad car graphics and paint jobs.

Soyka will be formally sworn in at 9 a.m. Jan. 8 at the Stearns County board meeting.

“I’m hoping to earn the support of people who didn’t vote for me in the next four years,” Soyka said. “I’m excited to get going.”

Voters choose Elness, Kolb for Sartell City Council

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Two candidates – Tim Elness and Jeff Kolb – were elected Nov. 6 to two seats on the Sartell City Council.

They defeated two other candidates – Brady Anel and Barika Davis.

Of the four, Elness received from voters in Sartell’s seven precincts the most votes – 3,571 (30.67 percent of the total votes cast). Kolb received 3,205 votes (27.52 percent). Anel garnered 3,016 votes (25.90 percent) and Davis received 1,804 (15.49 percent).

According to the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State elections website, there were 49 write-in votes and there were 11,645 registered voters as of 7 a.m. the morning of the Nov. 6 general election.

Elness

Elness, 52, is vice president of business development for W. Gohman Construction, St. Joseph. Elness has a bachelor’s degree in communications from Augsburg College. He has served on the Sartell Planning Commission for

the past two years and also served on a task force to study options for the abandoned paper-mill site in Sartell.

Elness is a member of the Sartell Chamber of Commerce and serves on its board of directors.

In campaign comments to the Sartell Newsleader, Elness said he wants to bring “a fresh vision” to local government. One goal, he said, is to maintain a healthy balance between economic health and commercial development.

Elness said Sartell is strong in its attractive, centrally located and family-oriented city with a great school system. He said the city could use some improvements, however, such as “a core downtown area like traditional small communities,” and also more recreational and aesthetic developments along the river.

He and his wife, Cathy, have three children – Ben, a senior at Sartell High School; Grace, a sophomore at that school; and Lily, an eighth-grader at Sartell Middle School.

Kolb

Jeff Kolb, 29, is an employee of Homeowners Financial


Group, a mortgage broker in the St. Cloud area, based out of Scottsdale, Ariz.

Kolb moved to Sartell 18 months ago after spending many years in the Cambridge/Isanti area and more recently Thief River Falls. He has a degree in business management from Bethel College, St. Paul. Currently, he is a member of the Sartell Economic Development Committee and the Sartell Parks and Recreation Board. He is also a U.S. Navy veteran and a firefighter and first responder when he was in Isanti.

Among his goals as a Sartell City Council member are these: finding a balance between city amenities and taxes; more restaurants and entertainment venues; perhaps a sheet of ice or swimming facility at the community center; doing something about the housing shortage; a river-front walk along the river; a green-technology company at the abandoned paper mill site; a historical museum; and listening to constituents.

Kolb is the father of three children – Grant, 26; Megan, 22; and Tucker, 14.

PUBLIC NOTICE

	Division of School Finance 1500 Highway 36 West Roseville, MN 55113-4266	District Revenues and Expenditures Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 and FY 2019	ED-00110-41				
General Information: Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.10, requires that every school board shall publish the subject data of this report.							
District Name:						District Number:	
Fund	FY 2018 Beginning Fund Balances	FY 2018 Actual Revenues and Transfers In	FY 2018 Actual Expenditures and Transfers Out	June 30, 2018 Actual Fund Balances	FY 2019 Budget Revenues and Transfers In	FY 2019 Budget Expenditures and Transfers Out	June 30, 2019 Projected Fund Balances
General Fund/Restricted	\$ 1,413,898	\$ 2,578,079	\$ 1,696,538	\$ 2,295,439	\$ 2,482,305	\$ 2,131,821	\$ 2,645,923
General Fund/Other	\$ 8,570,451	\$ 36,503,139	\$ 37,760,407	\$ 7,313,183	\$ 37,218,712	\$ 40,000,909	\$ 4,530,986
Food Service Fund	\$ 390,084	\$ 2,377,086	\$ 2,309,654	\$ 457,516	\$ 2,309,666	\$ 2,340,786	\$ 426,396
Community Service Fund	\$ 443,487	\$ 1,001,527	\$ 925,333	\$ 519,681	\$ 1,017,626	\$ 1,112,546	\$ 424,761
Building Construction Fund	\$ 101,081,843	\$ 661,117	\$ 37,284,308	\$ 64,458,652	\$ 525,000	\$ 46,407,934	\$ 18,575,718
Debt Service Fund	\$ 1,064,344	\$ 9,620,989	\$ 9,137,423	\$ 1,547,910	\$ 8,825,027	\$ 8,792,447	\$ 1,580,490
Trust Fund	\$ 14,184	\$ 16,424	\$ 16,200	\$ 14,408	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 14,408
Internal Service Fund	\$ -			\$ -			\$ -
*OPEB Revocable Trust Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
*OPEB Irrevocable Trust Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
*OPEB Debt Service Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total - All Funds	\$ 112,978,291	\$ 52,758,361	\$ 89,129,863	\$ 76,606,789	\$ 52,402,336	\$ 100,810,443	\$ 28,198,682
Long-Term Debt			Current Statutory Operating Debt per Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.81				
Outstanding July 1, 2017	\$ 126,958,974		Amount of General Fund Deficit, if any, in excess of 25% of expenditures 06/30/2018				
Plus: New Issues	\$ -						
Less: Redeemed Issues	\$ 5,160,142		Cost per student - Average Daily Membership (ADM) 06/30/2018				
Outstanding June 30, 2018	\$ 121,798,832						
Short-Term Debt			Total Operating Expenditures				
Certificates of Indebtedness	\$ -		FY 2018 Total ADM Served + Tuitioned Out ADM + Adjusted Extended ADM				
Other Short-Term Indebtedness	\$ -		FY 2018 Operating Cost per ADM				
The complete budget may be inspected upon request to the superintendent.							
Comments: The complete budget may be inspected upon request to the superintendent. The data in this report reflects audited amounts for the 2017-18 school year. This report and the complete audit report are viewable on the district website at www.sartell.k12.mn.us							

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Opinion

Our View Newly elected leaders should focus on results, not conflict

It's time to turn the page. The election is over. A record number of voters have spoken.

Even nature sent a symbolic message that a new season is here as voters woke up on the morning after the election to find fall replaced by sharp winter winds and snow.

The message is clear. Voters told candidates that in races from city hall to the U.S. Capitol, they wanted to elect leaders who could work together and produce results, not spend time attacking the motives of their opponents.

In Central Minnesota, the challenge of compromise and conciliation should be easier because of the many new leaders elected. They start fresh with no scores to settle or previous actions to protect.

For the first time in 16 years, Stearns County voters elected a new sheriff, Steve Soyka. He takes office after two years of changes at the top. When former Sheriff John Sanner retired in May 2017, the county board appointed Don Gudmundson to fill out the term. Now with a new, elected sheriff, expect Soyka to lead a department that will focus on community policing and transparency as well as take a more active stance to recruit and retain officers, especially for the jail.

Rocori school board member Lisa Demuth will be the new representative in House District 13A, replacing Jeff Howe who was elected to the Senate. Demuth's expertise as a school-board member should be useful as the Legislature tackles education funding and student performance. While she aimed to run a positive campaign, outside PAC money targeted her opponent, Jim Read, with very negative ads. But Demuth has said as a legislator, she'll look for areas of agreement first. That may be a bigger challenge now that her Republican Party is in the minority.

In Sartell, voters elected Ryan Fitzthum as mayor to replace Sarah Jane Nicoll who did not seek re-election. Fitzthum and his opponent, David Peterson, were both city council members. During the campaign, Fitzthum touted his deep community roots and service on the council and as a volunteer firefighter.

Fitzthum will need to find compromises and provide leadership on challenges facing the city including the final stage of a new public-safety facility, development of the former Verso site, how to manage and finance the community center and how to manage the fast growth of giant apartment complexes.

While he's not a new face in the Legislature, Howe's move from the House to the Senate will present opportunities to work with his political opponents. Howe and his Republican colleagues hold a one-seat majority. With that slim majority, the upper chamber will need to work with a Democratic-controlled House and new Democratic governor, Tim Walz. In the House, Howe took stands on health care, transportation funding, education and taxes that were contrary to DFL positions. Now he and the rest of the Senate Republicans will need to look for issues to agree on or we'll have another session that ends in deadlock and no action on big problems.

For Howe in the Senate and Demuth in the House, don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good.

Three new members will join the St. Cloud school board. Zachary Dorholt, Natalie Ringsuth and Les Green will replace three long-time board members – Bruce Hentges, Bruce Mohs and Jerry Von Korff. Green served on the board before and Dorholt was a legislator. The three new members will oversee opening of the new Tech High School, but also set policies and goals that address the district's weak test scores and issues with diversity.

Along with re-elected officials, these new leaders will be judged at the next election on whether they can work with people they agree with as well as opponents to produce results, not gridlock.

When will we see the last of firsts?

After a 150 years, you'd think we would have lost our fascination with firsts.

In its Jan. 28, 1869 edition, the St. Cloud Journal reported Carl Christian Schurz was the first German elected to the United States Senate. The good people of Missouri elected Schurz, described as a German revolutionary and American statesman and journalist. After emigrating from Germany, he served as a Union general during the Civil War and became a prominent member of the new Republican Party.

I've always been bothered by "firsts" when they describe someone who fills a position or occupation that doesn't fit a stereotype or prejudice. Most of the time the "first" is a person who is not white, male, Protestant, straight or of northern European heritage. This obsession affects all walks of life, but especially politics: first black president, first female presidential candidate, first Catholic president and on and on.

Last week's election produced more than the usual number of firsts starting with, for the first time, more than 100 women will be members of the 435-member U.S. House of Representatives.

We had several firsts right here in Minnesota, conveniently compiled the day after the election by Minnesota Public Radio News.

In the Nov. 6 election, Ilhan Omar

Mike Knaak
Editor

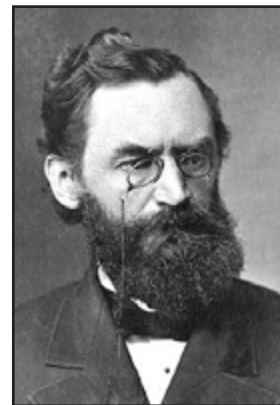


scored her second first. Two years ago, she became the first Somali-American elected to a state legislature. In a heavily DFL district of south Minneapolis, she defeated Phyllis Kahn in a primary. Kahn had held the seat for 44 years.

When another "first," 5th District Rep. Keith Ellison decided to run for Minnesota attorney general, Omar filed for his seat. Ellison himself scored first status as the first Muslim elected to Congress. And I guess he's now the first Muslim to serve as Minnesota's AG.

Omar easily won the election in the 5th, which is essentially Minneapolis and a few inner ring suburbs, with 78 percent of the vote.

At a time when Donald Trump has



Carl Schurz

Face front, true believers, one last time

On Monday, Nov. 12, to paraphrase Obi Wan Kenobi, millions of nerd voices cried out in terror as one particular voice was silenced. Stan Lee, who co-created the Marvel Universe (the Avengers, Spider-Man, the X-Men and more), passed away at age 95.

This is the second time in my life when I heard of the death of a celebrity that I actually shed a few tears. The first time was when Steve Jobs passed away from pancreatic cancer.

Both of these men had a profound impact on my life despite never knowing them. I had but fleeting chance encounters with both; an email and phone call with Jobs and watching Stan on a panel at Comic Con International with a brief hello and handshake afterward. It was the art they produced that has left an indelible mark on my psyche.

When I was a kid, no one liked super heroes or comics. There weren't any movies like now. The best we had was two good Batman movies with Michael Keaton and then two mediocre Batman movies with not-Michael Keaton. Expressing my joy of reading comics, letting alone my desire to make comics was a one-way ticket to Nerdtown, population: me. I was an outcast even among outcasts.

But I didn't feel like an outcast. I felt like Spider-Man, who was a nerd in high school, but was destined to do such great things that even the guy who bullied him would become

Patric Lewandowski
Guest Writer



one of his biggest fans. (And he got to marry a super model!) Surely that was me! Or, if I was angry, maybe I was Dr. Doom and soon the world would realize my genius and tremble before my vengeance. By far, though, my favorite were the X-Men, who were "the strangest teens of all time." The X-Men were mutants, who were a minority group. They fought and protected a world that feared and hated them. While much has been made of the X-Men as metaphor for civil rights, as an arty/nerdy kid in rural Minnesota, boy did I identify with them, having to conceal who I really was just to make it through daily life.

Most importantly, I always felt like I was in an exclusive club when I read these comics. In the 90s, Stan still did his "Stan's Soapbox" column, and his



Stan Lee

gone out of his way to demonize Somali refugees, Omar said this in her victory speech: "When people were selling the politics of fear and division and destruction, we were talking about hope. We were talking about the politics of joy."

Minnesota's firsts didn't stop with Omar.

Also on the list, Peggy Flanagan will be the nation's first Native American elected lieutenant governor. She'll serve with Tim Walz.

In Minnesota's 2nd Congressional District, Angie Craig defeated Republican incumbent and Minnesota's own Trump Jr., Jason Lewis. Craig is the first openly LGBTQ person from the state elected to Congress.

MPR's story went on to chronicle the state's first gay sheriff, first women-of-color county commissioners and the first nonwhite, nonmale mayors in Rochester, Richfield and Moorhead.

When will we tire of tagging people with first? You'd think we have passed the point of amazement when someone who isn't white, male, Protestant and straight could break into that world.

When you listen to Omar, Craig or Flanagan, listen to their words, even if you don't agree with them politically. Put aside the "first" frame and see them for who they are – intelligent, articulate leaders.

personable style of writing crafted in the 60s still rang true 30 years later. The fact that everyone refers to him still as "Stan" rather than "Mr. Lee" whether they personally knew him or not is because he made you feel like he was just talking to you. Not unlike Fred Rogers, he made every one of his fans feel like they were special just because.

By the time I got into comics, Stan had long since stopped writing, but throughout the years I would find reprints of his stories, and now nearly all his classic Marvel comics from the 60s are available on Marvel Comics Unlimited. I spent the night of Nov. 12 reading some classic "Fantastic Four" comics. I'm not a collector, but I did seek out and own one particular FF comic from Stan and Jack (Kirby)'s run; "Fantastic Four #51: This man... this monster!" The issue after the Fantastic Four found a way to defeat Galactus, the Devourer of Worlds, a quiet story where Ben Grimm, known as the Thing, found a man who was able to free him of his monstrous curse. I won't spoil it, but it is perhaps the greatest comic ever written.

It is strange to feel such grief over someone I didn't know personally. Stan Lee made such a positive impact not just on the world, but on me and many other men and women. Stan didn't just create the Marvel super heroes, he created the super hero in all of us. 'Nuff said.

**GOT AN
OPINION?**

Please include your full name for publication (and address and phone number for verification)

The Newsleaders
1622 11th Ave S.
St. Cloud, MN 56304

Email: news@thenewsleaders.com

So exactly what do the midterms mean?

After two years of fervent anticipation and excitement by many, the 2018 midterm elections finally came and went here in Minnesota. The final political pitches were given, the polls opened and the votes were cast. At the time of writing there are some races that are still left to be determined. But with the information we have now, we can have a reasonable expectation of what the next few years might have in store for us as a state and a nation.

As this was the first regular election I was old enough to vote in, it was especially interesting to see the dynamic that took place this election cycle. Being on a college campus, I could also see how my peers were perceiving and reacting to the campaign as well. Overall, like during the 2016 election, there was a lot of engagement this time around. However, this being a midterm year makes that engagement even more encouraging, and perhaps surprising.

It’s a common trend that voter turnout falls significantly during midterm years compared with when we elect the president. And it does make sense, generally the presidential race is covered extensively nationwide and it is easy to pay attention to and formulate opinions about the candidates in just one race. During the midterms, when the House of Representatives, Senate seats, and state and local races don’t have a Presidential race to pull them along, it’s easy for

Connor Kockler

Guest Writer



some people to miss out on the importance of these races on their own merit as well.

These midterms were anything but ordinary, as the turnout increased dramatically compared with the last midterms in 2014. Though exact numbers are not yet totaled, this is the first midterm election to exceed 100 million voters. About 48 percent of eligible voters turned out this year nationwide according to the New York Times, compared with only around 36 percent in 2014. This is still less than the presidential election in 2016, although, that garnered about 56 percent turnout.

So perhaps this is a sign of more public involvement in the voting process, or a rebuke of the status quo? We won’t know for sure. If the goal was to break the partisan deadlock, things may be about to become more heated in Washington, D.C., and in St. Paul. On the state level, the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party statewide candidates swept the board, with the top job of governor going to Tim Walz. In the state legislature, the DFL flipped the state House of Representatives in their favor, while the Republicans

kept control of the state Senate with the election of Jeff Howe in our local special election. Democrats now have the governor’s mansion and the state House, but divided government will continue here as it has since the beginning of outgoing Governor Dayton’s second term.

On the federal level, the highly favorable Senate map for the Republicans ended up making both houses of Congress move in opposite directions. The Democrats took the House of Representatives and look to have a fairly large majority to advance their agenda opposed to Republican President Donald Trump. However, the Republicans look to gain up to three seats in the Senate with the announcement of final results, setting up for a strong showdown in Washington for the next two years.

What remains to be seen though, is how deep these partisan divisions will go, and how long they will last. Granted divided government is not always the most efficient situation, but it can perhaps temper the passions of each side and make sure that some real, good bipartisan legislation is passed to mutual benefit. With preparations now gearing up for the presidential election in 2020, this time period will be important to watch to see who will earn your vote two years down the road.

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

Letter to editor

School levy cost too much

Henry Smorynski, Sartell

The recent defeat of operating levy for District 748 likely has many reasons for individual voters. The school board and the superintendent need to consider some things before again requesting a new levy.

First, a May 24, 2016, article on the new high school referendum noted the “district likely would be asking voters in the future to approve an operating levy that could add \$65-\$70 a year in taxes on a \$180,000 home.” This priced home is average for Sartell. The district levy requested was over double that indicated in 2016 for an average Sartell homeowner. The increase in taxes was thus far lower in 2016 and the presentation of the 2018 levy increase amount in 2016 could have affected negatively that close vote regarding a new high school.

A second issue is the district has not broken down clearly in segments what is purchased with the new levy. It does not seem justified by the district’s limited projected increase in students for the next decade. It does not adequately break down the costs for moving grade levels about and choices for doing so relative to facilities. Most importantly, it does

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A PLACE FOR MOM. The na-

not provide a minimum cost for maintaining the current high quality as opposed to costs that might be associated with increased levels of quality due to technology or other educational strategies.

Third, the school district is not being realistic about likely future tax conditions in the district. The city of Sartell is likely to raise taxes due to the new public services building as well as the likely annual operating costs of the Community Center. Most analysts believe the positive impact of the federal tax cuts on the national economy this coming year will disappear and a recession is likely in 2019. For Sartell seniors, the cost of living increases in 2019 Social Security checks will be wiped out by increasing health-care costs and drug costs. The improved economy has not generated significant increases in middle-income families’ salaries and the rising costs of health care are dominating family budgets.

I believe the district must reduce their levy expectations to something more realistic. The much higher voting turnout for the recent referendum vote, nearly double, likely reflects the limits of investment the average resident is willing to pay. More than doubling the levy is unacceptable.

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Laughter in the leaves



photo by Carolyn Bertsch
When it comes to raking, it's not all work and no play at the Lenzen's home in Sartell. Jon and his son Jaeden, 6, toss some leaves into the air Oct. 27 while they create big piles of them in their yard.

Honoring Veterans



photos by Carolyn Bertsch
Veterans carry the American flag, POW-MIA flag and American Legion flag at the annual Veterans Day parade Nov. 11, which took place at a new location, downtown St. Cloud. The date marked the 100th anniversary of both Armistice Day and the American Legion.



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A young boy salutes while his mother, grandmother, sister and friend applaud the veterans marching in the Veterans Day parade Nov. 11. Pictured from left to right are Niki Stazalin, 10; Avalon Utsch, 9; Lindsay Johnson; Jan Dalman and Gavin Utsch, 6, all of Sartell.



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