

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Nov. 16, 2018
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Est. 1989

Town Crier

RLC to host craft sale Nov. 17

A 2018 Holiday Craft Sale will be held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17 at Resurrection Lutheran Church in St. Joseph. More than 20 booths, bake sale, door prizes, treats and light lunch will be available. Some vendors are cash only. For more information, call 320-363-4232 or lwallin@gmail.com.

Winter Market this Saturday

Sartell Farmers Winter Market will be held from 10 a.m.-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.

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Full election results

Read the full midterm-election results for our area on page 4.

Stories only on thenewsleaders.com

- Three St. Joseph residents injured in crash
- Demuth elected to state House

City Council considers two 2019 budget areas

by Dave DeMars
news@thenewsleaders.com

\$5,300.

The St. Joseph City Council took up two budget items at its regular Nov. 5 meeting: The 2019 draft Enterprise Budget, and the proposed 2019 budget of the Park Board. Total proposed Park Board budget for 2019 is \$309,460.

In previous actions the Council had accepted the proposal for what is known as the East Park concept. Now the Park Board presented a contract for reforestation and prairie growth as part of the East Park plan. The Board reviewed costs for the East Park seeding and recommended acceptance of a bid from PrairieScapes for a three-year cycle with a total cost of \$23,200. The first part of the cycle would cost about

The Park Board conducted an open house on Sept. 24 to gather information and provide direction for the future. To that end, the Board has added a proposed skate park in 2021.

Council Member Bob Loso expressed reservations about committing to a skate park and asked how its use would be monitored and what kind of use it might get. Is it really worth pursuing and committing money to that project, Loso wondered.

"I just think skateboarding is a thing of the past," Loso said. "I grew up with skate boarders – and I grew up with the punk rockers and all this happy crap, and I think it's a phase of teenagers. Personal opinion."

Council • page 3



photo by Dave DeMars

City Administrator Judy Weyrens makes a point during discussion of the Enterprise Budget. The issue concerned problems encountered with the city refuse collection and the increase in the amount of garbage that is showing up in collection and special cleanup days during the twice-a-year cleanup in St. Joseph.

Soyka is excited to get going as new Stearns County 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, 49, defeated Waite Park Police Chief Dave Bentrud 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 campaign signs posted around the county for a hearty breakfast of two eggs, bacon and toast at Kay's Kitchen in



Soyka

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 walk-

ing 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 connected," 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

Sheriff • page 3



contributed photo

Event organizers from the 2013 tree-lighting event included (from left to right) Kayla Meyer, Mrs. Claus Lisa Wallin, Margy Hughes, Santa Steve Nelson, Living Tree Mike McDonald, Sister Thomasette OSB, Kathy Engholm, Ellen Wahlstrom and Travis Moore.

Winterwalk combines old, new on Nov. 30

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

The St. Joseph 2018 Winterwalk, which will be Friday, Nov. 30, will combine old traditions with new changes this year.

The St. Joseph Y2K Lions will be taking over the annual event that was started by Margy Hughes and the St. Joseph Action Group and continues to grow each year.

"The Y2K Lions were excited to have been asked

by the St. Jo(seph) Action group to take over the wonderful community activity," said St. Joseph Y2K president Kay Lemke. "We look forward to the challenge presented to us as a new project."

Other changes this year include the location and size of the tree. A taller tree, almost 25 feet, will be inside the fence at the southwest corner of Minnesota Street and College Avenue on the

Winterwalk • page 2

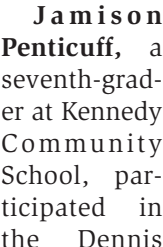
People



Stephanie Cofell of St. Joseph has been elected to the Board of Directors at Folk Alliance Region Midwest, a regional chapter and affiliate of Folk Alliance International. Cofell will be serving a three-year term beginning February 2019.

Folk Alliance International is a nonprofit organization that sponsors an annual conference as an industry focal point for folk music and dance, based in Kansas City, Missouri. Members include record companies, publishers, presenters, agents, managers, music-support ser-

vices, manufacturers and artists that work in the folk world.



Jamison Penticuff, a seventh-grader at Kennedy Community School, participated in the Dennis Alexander Piano Festival and Competition Oct. 27 at St. John’s University. Dennis Alexander is an internationally known composer of piano music for students of all ages. He was a presenter and judge for the festival. Penticuff performed two piano solos and won first place in the intermediate level of the competition.



contributed photo
Jane Monarski Scepianiak shot an 11-point buck on Nov. 4, 2018, on a farm near St. Joseph. The shot was taken at more than 150 yards.

Winterwalk

from front page

St. Joseph catholic church parish grounds.

In the past, tree-lighting of a smaller tree, has taken place on the Bello Cucina patio.

Many special guests have helped light past years’ trees. This year’s special guest is St. Joseph resident Judy Meemken, who will light the tree at 6 p.m.

Music and caroling will help add to the merriment of the festivities and luminaries will help light the way for passers-by.

Indoor activities will take place in the warmth of the Heritage Hall Parish Center at 12 W. Minnesota St. A light meal will be served beginning at 4 p.m. and an Arts and Crafts Sale will take place from 4-8 p.m.

Santa will visit from 6:30-7:30 p.m. to hear children’s Christmas wishes and hand out treat bags.

Craft-making activities will also take place during this time and participants will be able to make and take home their crafts.

Refreshments will be served amid music from the St. John’s Prep School music students and some sing-along tunes will be performed on the piano by church musician David Orzechowski.

The tree-lighting event has been taking place since 2010 and Winterwalk has been taking place since 2014. Many volunteers and businesses working together annually have helped make the event possible.

If interested in volunteering or donating to the event, contact St. Joseph Y2K member Becky Stanearth at 320-420-3373.

Vendors/crafters wishing to reserve a table at the Arts and Crafts Sale can contact Sandy at the church at 320-363-7505 ext. 120 or visit the website churchstjoseph.org.

The event is sponsored by the Community Winterwalk, St. Joseph Y2K Lions and Church of St. Joseph, St. Joseph.

Blotter

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

and CR 133. Two vehicles were traveling east on CR 75 just west of CR 133 when vehicle one slowed abruptly. Vehicle two was unable to slow quick enough and struck the rear of vehicle one. There was minor damage. Gold Cross Ambulance responded because the driver of vehicle one and a passenger reported neck and back pain.

Oct. 18

10:20 a.m. Dumping. Ash Street E. A complainant reported a lawn mower had been dumped off in her backyard. The mower was partially dismantled.

Oct. 26

9:19 p.m. DWI. CR 2. An officer stopped a vehicle for speeding on CR 2 and First Avenue NW. The driver failed a field sobriety test, was arrested and could be charged with second-degree DWI. The vehicle was impounded.

Oct. 28

11:10 p.m. Fight. Elm Street E. While in the drive-thru line at McDonald’s, a man got out of the passenger seat and started arguing with others in the vehicle. The officer was unable to locate the vehicle.

Oct. 19

10:16 a.m. Collision. CR 75

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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.

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Council

from front page

Mayor Rick Schultz interjected the Council was putting a substantial amount of money into the East Park project and the Council had already had discussions on the matter.

“We know there is youths to be served by skate parks even if it is a small number,” Schultz said. “I think this is a discussion the Park Board will have and they will figure it out in the end.”

It was also pointed out St. Cloud will be moving its skate park to the east side of St. Cloud and that would make it even more difficult for the St. Joseph skateboard community to utilize.

Finance Director Lori Bartlett said she had visited three area skateboard parks and found them all to be busy with skateboarders.

Proposed spending areas are as follows: Monument Park – \$250; Community Center – \$600; East Park \$296,610; Trails System – \$10,000; tree replacement in various parks – \$2,000.

City Administrator Judy Weyrens briefed the council on the 2019 Enterprise Fund Budget that will total \$4.1 million, representing a 3.5-percent increase over 2018.

The enterprise funds include services for water, sewer, refuse/compost, storm water and street-light utilities and operates similar to a commercial business. It charges fees for the services that typically cover all expenses of the funds, including depreciation. Fees collected for the refuse/compost and street-light utility funds cover the expenses incurred for the fund operation. Expenses for long-term debts and capital projects are partially covered by the funds’ reserve accounts and connection fees reported in separate funds (as required by Minnesota law).

Several areas of the Enterprise Fund are on-going and subject to change. Among these items are budgeted operational sewer-treatment rates which will be reviewed at a Nov. 8 meeting with representatives from other cities.

The refuse contract with Republic Services continues through 2020. Staff is reviewing spring and fall clean up options. This is an ongoing issue for the city, according to Weyrens.

Discussion centering around refuse/compost collection noted that cost for refuse has been increasing

in part because of refuse that is being brought into the city and dumped at various sites. Rental properties where there is often a large common container were mentioned as particularly significant offenders.

In rental units, tenants throw garbage and refuse into open containers, Weyrens said. The city is going to have to look at the way landlords are being charged because they are generating much larger amounts of garbage than single-family homeowners, Weyrens said.

The Council was informed C& L Excavating will continue contracting with the city for composting. Union contracts end Dec. 31, 2019. The council needs to prepare for the upcoming round of negotiations. The operational budget is set to allow for the implementation estimates.

Water and Sewer rates are anticipated to increase in 2019 per the Rate Analysis completed by Carl Brown Consulting. Preliminary analysis of the rates shows no increase is necessary for water, and sewer may see less than a 1-percent increase. Between the development rates and current usage fees, the increases are expected to be less than anticipated in the last comprehensive rate study.

Annexation area services will continue to be minimal service areas.

In other action, the council:

- Approved exterior modifications to the Bad Habit Brewing facility.
- Approved a preliminary plat for the Oaks development formerly known as the DelWin site. Two apartment units are proposed on two different 2.7-acre sites.
- Approved installment of a protective barrier in the development known as 24 North. The danger is cars will back into structures that support the building. The cars would be on public property and placement of the protective barrier requires city approval.
- Reconsidered and approved publication of a summary of the modifications to the Rural Residential District Industrial and Commercial language as it relates to the stockpiling of materials for newly annexed properties. Cost of publication for the entire resolution was estimated to be in excess of \$2,000. A summary would reduce the costs substantially and fulfill the city’s obligations to publish.
- Withheld action on approving the Comprehensive Plan Matrix in order to further study the proposal.

Sheriff

from front page

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.”

Kennedy students participate in ‘We Scare Hunger’

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

Students at Kennedy Community School were once again busy helping people in need in the area.

Seventh- and eighth-grade students who are part of WE Act recently participated in a We Scare Hunger event where students went trick-or-treating to collect food and nonperishable items for the St. Joseph Community Food Shelf.

Co-advisors for the drive are Mike Stuber and Kelli Maurer. Stuber teaches social studies and Maurer teaches language arts at Kennedy.

Stuber said they encourage the students to ask people they know ahead of time so they can have food ready to pick up the night of Halloween.

He parks his truck in town and the students are able to

drop off the food they have collected in it.

If transportation is a problem for the students, they are able to drop off collections in Stuber’s classroom the day after Halloween and he then delivers it to the local food shelf.

Although a smaller amount of food was collected this year than in past years, students were still able to contribute some needed food and supplies to the local food shelf.

WE Act is an organization that believes adolescents are capable of changing the world.

The group works on social-justice issues in the area and around the world. Students involved with WE Act participate in local and global actions to benefit issues youth care about.

Kennedy has been participating in the We Scare Hunger event for several years.

‘Festival of Nativities’ set for two 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 feature 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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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

2018 midterm elections 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 election.

Howe, who currently represents District 13A in the state House, collected 57 percent of the vote. Perske, a current Stea-

rns 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 Peterson'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.

	Fitzthum	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 Killam 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 defeated 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.

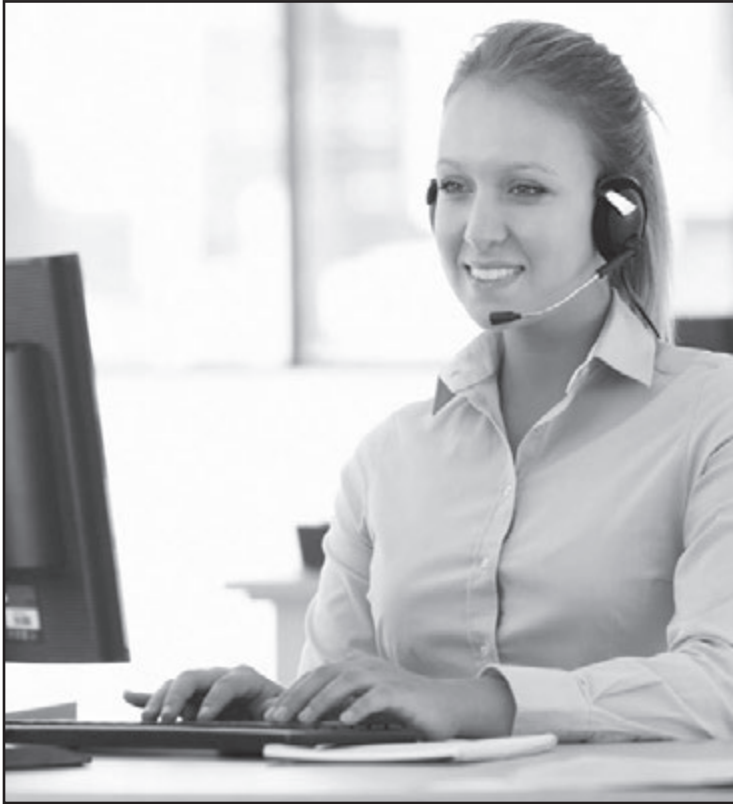
In the special election for a two-year council seat, Stephen Trobec received 382 votes.

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.



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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.

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 16,208 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 (Minnesota) 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.



Howe



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Dr. Brian Koltes

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



© ADOBE STOCK

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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Dorholt, Ringsmuth, Green elected to school board

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Zachary Dorholt and Les Green, both of St. Cloud, and Natalie Ringsmuth of Waite Park were elected to three seats on the St. Cloud school board in the Nov. 6 general election. They outpolled the other three of six competing candidates – Peter Hamerlinck and Larry Hosch, both of St. Joseph; and Beth Schlangen of

St. Cloud. The vote totals are as follows:
Dorholt: 15,702 (18.80 percent).
Ringsmuth: 15,273 (18.29 percent).
Green: 14,271 (17.09 percent)
Schlangen: 13,616. (16.30 percent).
Hosch: 13,194 (15.80 percent)
Hamerlinck: 10,924 (13.08

percent)
There were 531 write-in votes. On the morning of the election, 53,649 residents of the district had registered to vote in its 21 precincts. In the Aug. 14 primary election, nine contenders were winnowed down to six for the general election. Those who did not make the final cut were Scott Andreason, Thomas D. Kufalk and Kathleen Steiner.

The winners

Zachary Dorholt, a former legislator for House District 14B, is employed by CentraCare Health in its Coordinated Care and Jail Medicine Program. He is also a small-business owner. Green was a St. Cloud school board member from 2006-2016. He has been a faculty member of St. Cloud State University, St. John's University and the College of St. Benedict.

Ringsmuth is the founder of Unite Cloud, a local nonprofit organization that promotes cultural, racial and religious understanding. She is a member of the charter school STRIDE Academy's school board, currently as vice president. She is also a legal assistant for Tripciano Immigration Law Firm based in St. Cloud.



Dorholt



Green



Hamerlinck



Hosch



Ringsmuth



Schlangen

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Friday, Nov. 30
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6 p.m.- 25-foot tree lighting
at the corner of Minnesota St. & College Ave.

6:30-8 p.m.- Meet Santa & Mrs. Claus, craft making,
refreshments/treat bags at the Heritage Hall,
12 W. Minnesota St.

Look for luminaries in downtown for businesses to visit.

Event is planned and sponsored by:
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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

St. Joseph City Council, 7:30 -8 a.m., 75 Callaway St. SE., St. Joseph.
Soup, Craft and Bake Sale, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 340 Fifth Ave. S., St. Cloud.
St. Joseph Area Historical Society, open 4-7 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave NW. stjosephhistoricalmn.org.

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.

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.

Free community Thanksgiving meal, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Church of St. Joseph Heritage Hall. Free community meal.

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

Lunch and cards, sponsored by Helping Hands Outreach, noon-3 p.m., Rusty Nail, 4 CR 2 S., St. Ste-

phen. (through February)
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.
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.

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

Joint St. Joseph City/St. Joseph Township, 7 p.m., 75 Callaway St. SE., St. Joseph.

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

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

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

Wednesday, Nov. 21

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

“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

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

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

Monday, Nov. 26

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.

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.

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

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

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.

CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME STATE OF MINNESOTA

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

1. The assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted is: Better Way Real Estate.

2. The stated address of the principal place of business is or will be: 325 33rd Ave. N., St. Cloud, Minn. 56303.

3. The name and street address of all persons conducting business under the above assumed name including any corporations that may be conducting this business: Admired Properties, 325 33rd Ave. N., Suite 109, St. Cloud, MN 56303.

4. I certify I am authorized to sign this certificate and I further certify I understand by signing this certificate, I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Minnesota Statutes section 609.48 as if I had signed this certificate under oath.

Dated: Oct. 29, 2018

Filed: Oct. 29, 2018

/s/ Tina Buchner

Publish: Nov. 2 and 16, 2018

CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME STATE OF MINNESOTA

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

1. The assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted is: Dr. Green.

2. The stated address of the principal place of business is or will be: 2151 Troop Drive #100, Sartell, Minn. 56377.

3. The name and street address of all persons conducting business under the above assumed name including any corporations that may be conducting this business: Vandalia Health PLLC, 2151 Troop Drive #100, Sartell, Minn. 56377.

4. I certify I am authorized to sign this certificate and I further certify I understand by signing this certificate, I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Minnesota Statutes section 609.48 as if I had signed this certificate under oath.

Dated: Oct. 2, 2018

Filed: Oct. 3, 2018

/s/ Vanessa Ellefsen

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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.

Opinion

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

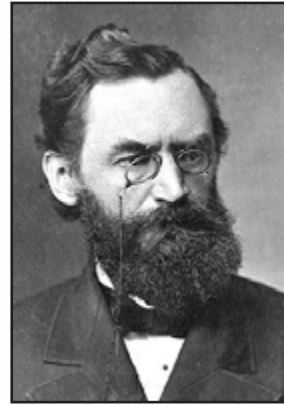


scored her second first. Two years ago, she became the first Somali-American elected to a state legislature. In a heavily DFL district of south Minneapolis, she defeated Phyllis Kahn in a primary. Kahn had held the seat for 44 years.

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 a 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.

Spirits Soar at Halloween Historia



photo by Carolyn Bertsch
Briana Trantina of St. Joseph grabs a spot on a hay bale with her children, Bentley Sieben, 5; and Braelyn Trantina, 2, as they get ready for a wagon ride Oct. 20 during the Halloween Historia event at the Stearns History Museum.

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St. Joseph Coborn’s thanks veterans



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Veterans Brian Murphy (left) and Jerry Klein, both of St. Joseph, enjoy conversation and a complimentary chicken dinner Nov. 12 at Coborn’s in St. Joseph. The store gave out 205 free meals to veterans which was an increase of 57 more meals than last year.

Crafts for a cause



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Lisa Klejeski of St. Cloud (left) and Karen Pilarski of Clear Lake discuss the benefits of the Norwex optic scarf Nov. 13 at the Craft and Vendor Sale held at the American Legion in St. Joseph. Proceeds from the event went to benefit the St. Joseph Women’s Auxiliary.



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Marcia Malisheske of St. Joseph ties blankets at the Craft and Vendor Sale Nov. 13 at the American Legion in St. Joseph. Malisheske organized the monthly event which benefits the St. Joseph Women’s Auxiliary. The next sale is scheduled to take place Tuesday, Dec. 11.



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