

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Feb. 22, 2019
Volume 31, Issue 4
Est. 1989

Town Crier

ABC Kinder Olympix is March 9 at Whitney

Explore letters and numbers while being active with your children! ABC Kinder Olympix will be held from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 9 at Whitney Recreation Center, 1529 Northway Drive, St. Cloud. The morning will be filled with fun activities for improved reading skills and healthy lifestyles! Events include the following: inflatables, arts and crafts, obstacle course, alphabet games, healthy snacks and much more! This event is for ages 6 and under and their families. A nominal fee will be charged.

Evening of Hope set March 9

An Evening of Hope, sponsored by What Would Bri Do, will be held from 5-9 p.m. Saturday, March 9 at The Grands at Mulligans, 601 Pinecone Road N., Sartell. The sixth annual event includes a dinner, acoustic music by Levi Pelzer, a silent auction, games of chance, a cash bar and more. Advanced tickets available at wwbdinc.org or Mackenzie's, 1091 Second St. S., Sartell. Proceeds will be used to build a grief lodge in central Minnesota.

Task force talk focuses on opioid addiction

The Central Minnesota Violent Offenders Task Force will present a free seminar entitled "Drugs in Central Minnesota/Opioid Addiction" at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27 in the St. Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. The seminar's intent is to raise the community's level of awareness of illegal drugs in Central Minnesota with a focus on opioid addiction. The seminar is open to the public (15 years and older) and sponsored by the St. Joseph Lions Club.

Share your talent with women, children

Journey Home, a residential facility providing primary chemical dependency programming and housing for chemically dependent women and their children, needs volunteers to help with group sessions or be a guest speaker. Topics could vary from budgeting to staying positive while recovering. They would also consider fun topics like magic shows, singing programs or a variety of fun events. Contact Deb Vander Eyk at 320-259-9149, ext. 22339.

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



photos by Carolyn Bertsch

(Left photo) Carl Williams, of St. Joseph, (left) is all smiles Feb. 16 as he redeems a winning ticket in exchange for a Clam fish house from Duane Scepaniak, also of St. Joseph, at the St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club ice-fishing tournament on Kraemer Lake. Williams said he could put the fish house to good use as the one he currently owns had been damaged by mice. (Right photo) Daniel Hickman of St. Joseph celebrates his birthday Feb. 16. This was Hickman's first experience ice-fishing.



Schwartz has keen eye for rescuing critters

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Kylie Schwartz seems to have an inborn gift and a keen eye for finding abandoned or abused critters in desperate need.

While driving recently on CR 4 near Gilman in Benton County, the 18-year-old St. Joseph woman saw a Walmart plastic bag in field stubble at the edge of the road. The bag, she noticed, seemed to be moving across the ground. Instantly, Schwartz's instinct and compassion kicked in. She pulled over to the road's edge and walked toward the bag. Sure enough, a tiny leg and paw emerged from the tied bag. Unloosening the bag and peering in, Schwartz beheld a kitten meowing, shivering from cold, trembling with fear.

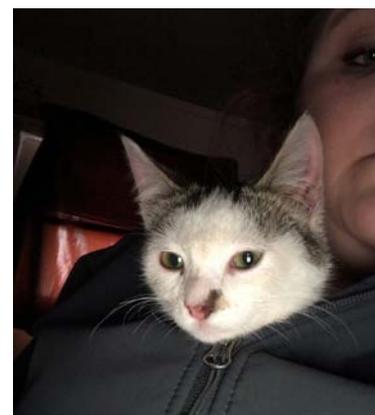
"It almost broke my heart," she recalled. "I always watch for cardboard boxes along the road because some people dump off cats in boxes. I was shocked to see a kitten in a plastic bag, and I thought who in the heck would do such a cruel thing? I was just heartbroken because the kitten was so lovable."

In another bag within the main bag was a small towel.

The kitten was mostly white with some brown-and-black streaks.

Schwartz unzipped her winter coat and placed the kitten snugly inside where it cuddled against her and purred happily.

She showed the kitten to her dog, Charlie, who was in the car. The 75-pound Aussie doodle, not very fond of cats, began to lick



contributed photo

Chance, the lucky rescued cat, finds warmth and safety inside the coat of Kylie Schwartz, who rescued the critter from inside a plastic bag in the bitter cold.

the kitten, as if knowing it was a precious find.

She then drove the kitten to her mother's house in St. Joseph. Eva Schwartz, also an animal lover, decided they should bring the kitten to the veterinarian clinic in Rice. There the male kitten was checked and found to be in good shape. It was given a warm bath and was later neutered. Kylie named the critter "Chance." The two women then took Chance to Lucky Rescue, a no-kill pet shelter and fostering service in Sauk Rapids. Now in its warm and safe home at Lucky Rescue, lucky Chance is up for adoption.

Kylie, who works as a cashier at the Casey's convenience store in St. Augusta, always keeps her eyes open for abandoned animals along roadways. She's rescued two cats and a pit bull on the side

Critters • page 2

Demuth finds legislators are getting along

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

In her first six weeks at the Capitol, the amount of bipartisan work that can get done impresses first-year Rep. Lisa Demuth.

"Day to day, people get along," she said. "We don't have to see eye-to-eye on everything. But the working relationship is more than I expected."

Demuth, a former Rocori school



Demuth

board member, was elected to represent House District 13A when incumbent Jeff Howe ran for the open District 13 Senate seat.

Her experience in education and school finance has been useful in her early legislative action.

Demuth (R-Cold Spring) intro-

duced a bill to close a loophole in prosecuting sexual assault in schools.

Now moving through committees, the bill raises the age of consent from 18 to 21 if the victim is a secondary student and the perpetrator is a school employee, contractor or in a position of authority over the student.

Under the current law, it's legal for a teacher or other person of authority to have sex with a high

school student who is 18.

"This is one of those issues that somehow slid under the radar for far too long," Demuth said. "As a former school board member, parent and a human we need to close that loophole. While we think the number of cases this bill would address is rather low, there have been instances where prosecutors have looked at a case but were ultimately unable to press charges because of

Legislators • page 3

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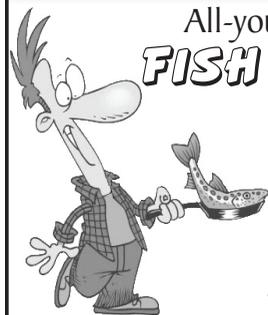
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Critters

from front page

of CR 4. It's a road she drives often because her family farm is in that area near Golden Spike Road, the farm now occupied by her second cousin.

The first cat she saved also went to Lucky's Place for adoption; the second cat went to her grandmother who "fell in love at first sight" upon seeing the cat. The story about the pit bull had an amazingly happy ending.

"It was a winter night almost three years ago, and it was getting really cold when I saw the pit bull at the edge of the road," Schwartz recalled. "I stopped and put it in the car and turned the heat way up. I was thinking maybe it was a runaway. Maybe somebody stole the dog for breeding purposes and then abandoned it."

Back home, she posted a photo of the pit bull on 25 various websites, hoping someone would see and claim the friendly dog. For four days, there was no response. On the fifth day a woman called. It was, the woman thought, the

pit bull that was stolen from her family three years ago.

The mother drove to Schwartz's home and started crying when she saw the dog, who was whining and wagging its tail, clearly overjoyed to see the woman. Then the woman brought her little son from the car. When the dog saw the boy, it went bonkers with joy.

"And she was such a sweet dog, so gentle and not the least bit aggressive," Schwartz said. "Pit bulls have such an unfair reputation."

To this day, the woman sends periodic internet postings of the pit bull to Schwartz.

Schwartz also rescues horses – 10 so far. She trains the horses and then finds them loving homes. On the family farm, she still has three of the horses.

Not surprisingly, Schwartz intends to study to become an assistant veterinarian with a goal of someday owning her own no-kill rescue and fostering service, like Lucky's Place or her other favorite rescue service – Ruff Start Rescue in Princeton.

Schwartz has tips for people who find abandoned animals: Keep them warm and safe, talk soothingly to them, consult a veterinarian if possible, post photos of the rescued critter on Facebook and bring the pets to a no-kill shelter.

"At those places the animals aren't put in cages," she said. "They can roam around after they've been vetted and vaccinated, and then foster homes are found for them before they are adopted. Another way to help is to donate to those places."

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Legislators

from front page

this loophole.”

In her committee work, she says she's looking at the issues through a lens of how each affects District 13A, which includes St. Joseph and most of southern Stearns County.

For example, she participated in a hearing to address childcare and childhood education with a grant that would fund two pilot programs in urban, low-income areas. She argued for locating one of the pilot centers in outstate Minnesota instead of creating both in the Twin Cities.

“Don't forget us. We are in desperate need in Greater Minnesota,” she said.

Demuth's other legislative work includes introducing bills to support three longstanding funding requests from the city of St. Joseph. The city seeks state support for a pedestrian underpass at CR 75, a community center and park development. Those requests failed to get support in the last legislative session.

Demuth's committee assignments are Early Childhood Finance and Policy Division, Education Finance Division, and Greater Minnesota Jobs and Economic Development Finance Division.

While campaigning last fall, Demuth often mentioned voters' concerns with politicians' attacks on each other. She frequently talked about too much negativity in politics.

Now in St. Paul, Demuth joined the Civility Caucus, an informal group of more than 30 legislators who meet to talk about how to get along.

Demuth described the group's mission as “how can we come together and get along respectfully and speak so we can hear what our opponents are saying.”

At a recent lunch meeting, members were asked to share what the members of the other party think about you that isn't true. Demuth responded they “think we're not caring. I do care about social issues, how we can help each other.”

Those skills will be tested in the next few weeks as the Republican-controlled Senate and the Democratic-controlled House will debate a state budget.

As a new legislator, Demuth said she has found “there are a lot of people who feel comfortable calling or emailing. I like how people are willing to take their time to bring issues to my attention.”

“I'm willing to work 100 percent for those who didn't vote for me,” she said. “I want to represent 13A, to be of service for everyone.”

To contact Demuth, email her at rep.lisa.demuth@house.mn or call 651-296-4373.

“I am here to help take on challenges that may be impacting you on a personal level,” she said. “Did you encounter a permitting or regulatory snafu that needs to be resolved? Have you fallen victim to unintended consequences of state law? The list goes on but I am here to help.”

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.

Jan. 24

10:41 p.m. Suspicious activity. College Avenue N. A man reported somebody throwing oranges at people and the man reporting being hit in the head. Officers found several smashed oranges in the 10 block of College Avenue N. The man suspected the suspects threw the oranges from the balcony above Bello Cucina. This appears to be on ongoing issue because of recent similar complaints.

Jan. 28

12:12 a.m. Suspicious vehicle. First Avenue NE. An officer noticed a vehicle parked at the Wobegon Trail head after hours. The officer noticed the vehicle's windows fortified with thermal window covers. The officer knocked on the windows but there was no answer. As a ticket was being written, the vehicle started and the officer spoke with the owner and the passenger. They lived in Cold Spring and they were told to move along.

Jan. 29

6:16 p.m. Fire. College Avenue N. A fire was reported at 24

College Ave. N. The officer saw smoke coming from the second floor. The area was checked with firefighters. They found what seemed to be propane heaters creating a larger flame than usual. The construction company was contacted and the heaters were turned off.

8:55 p.m. Suspicious vehicle. Iris Lane E. and 14th Avenue NE. A suspicious vehicle was reported in the Northland Addition. The vehicle drove by three times and then parked at the end of Iris near 13th Avenue NE. The officer was unable to locate the vehicle.

Jan. 30

12:23 p.m. Collision. Elm Street E. The driver of vehicle one could not stop on the snow and ice and collided with the trailer hitch on vehicle two. There was minor damage to vehicle one and the towing company separated the vehicles.

5:29 p.m. Fraud. Sixth Avenue SE. A man reported about a Facebook message from a high school friend about how to receive \$90,000 in grant money. The man checked out the website and it asked for \$1,000 for the grant. No money was exchanged or given. The account seems to be fraudulent.

Feb. 2

8:48 p.m. Driving complaint. CR 2 and Interstate Hwy. 94. An officer checked on an erratic driver complaint and observed the vehicle on CR 2. The driv-

er was crossing the center line. The officer stopped the vehicle and the driver appeared to be impaired. After testing, the driver was arrested for DWI. The officer also found open containers.

Feb. 3

3:41 p.m. Hit and run. Elm Street E. A Coborn's employee told a woman a driver in a gray Suburban hit her car. The woman was inside the store and didn't see the collision.

8:24 p.m. Vehicle in the ditch. CR 75 and 115th Avenue. An officer observed a vehicle run into the ditch of 115th Avenue. There were no injuries. The vehicle was towed from the ditch.

Feb. 4

8:37 a.m. Vehicle in the ditch. Fourth Avenue NE. A vehicle went into the ditch on CR 75 near Fourth Avenue NE. The driver was able to drive out using the bank parking lot.

8:40 a.m. Vehicle off the road. CR 75 and Second Avenue NW. A truck ran into the ditch and there was some damage from the snow bank. The vehicle was towed out.

4:42 p.m. Vehicle in the ditch. Cedar Street E. An officer assisted with lights while a vehicle was towed from the ditch.

5:06 p.m. Vehicle in the ditch. CR 75 and Eighth Avenue NE. While on a vehicle in the ditch call, an officer assisted a Stea-

rns County deputy with another crash and took over the call until a tow arrived

5:34 p.m. Fraud. College Avenue S. A person reported that a false check had been deposited to his bank account. The bank flagged the deposit and froze the account. The suspect also asked for \$100 to be deposited on a Google Play card.

Feb. 5

7:14 p.m. Vehicle in the median. Second Avenue NW. A vehicle was in the median and the driver said a tow had been called but it would take an hour to arrive. Because of the safety hazard, the officer called another tow to have the vehicle removed right away.

10:30 p.m. Vehicle in the ditch. CR 75 and Cedar Street E. An officer stopped to assist a driver who had run into the ditch on CR 75. He did not need a tow.

Feb. 6

9:01 a.m. Collision. First Avenue NE and Ash Street E. There was a three-vehicle collision at the intersection. Driver one was stopped at the stop sign on Ash Street heading east and struck vehicle two causing vehicle two to collide with vehicle three, which was facing west.

Feb. 9

10:14 a.m. Vandalism. 11 College Avenue N. A store owner reported eggs thrown at her business. She said this is an ongoing problem.

Community Calendar

Is your event listed? Send your information to: Newsleader Calendar, 1622 11th Ave. SE., St. Cloud, MN 56304., e-mail it to news@thenewsleaders.com. Most events are listed at no cost. Those events are typically free or of minimal charge for people to attend. Some events, which have paid advertising in the Newsleaders, are also listed in the calendar and may charge more.

Saturday, Feb. 23

Somali Museum Dance Troop, 2:30 p.m. Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud.

Sunday, Feb. 24

Parish Breakfast, 8:30-11:30 a.m., St. Wendelin Parish, 22714 Hwy. 15.

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

Monday, Feb. 25

St. Cloud school district Community Linkages Committee, 8 a.m., District Administration Office, 1201 Second St. S., Waite Park.

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

St. Joseph Park Board, 6 p.m., Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E.

The Somali Refugee Experience: Life in a Refugee Camp, 6:30 p.m., Room 204A, Gorecki, College of St. Benedict.

St. Joseph Township Board, 8 p.m. Township Hall, 935 College Ave. S.

Tuesday, Feb. 26

St. Cloud school board meeting, 6:30 p.m., St. Cloud City Hall, 400 Second St. S. Rescheduled from Feb. 20.

Thursday, Feb. 28

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

Friday, March 1

World Day of Prayer Service, 1 p.m., St. Augustine Church, 442 Second St. SE., St. Cloud.

Sunday, March 3

Knights of Columbus Breakfast, 8:30-noon, Church of St. Joseph, 12 W. Minnesota St. Breakfast will be in the school

cafeteria.

National Lutheran Choir, 4 p.m., St. Mary's Cathedral, 25 Eighth Ave. S., St. Cloud. The 60-member choir will perform with a 17-piece orchestra. The musicians will perform their commissioned work, “Holy Spirit Mass.”

Monday, March 4

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

St. Joseph City Council, 6 p.m., Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E.

Tuesday, March 5

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

St. Joseph Lions membership and executive board meeting, 7 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. meeting. Millstream Park, new Lions building.

Wednesday, March 6

St. Cloud school district work session and board meeting, 6:30 p.m., Clearview Elementary School, 7310 Hwy. 24,

Clear Lake.

Thursday, March 7

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

Friday, March 8

Fish Fry, 4-7 p.m., St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Fruit Farm Road.

St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club fish fry fundraiser, 4:30-8 p.m., American Legion, 101 W. Minnesota St., St. Joseph. www.stjoerodandgunclub.org.

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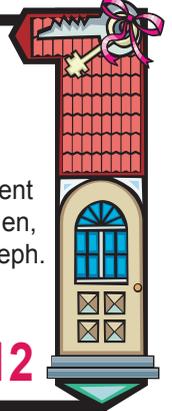


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The American Legion is celebrating its 100th birthday in 2019. In addition to national and statewide activities commemorating this milestone, American Post 328 of St. Joseph is planning a number of festive and patriotic activities for the community.

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

by Tom Klecker
St. Joseph American Legion

Gilbert Joseph Stock, 87, U.S. Army, Korean War era. Gilbert was born and raised on the family farm in rural St. Joseph. For five generations the Stock family has farmed this particular land. Gilbert was one of 13 siblings. He graduated from Cathedral High School in 1950. Being a farm kid, Gilbert was



contributed photo
Gilbert Stock in 1953, age 22.



contributed photo
Gilbert Stock.



not unfamiliar with hard work. Putting up firewood for the winter one year, he was hit in the

Spare a Watt, Save a Lot begins

Volunteers from the College of St. Benedict Sustainability Office will be visiting area businesses next week to promote energy efficiency. The Spare a Watt, Save a Lot effort begins Monday, Feb. 25, and runs to Friday, March 1.

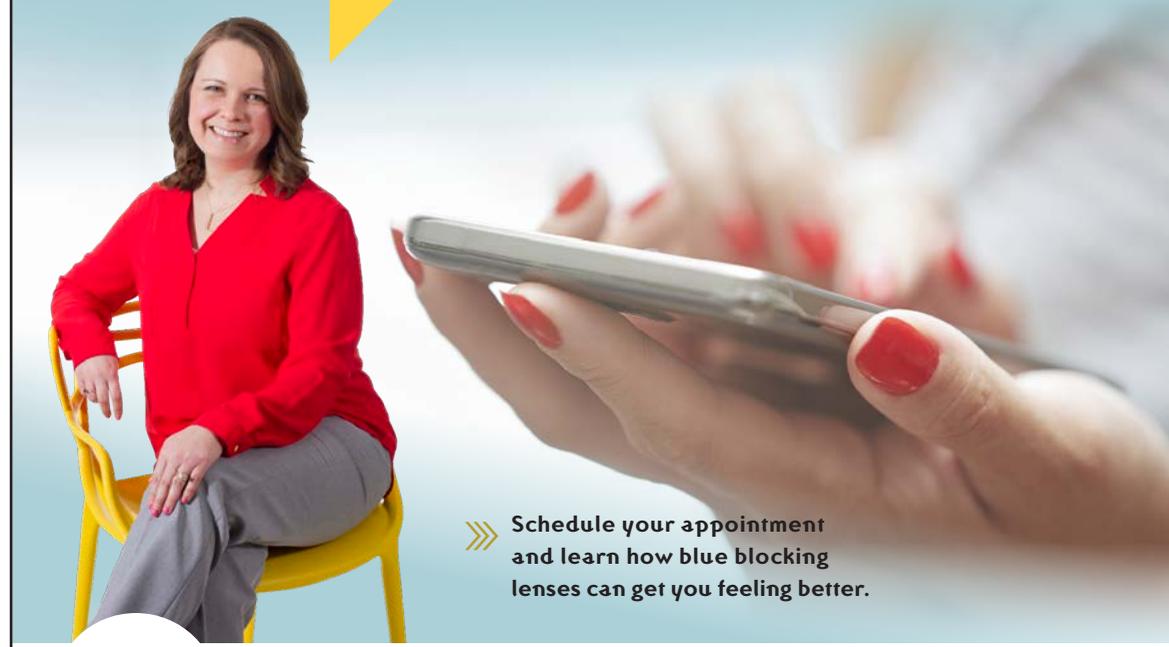
During the program, volunteers will visit small businesses to offer energy-saving tips and information on energy-efficiency rebates. Volunteers will also schedule free energy assessments through Energy Smart and the

Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. The group plans to visit as many St. Joseph businesses as possible during the week. For visit-related preferences, email csbsustainability@csbsju.edu or call 320-363-5390.

Stock • page 7

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contributed photo
Students at St. Joseph Catholic School created a "Make-your- Mark"-in-the-world display based on the book "The Dot," by Peter H. Reynolds, for Catholic Schools Week.

Cold weather necessitates Catholic Schools Week changes

by Cori Hilsgen
news@the.newsleaders.com

The cold weather, which closed many schools Jan. 29-31, changed the timing of a few activities which were planned for Catholic Schools Week at St. Joseph Catholic School.

"Although we had three days canceled during Catholic Schools Week, we will reschedule the planned activities," principal Karl Terhaar said at the end of the week. "Students really look forward to these days since they offer a change of pace and alleviate some of the winter blahs."

Students, faculty and staff began celebrating with a Sunday Mass followed by a book fair open house in the music room Jan. 27.

Monday was a two-hour late-start day but students and staff were still able to celebrate Wacky Day and dressed in a wacky way.

Plans for the rest of the week had originally included several other themed days, activities and prayer, but many of those

events could not proceed as planned because of school being closed.

Tuesday was to have been Game Day and students could wear sports jerseys, baseball hats, cheerleading outfits or anything they would wear to a sports game as well as play board games. This and a prayer service were rescheduled for Feb. 5.

Wednesday was planned as Spirit Day and students could wear Catholic Community School shirts. This day and the book exchange are rescheduled for Feb. 13. During the book exchange, students are able to bring in new or gently used books and then shop for a different book to keep.

Thursday's planned activities included Dot Day and students could wear clothing with dots and participate in dot activities, based on the book "The Dot," by Peter H. Reynolds. This was rescheduled for Feb. 7.

Friday's Beach Day took place as planned. Students wore sunglasses, dressed in

shorts and T-shirts and teachers vs. sixth-graders played beach volleyball, while other students cheered for the teams.

"We were able to have Beach Day on Friday which brought a short respite from the polar vortex as we pretended to enjoy some tropical weather," Terhaar said. "The day ended with a school dance with a beach theme as well."

Students also participated in a service project and were given service groups such as police officers, firefighters, St. Joseph Lions, St. Joseph Y2K Lions, St. Joseph Jaycees and others to write "thank you" notes.

Fourth-grade teacher Theresa Fleege coordinated Catholic Schools Week activities for the school.

"Catholic Schools Week is always a fun week for the students," she said. "This year I am most excited about our service project. During our prayer service, the students will learn about and pray for many organizations that serve our community."



contributed photo
St. Joseph Catholic School fifth-grade students (left to right) Ariel Brill, Kenzie Harren and (back) Aquiliana Wolf celebrate Beach Day during Catholic Schools Week.

People

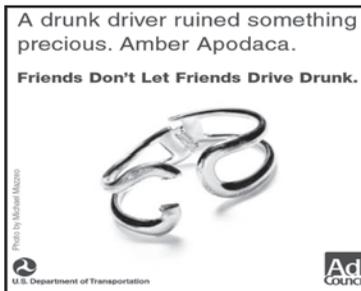
Dr. Michael Contardo of Laser Dentistry in St. Joseph celebrated 40 years of practicing dentistry on Feb. 13.



Contardo

Lynne Bohrer of St. Joseph was named to the dean's list at Rochester (N.Y.) Institute of Technology for fall semester. To qualify for the dean's list, a student must maintain at least a 3.4 grade-point average. Bohrer is in the applied liberal arts program.

Morgan Vouk of St. Joseph was named to the first semester dean's list at Concordia College, Moorhead. To qualify for this designation, students must have a grade-point average of at least a 3.7 on a 4.0 scale.



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Opinion

Our View

Voters asked for results instead of deadlock; will legislators deliver this time?

There's a new look at the Capitol. Tim Walz replaced fellow Democrat Mark Dayton in the governor's office, while Democrats won control of the House of Representatives. Thirty-nine new members, including 35 DFLers, entered the 134-member House. Over in the Senate, Republicans hold a 35-32 advantage.

In addition to how to spend the state's money and balance the budget, the new faces will find some old issues such as gun safety, health care and education achievement. Last year, legislators and the governor deadlocked over spending and other issues, leaving voters frustrated.

The governor's budget proposal released Feb. 19 includes money for education, health care and community development. Walz proposes spending \$733 million in additional pre-K through grade 12 education funding during the next two years, and \$158 million in funding to support Minnesota's higher education system, including \$62 million in grants to students.

The governor's budget provides every Minnesotan with an additional health-care option, encourages stability in the individual market and makes health care more affordable in Minnesota. By leveraging the state's purchasing power, his budget lowers prescription drug prices, increases transparency and ensures access to comprehensive drug coverage statewide.

For what Walz calls "community prosperity," Walz proposes spending \$432 million during the next two years, with an additional \$1.9 billion in transportation and infrastructure.

Whether the new faces can lead to results gets its first test this week as Walz released his budget and House and Senate leaders counter with their own spending plans and how to manage the state's \$1.5-billion surplus. Democrats want to spend some of the surplus while Republicans are calling for tax cuts.

Last year, the Legislature approved money to buy down expensive insurance premiums. That debate will return this year as lawmakers must decide whether to extend that state-funded effort that delivered short-term results.

Nearly 1,865 individual claims were covered by the program in the first nine months of last year at a total cost of \$84 million. The final 2018 tally could reach as high as \$150 million once all affected claims are tallied. Some questioned whether the cost is worth it.

Democrats want increased funding for schools as well as closing Minnesota's persistent achievement gaps. Their likely plan is more funding on the state-aid formula, a closer look at early education options and community schools that provide education and childcare all in one place.

Minnesota's gun laws have remained mostly unchanged for years, with a strong tradition of recreational gun use in the state and a powerful lobbying force at the Capitol. Senate Democrats rolled out a series of gun control bills on Jan. 24. The proposals would expand background checks and block potentially dangerous individuals from getting a gun.

Walz wants to raise the gas tax by 20 cents for transportation, but Republicans want to use the surplus for road projects.

As debate moves ahead this spring, keep an eye on two dates. By law, the session ends on May 20. Will the two parties stand firm on their opening policy positions until the last minute or will they work, as voters told them, to find solutions to avoid another deadlocked session?

And then there is June 30, the end of the fiscal year. The legislators can't leave without a balanced budget. Let's hope they spend June enjoying summer instead of waiting for the other side to give in at the Capitol.

Emmer aims to lead on blockchain technology

Technological innovation moves fast. Today's hot new gadget is tomorrow's candidate for recycling.

It's tough to keep up with 4K, 5G, AI and VR. No place is that struggle more obvious than in government.

Legislation and regulation moves slowly as the gears of government creak. Meanwhile, technology and the marketplace determine what "rules" govern how the latest inventions operate.

Two recent examples highlight the challenge.

When Congress conducted hearings on how social media influenced the 2016 elections, it was painfully, embarrassingly obvious that members, the aged ones as well as younger members, were totally clueless. They haltingly read questions obviously prepared by more knowledgeable staffers while tech-genius witnesses could barely hide their giggles.

And then there are drones. They've been zipping through the skies for years while the FAA and lawmakers try to figure out how to regulate their impact privacy and safety.

Rep. Tom Emmer, our Republican member of Congress from the Sixth District, isn't going to let that happen as the government deals with digital currency.

Emmer, who was just named a co-chair of the Congressional Blockchain Caucus, announced three bills to support blockchain technology and digital currencies.

Specifically, the legislation expresses "support for the industry and development of these promising technologies

Mike Knaak
Editor



in the United States, provides clarity to entities that never take control of consumer funds and establishes a safe harbor for taxpayers with 'forked' digital assets."

"The United States should prioritize accelerating the development of blockchain technology and create an environment that enables the American private sector to lead on innovation and further growth, which is why I am introducing these bills," Emmer said.

The Caucus believes in a hands-off regulatory approach to allow this technology to evolve the same way the internet did – on its own. The federal government should provide a light touch, and a consistent and simple legal environment, they contend.

Blockchain technology is a digital, decentralized ledger that keeps a record of transactions and allows for the transfer of financial assets directly between users.

The technology enables the existence of cryptocurrency. Bitcoin is the name of the best-known cryptocurrency, the one for which blockchain technology was invented. A cryptocurrency is a medium of exchange, such as the U.S. dollar, but is digital and uses encryption techniques to control the creation of monetary units and to verify the transfer of funds.

The 30 percent should pay for 'The Wall'

We shouldn't have to wonder any longer why President Donald Trump shows such high-five admiration for thugs posing as national leaders – that rogue's gallery that includes Vladimir Putin, Kim Jung-Un, Recep Erdogan and Rodrigo Duterte. Trump apes their autocratic attitudes.

His declaration of a "national emergency" over his obsessive fixation on "The Wall" puts him square in the camp of the thugs – that is, egomaniacal power-mongers who stop at nothing to get their own way.

Not to insult sweet (or even naughty) kids, but these thugs are grotesque kids – dangerous ones – right out of a nightmare cartoon. They lash out and throw hellacious fits. They whine and pout, they strut and sneer, they browbeat and threaten (or worse), they belittle and squelch any opposition because in their little minds they are the only ones who count. Nobody else matters. In Trump's case, "nobody else" includes the U.S. Constitution and the U.S. Congress.

On Feb. 15, during his Rose Garden announcement of his "national emergency," Trump told yet another whopper, crowing like a strutting rooster on his hill: "I've already done a lot of Wall!"

Done a lot of damage is more like it. Damage to democracy; to the Rule of Law; to American institutions like the Department of Justice, the Congress and the Constitution.

From Day One, Trump has insisted

Dennis Dalman
Reporter



that HE is the best – HIS inaugural ceremony was the biggest and best ever, HIS 2015 doctor's report (dictated by Trump himself) was the best of all; HIS tax cut was the biggest and best of all time: HIS Wall is going to be the biggest, the most beautiful in all of history.

Does that rampant narcissism sound like derangement? Well, let's put it this way: There are some people tragically suffering from delusions of grandeur, many of them under care in institutions. Some, sadly, might even imagine themselves to be president of the United States.

Trump has constructed his own world with its own twisted latitudes and cockeyed longitudes – with HIM being the center of it. He was – and is – furious when others in the regular world do not recognize and accede to his centrality, his all-knowingness, his royal Trumpness.

From his first day in office, it became quickly obvious he thought the entire government apparatus belongs to him. Legislators, law enforcement, attorneys, agencies exist as HIS things, pawns to protect him, to cover for him, to serve him, to do his bidding. That is how autocrats and thugs think – and act.

Emmer's bill specifically points to the use of blockchain along with smartphones to provide banking and financial services to people who are currently underserved by the financial industry.

Emmer's bill also recognizes future uses that go beyond value transfer including "identity, security for the Internet of Things, rights management for digital content, efficiencies in insurance, energy, health care and instant execution, monitoring and enforcement of contractual terms."

The bill lays out the role of government, balancing the need to encourage private-sector development and innovation while also protecting users from illicit use of digital currencies and other blockchain services.

Financial institutions are exploring how they could also use blockchain technology to upend everything from clearing and settlement to insurance.

As a member of the House Financial Services Committee, Emmer has a stake how banking, insurance and international finance are regulated. I'm often critical of Emmer's policy positions, but this time, he's on the right track. Blockchain technology is probably not high on most voters' lists of key issues so Emmer deserves credit for taking the time to dig into it.

Becoming an expert and leader on the emerging and fast-developing blockchain technology may save him and his fellow lawmakers from embarrassing moments at future Congressional hearings.

The Wall is yet another symptom of Trump's autocratic bluster. To millions of his supporters that one word "Wall" is a code word for exclusionary attitudes and white nationalism: Keep "them" out of "my" country.

This desperate and dangerous announcement of a "national emergency" is only the latest symptom of total contempt for the U.S. Constitution and the Rule of Law. Even some Republican legislators, who have so long enabled Trump's every crazy whim, are speaking up against this latest usurpation of power. The only hope is that they, along with Democrats, put a stop to it.

Statistics prove the so-called need for a Big Wall is not a national emergency in any way, shape or form. Border security? By all means. Wall as solution? Absurd.

Who can forget that Trump's "I'm going to build a Wall" started as a campaign chant, a chunk of red meat, cynically tossed to frenzied rally-goers.

"And who's going to pay for it?!" Trump would shout with a defiant sneer on his face.

"Mexico!" they would roar back. "MEXICO!"

Very funny. As if that was going to happen. No. That asinine fixation called "Wall" should be paid for by taking up a collection from the 30 percent of Americans who still insist Donald Trump and his Wall are the greatest things since cupcakes.

Guest column: Missing facts harm fair reporting

Ron Stewart, St. Joseph

I was fascinated by the opinion piece by Mike Knaak, "News has no 'sides.' Only facts" and came away thinking, if only this were true.

Why do I question his supposition? The answer is easy and obvious: Whose facts? Which facts are presented and which facts are omitted?

There is a reason the news media is not well trusted.

As one who consumes his news from several sources, those deemed liberal and conservative and some seen as neutral, I can say with a whole lot of certainty that what impresses me the most

is that pertinent facts are often omitted and/or dropped to the last paragraphs of an article.

Let me say this in defense of Fox News: I understand clearly the conservative leanings of the network – but there is just as strong, if not stronger, leaning leftward on MSNBC and CNN. It's interesting to hear the news analysis on those two networks as they repeat verbatim the daily or weekly "talking points" of the Democratic National Committee. They can do this, of course, but their facts are generally the facts that support a liberal agenda.

If I want to get a more complete picture of the facts I find it helpful to include Fox News as part of

my information diet. I can tell the difference between news and opinion.

Jake Tapper of CNN admitted in an interview in Rolling Stone that he let President Obama get away with incorrect or false statements because he liked the president. Facts?

Contrast this with a Harvard study that news reports about President Trump were 90 percent negative. Consider that when 20 neo-Nazis staged a protest the press was all over this as though 20 people represented the conservative movement. At the same time when Antifa, a radical left-wing anarchist group causes physical destruction on college campuses,

it has been pretty much ignored, or worse, blamed on the Young Campus Republicans because they invited a conservative speaker to their campus. Remember when free speech meant free speech for diverse viewpoints?

And for the comment that we old, unsophisticated, computer-illiterate folks, get most of our fake news from social media how about the 66 percent of millennials who don't know what happened at Auschwitz or the 40 percent of young adults who think George W. Bush killed more people than Stalin or Mao? Personally, I think that reference to seniors was unnecessary and demeaning.

Facts may be facts but it comes

down to whose facts. Watch CNN and MSNBC, I have no problem with that...Listen to PBS (I do) but let me recommend you broaden your perspective. Missing facts are just as important as the presented facts. And if the news outlets would be more careful to include facts from multiple sources maybe the news media would have a higher trust rating from the public.

I am not writing this to defend President Trump. He is often his own worst enemy and each president needs to be scrutinized. What I want to point out is that the evidence (factual) is strong that many news stories are incomplete because certain facts are not reported.

Stock

from Page 4

From there he was sent to Fort Sill, Okla., for 16 weeks of basic training and artillery training. Finally, he was ordered to Fort Bliss, Texas, where he was assigned to the 247th Field Artillery – Missile Battalion. In the army, the artillery is the supporting element for the infantry and armor units.

In 1952, the 247th, in addition to operating 105 howitzer cannons, became responsible for developing skills for the Corporal missile system. At that time in the ongoing development of weapon

systems, this was tantamount to Gilbert being introduced to a "Buck Rogers" or the "Flash Gordon" world of battlefield options.

The Corporal-guided missile was 83 feet long and could travel 100 miles. The Corporal was this country's first nuclear missile.

The reader can well appreciate the technical training required of Gilbert given the sophistication of that particular weapon system.

Gilbert spent the rest of his military tour at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Reflecting upon his army days, Gilbert recalls the food as "pretty bad." "When we had liver it was green, Some of us thought it was horse liver." Gilbert recalls meeting a lot of different people, different ethnic groups, those not necessarily found in Stearns

County at the time.

Fort Bliss, near the Mexican border, had its share of dust storms. Often the fine sand would find a way to blow into the barracks, thus requiring a "sand detail."

Gilbert says he felt "overall" the army was a good experience. "The army helped me grow up and learn leadership." He said he felt fortunate in that a third of his basic training group went to Korea.

With minimal reluctance to share, Gilbert relays a situation in which he became embroiled in an argument with his sergeant. The situation quickly accelerated into a pushing and shoving match. As a consequence of this altercation, Gilbert had the un-

enviable distinction of being promoted from PFC to corporal the very same day he was demoted from corporal back to PFC. "I lost a pay raise of \$21 a month that day."

Gilbert was discharged from army active duty on Feb. 3, 1955. "An Army buddy drove me to Owatonna and from there I took a bus to St. Joseph."

Upon returning to civilian life, Gilbert worked as a carpenter for two-and-a-half years whereupon he resumed his life-long love of farming. In addition to farming, Gilbert was a full-time rural mail carrier for 33 years.

Gilbert married Theresa in 1957. They were married for 57 years. Theresa passed away in 2011. For six years prior to her

death, Gilbert cared for her at home. From this union, Theresa and Gilbert had seven children, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

In 1990, Gilbert turned the farm over to a son, built a comfortable home on the property and "somewhat retired."

In retirement, he has many interests. Gilbert has been active in American Legion Post 328- St. Joseph for 62 years. Last year was the first time he could not march on Memorial Day. For three years Gilbert was the American Legion Post commander and served five years as vice commander.

A good man never to be held down, Gilbert is recovering from a recent hip-replacement surgery.

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Abduction Awareness 2019

Tips for Talking to Your Child About Abduction

- 1) Don't forget your older children. Children ages 11 to 17 are equally at risk for victimization. At the same time you are giving your older children more freedom, make sure they understand important safety rules as well.
- 2) When you speak to your children, do so in a calm, nonthreatening manner. Children do not need to be frightened to get the point across. Fear can actually work at cross-purposes to the safety message, because fear can be paralyzing to a child.
- 3) Speak openly about safety issues. Children will be less likely to come to you if the issue is enshrouded in secrecy. If they feel you are comfortable discussing the subject matter, they may be more forthcoming to you.
- 4) Do not confuse children with the concept of "strangers." Children do not have the same understanding of who a stranger is as an adult might. The "stranger-danger" message is not effective, as danger to children is much greater from someone you or they know than from a "stranger."
- 5) Practice what you talk about. You may think your children understand your message, but until they can incorporate it into their daily lives, it may not be clearly understood. Find opportunities to practice "what if" scenarios.
- 6) Teach your children it is more important to get out of a threatening situation than it is to be polite. They also need to know it's OK to tell you what happened, and they won't be a tattletale.

The Most Important Things to Explain

- 1) Children should always check first with you or a trusted adult before they go anywhere, accept anything or get into a car with anyone. This applies to older children as well.
- 2) Children should not go out alone and should always take a friend with them when they go places or play outside. It's OK to say no if someone tries to touch them or treats them in a way that makes them feel scared, uncomfortable or confused, and to get out of the situation as quickly as possible.
- 3) Children need to know they can tell you or a trusted adult if they feel scared, uncomfortable or confused.
- 4) Children need to know there will always be someone to help them, and they have the right to be safe.

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