

Newsleaders

Reaching Everybody!

Friday, Jan. 24, 2020
Volume 32, Issue 2
Est. 1989

Town Crier

Colombia's past president to speak Feb. 4 at SJU

The 13th Annual Eugene J. McCarthy Lecture is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4 in the Stephen B. Humphrey Theater at St. John's University. This year's keynote is Juan Manuel Santos, a two-term president of Colombia (2010-2018). President Santos ushered in a new era of prosperity and peace in Colombia and his success was widely recognized.

In 2016, President Santos was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize "for his resolute efforts to bring the country's more than 50-year-long civil war to an end." Santos has also been twice-named to TIME's "100 Most Influential People" and was honored with the World Economic Forum's Global Statesman Award.

Visit csbsju.edu/fine-arts to reserve your FREE tickets!

Swing Dance set Jan. 27 at SHS

The fourth annual Sartell High School Swing Dance will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27 at Sartell High School. The event will be held in the high school commons and will feature four performance groups: High School Jazz Band I and II and both Middle School jazz bands. Before the main event, free swing-dance lessons will be provided from 6:30-7 p.m. by StudioJeff of St. Cloud. Free-will donations are encouraged. All donations benefit the Sartell High School Band Activity Fund, which covers the Jazz Band, Pep Band and Marching Band.

SYHA Raffle: \$41,000 in prizes

Sartell Youth Hockey is now conducting its annual Scheels raffle with a grand prize of \$1,499.99; 100 prizes in total; 1:20 odds.

Winners can choose the awarded firearm, with proper credentials, or a gift card for the awarded value. The gift card is redeemable for any merchandise in the St. Cloud store. Tickets may be purchased at both Blue Line Bar & Grill locations, the Firing Line Indoor Range & Gun Shop, during varsity hockey games at Bernick's Arena or from SYHA members.

For more information, visit sartellhockeyaffle.com.

INSERT:
Bello Cucina/Sliced
on College Avenue

Bonding list includes two St. Joseph projects

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Two longtime St. Joseph dream projects moved one step closer to reality last week when the governor included them in his bonding list for the legislature.

Gov. Tim Walz requested \$4 million for the Community Center expansion and \$300,000 for East Park, part of \$2.028 billion general-obligation bond proposal supporting local jobs and projects.

Area lawmakers of both parties backed legislation to fund the projects, but being on the governor's list is "pretty impactful," said St. Joseph City Administrator Kris Ambuehl.

If the Legislature approves the funding, the bonds would cover \$4 million of the estimated \$16 million price tag for the community center. The remain-

ing money would come from a capital fundraising campaign and revenue from the city's half-cent sales tax.

Development of East Park would receive half of its estimated \$600,000 cost.

At the beginning of the legislative session a year ago, St. Joseph's legislators, Rep. Lisa Demuth (R-Cold Spring) and Sen. Jeff Howe (R-Rockville) introduced bills supporting both projects.

Typically, bonding issues are addressed in the second year of the two-year legislative session. Lawmakers return to St. Paul on Tuesday, Feb. 11.

Ambuehl pointed out that House and Senate committees visited St. Joseph last year to learn about both projects.

The Community Center would be created by renovating and expanding the old Kennedy School. Planners see the proj-



The proposed St. Joseph Community Center.

ect as a space for residents of all ages to connect. Additionally, the Jacob Wetterling Recreational Center would be part of the center as a space for young people to gather and as a resource for health and wellness.

Recreational facilities could include basketball, pickleball and volleyball courts, an elevated walking track, a climbing wall and locker rooms.

East Park would be at the southeast edge of the city, east of College Avenue and along

the Sauk River. Planners envision a walking trail, nature center, watercraft landing and a dog park on a 95-acre site.

Ambuehl called the bonding money for East Park a "fantastic use of funds."

The next step, Ambuehl said, is for local officials to work with area legislators to make sure the two projects supported by the governor also end up in the House and Senate bonding bills.

First AED SaveStation installed in Pleasant Acres

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

The first automatic external defibrillator (AED) SaveStation for the Pleasant Acres Initiative was installed on Dec. 23.

It is mounted on the garage at the home of Kameron and Barb (Lowell) Peck. Their home is a red house at the intersection of CR 2 and Crestview Drive. This location is visible to people who live in or drive through the area. Directional signs also help increase the visibility of the AED location.

Barb Peck is a nurse in the CentraCare Heart and Vascular Center and immediately agreed to host the site.

The Pleasant Acres SaveStation Initiative was started by

Bruce Bechtold to help get more SaveStations installed around the Pleasant Acres neighborhood by St. Joseph.

Bechtold recruited his neighbor, Mark Hilsgen, whose life was saved by a defibrillator, to help with the initiative.

Bechtold said the Pleasant Acres neighborhood has raised enough funds for this first SaveStation and is trying to raise additional funds for a second SaveStation for the neighborhood.

Twenty-two families and the St. Joseph Lions, St. Joseph Y2k Lions and St. Cloud Metro Lions donated the funds to bring the project to this point.

"We still need additional funds to add one more site

AED • page 2



photo by Cori Hilsgen

The first AED SaveStation was installed on Dec. 23 in Pleasant Acres. It is mounted on the garage at the home of Kameron and Barb Peck at the intersection of CR 2 and Crestview Drive. Barb Peck is a nurse in the CentraCare Heart and Vascular Center.

After tie vote, Theisen selected acting mayor

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

A fairly routine decision became a little more complicated for the St. Joseph City Council at its Jan. 21 meeting because of arithmetic.

At the beginning of the year, governments vote on a number of housekeeping issues such as appointments to boards and commissions and these votes

usually go quickly.

But when the City Council turned to appointing an acting mayor, things slowed a bit.

The current acting mayor, Council Member Anne Buckvold, was



Theisen

chairing the meeting in Mayor Rick Schultz's absence. When she called for an acting mayor nomination for the new year, Council Member Bob Loso nominated Troy Goracke, a motion seconded by Council Member Brian Theisen.

When the council voted, the result, with Schultze absent, turned out 2-2. Goracke voted no and Buckvold voted no because Goracke was reluctant

to accept the role. The council then voted 3-1 to table the issue until the Feb. 5 meeting.

Loso broke the deadlock and settled the issue by nominating Theisen who was chosen acting mayor on a 4-0 vote.

The acting mayor steps in if the mayor is unavailable to conduct city business, including chairing council meetings.

It's time again for River of Life's Annual WILD GAME FEED!



6:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25
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See our website for all the information: riveroflifeag.org

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AED

from front page

in this neighborhood that has (more than) 200 households," Bechtold said. "If people are considering donating they should do so soon. We would like to wrap up the fundraising by Feb. 1 because our CentraCare grant will expire soon

after that."

Advocates for Health installed this SaveStation with the anticipation that the necessary funds would be raised.

Donations for the SaveStations can be mailed to Bruce Bechtold, 9842 Jenny Lane, St. Joseph, MN 56374. Checks should be made out to "Advocates for Health."

For additional information, please contact Bechtold at 320-

363-4989 or Hilsen at 320-250-7304.

"We are grateful to the Pecks, Whitley Electric for the installation, Kurt and Ana Krekelberg for the mailings and the Lions clubs and residents for their financial support," Bechtold said.

Videos on how to use the AED can be viewed at <https://advocatesforhealth.net/training/>.

Lend a hand by clearing snow from around fire hydrants

by Mike Knaak

editor@thenewsleaders.com

Not surprisingly considering recent weather, when Public Works Director Terry Thene

reported his department's updates at the Jan. 21 St. Joseph City Council meeting, snow removal was the main topic.

Council Member Bob Loso asked Thene about clearing

out snow around fire hydrants.

Thene said the task is "on our radar" to clear them out.

But Thene asked residents to help out by removing snow from around hydrants as well.

People

Brady Birch of St. Joseph has been selected to the fall dean's list for maintaining a semester grade-point average of 3.50 or higher at University of Jamestown, N.D.

Sierrah Skudlarek has been named to the fall semester dean's list at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. Students on the dean's list have achieved a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher.

Central Lakes College, Brainerd and Staples, has announced its fall semester honors lists. **Haley Schleper** of St. Joseph was named to the president's list with a grade-point average of 3.75 or higher. **Stephanie Scanlon** of St. Joseph was named to the dean's list for earning a grade-point average of 3.25 to 3.74.

Two St. Joseph students have been named to the fall semester dean's list for a grade-

point average of 3.7 or higher at Gustavus Adolphus College. St. Peter. The students are **Maura Cofell** and **Haley Reed**.

Three St. Joseph students have been named to the fall semester dean's list at the College of St. Scholastica. Dean's list members have achieved a 3.75 grade-point average or higher. The students are **Julie Helms**, **Cody Neitzke** and **Courtney Thielen**.

The Norman C. Skalicky Foundation and the Central Minnesota Community Foundation recently announced the Charity Challenge raised \$568,622 this holiday season to support food shelves in the St. Cloud area. The total includes a \$150,000 match from the foundation. The money raised will benefit the Salvation Army, Catholic Charities and the St. Joseph Community Food Shelf.

The **Hill Museum & Manuscript Library** at St. John's University received \$1,408,474 in grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support its mission to preserve and share the world's handwritten heritage. The grant will fund a three-year project to catalog 53,000 digitized manuscripts and create an online database of authors and titles originating from under-represented or little-known literary traditions.

Help youth succeed

Pathways 4 Youth needs volunteers in a variety of positions to work with homeless youth. Work includes picking up meals and assisting on committees. Pathways 4 Youth allows homeless youth to access resources that can put them back on a path where they can grow as individuals and be contributing members of our community. To learn more visit pathways4youthmn.org or call 320-316-1635.

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Presidential primary absentee voting began Jan. 17

Absentee voting began Jan. 17, for the March 3 Presidential Nomination Primary. Voting in the Presidential Nomination Primary will be different from a statewide primary election with the following differences:

- The Democratic-Farmer-Labor and Republican parties are the only major political parties that will participate in the Presidential Nomination Primary. Donald Trump and the Republican Party have decided only Trump's name will appear on the Republican ballot.
- Each party will have a separate ballot.
- Only presidential candidates will be on the ballot.
- A voter's choice of party ballot and how a voter voted is private data. A list of who voted in a Presidential Nomination Primary and the political party each voter selected will be provided to the chair of each major political party

Stearns County has two locations for in-person absentee voting for the full 46 days before the election at the following locations:

Stearns County Administration Center
Auditor Office, Room 148
705 Courthouse Square
Hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Stearns County Service Center
License Center West
3301 CR 138
Waite Park
Hours: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Voters can also apply for an absentee ballot online at mn.votes.org and a ballot will be mailed to them. Absentee ballot requests may also be done by mail. Contact the Auditor-Treasurer's Office at 320-656-3920 or email elections@co.stearns.mn.us and an application will be sent.

The political parties will conduct precinct caucuses on Feb. 25 to address other party business including nominations for other offices and issues.

There will be a primary election on Aug. 11 to decide other contested races. The general election is Nov. 3.

Kennedy kindergarten, preschool enrollment opens

Kindergarten enrollment and preschool registration for Kennedy Community School begins Jan. 24.

A morning open house for kindergarten enrollment is scheduled for 8-10 a.m. with a presentation at 9 a.m.

There will be an evening open house for kindergarten and preschool from 5-6:30 p.m. with a presentation at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 28

If you can't attend an open house, a preschool registration form can be mailed or dropped off at Quarryview Education Center, District 742 Preschool, 800 Seventh St. S., Waite Park, MN 56387. By phone, call 320-370-8250 to register. Hours are 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If you can't attend a kindergarten open house, register online at isd742.org/enrollment or visit the Welcome Center at the District Administration Office, 1201 Second St. S., Waite Park, from 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

An open house for incoming students at Kennedy will also be held from 5-6:30 p.m. Jan. 28.

News for refugees/immigrants: Agency connects immigrants with jobs

Tani waa kuu muhiim adiga. Fadlan aqri. Ogeysiis! Importante para Usted, por favor léalo. Please read!

Announcements brought to you by Cultural Bridges of St. Joseph, a committee of Central Minnesota Community Empowerment Organization. We are dedicated to ease your transition into our community.

...

As Central Minnesota is becoming more diverse, the need to connect immigrants seeking jobs to employers seeking talent is crucial. That is what Filsan Talent Partners has been doing for more than four years. Because the East African population in St. Joseph is growing, the Filsan team sat down with many residents and listened to their needs, which resulted in opening a new satellite office at 111 College Ave. N.

Hudda Ibrahim, president and CEO of Filsan Talent Partners, has many talents. The CSB alumna is an instructor at St. Cloud Community & Technical College and author of the books "From Somalia to Snow: How Central Minnesota Became Home," and "What Color is My Hijab?" She is hopeful that this new office will help burgeoning Somali refugees and other immigrants find jobs and services they need to navigate in their new community of St. Joseph. They will get help filling out job applications, finding job training programs, writing resumes and accessing ESL classes. Filsan is committed to helping refugees find meaningful and sustainable work so they become productive and established residents in their new community of St. Joseph.

Filsan will be conducting a research survey along with Central Minnesota Community Empowerment Organization on new refugee populations' needs and concerns.

One of the needs we often hear is transportation. The Filsan team will strive to bridge that gap.

"Filsan was my childhood nickname that my mom gave me, and it means beauty in Somali language," Ibrahim said.

She added, "I want to help our local companies attract and retain talented people and create diverse and inclusive workplaces. She said she believes offering customized training for new arrivals on communications skills, American work ethics, punctuality and acculturation are necessary."

Ibrahim also hosts Dine & Dialogue sessions, which bring Somalis and other newer Americans together with their neighbors across Central Minnesota for an evening of food and sharing.

...

If you have any questions, please contact Juliana Howard at 715-791-8976 or Jamal Elmi at 320-310-2351.



Hudda Ibrahim



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contributed photo

St. Joseph students place at spelling bee

Four St. Joseph Catholic School students competed and placed in the Top 10 of the Spelling Bee on Jan. 10 at the Cathedral High School Holy Angels performing Arts Center. These students included (left to right) sixth-grader Aquiliana Wolf, 10th place; fifth-grader James Hanauska, second place; sixth-grader Cecelia Weldon, third place; and sixth-grader Brady Skahen, seventh place. Hanauska and Weldon will go on to compete at the Regional Spelling Bee at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5, at Resource Training and Solutions.

Fundraising hockey game features Minnesota Warriors

A Blattner Energy hockey team will host a fundraising game with the Minnesota Warriors veteran's team on Jan. 25 at Bernick's Arena.

Pregame activities begin at 7 p.m. with the puck drop at 8:10 p.m.

The national anthem will be performed by Minnesota Wild

singer John deCausemeaker.

Admission to the event is free but donations are welcomed. There will be a Sartell Youth Hockey Association Mite game played during the first intermission and there will be chances to win a variety of hockey-related items and a portion of the chuck-a-puck pot.

The Minnesota Warriors ice hockey team is made up of Minnesotans who have served in the United States military. The organization was created to help wounded, injured or otherwise disabled veterans to have a place where they can come together as a team to support one another and have

a great time doing it.

The Blattner Energy team is made up of employees of Blattner who wanted to put their hockey skills to use to benefit other organizations.

Blattner Energy is headquartered in Avon.


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Fourth-graders learn about energy safety

St. Joseph Catholic School fourth-graders learned about energy efficiency and electrical safety on Jan. 15 from Stearns Electric Association employees.

Prior to the presentations, students learned about basic electricity principles as part of their school curriculum. Throughout the one-hour sessions, students reviewed the things they had learned, including the different types of electricity, conductors and insulators and sources of energy.

Students also came up with ideas on how they can conserve more energy at home.

Stearns Electric's energized home and farm model showed students what can happen when they get too close to electrical equipment.

The most important piece of knowledge students walked away with was information on how to react in a vehicle accident involving any electrical equipment. You should always stay in your vehicle if it hits a power pole, unless your vehicle is on fire. If your vehicle is on fire near a power pole, you should jump out of your vehicle, keeping your feet together and shuffle as far away from the accident as you can.

Following each live demonstration, one student was selected to dress up as a line worker.

Donning a hard hat, rubber gloves, pole climbers, safety glasses and a utility belt, these students experienced equipment line workers use.



contributed photo

Fourth-grader Teresa Nix dresses as a line worker.



contributed photo

Stearns Electric line worker Mike Siemers demonstrates the live home and farm model.

City supports grant to help homeless students

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

The St. Joseph City Council at its Jan. 21 meeting approved a letter from Mayor Rick Schultz supporting a St. Cloud school district grant application to help homeless students.

The letter supports the Homework Starts with Home program run by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.

In his letter, the mayor wrote

that the St. Cloud school district identified 24 homeless students who attend Kennedy Community School in St. Joseph.

Schultz wrote in a memo to the City Council that he attended a program coordinated by the school district and the city of St. Cloud's Community Development director to learn about the grant. If approved, the grant could fund expenses such as rent assistance and

counseling.

In supporting the grant application, Schultz wrote "permanent housing fosters healthy families and communities addressing a basic human need and allows for students to focus on learning to obtain a quality education, be productive and self-sufficient."

The letter of support does not call for any financial assistance from the city.



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Opinion

Our View

Stearns board should vote yes on refugee resettlement

The Stearns County Commission perhaps thinks it avoided making a politically charged decision about resettling refugees when it tabled the issue at a Jan. 7 meeting. The commissioners plan to take up the issue again on Jan. 28.

In September, Donald Trump issued an Executive Order that local governments had to agree in writing to allow refugees to be placed within the county and set a late January deadline for them to act.

But last week, a federal judge temporarily blocked the Trump administration from enforcing the order that would allow state and local officials to block refugee resettlements in their jurisdictions.

Because the court ruling is temporary and could be lifted or overturned, and because immigration policy will again be debated in this fall's election, the county board should vote on the issue. Residents deserve to know where their commissioners stand. Board Chairman Leigh Lenzmeier told the St. Cloud Times that citizens are split about 50-50 on the issue.

Refugee resettlement agencies have asked the 25 Minnesota counties, where refugees have resettled in the past five years, to confirm they support resettlement within their borders.

As of Jan. 8, at least 13 of those counties have voted to continue to accept refugees, according to MPR News. Several of the 25 counties have not yet taken any action on the issue. Three counties have delayed or scheduled hearings in the coming weeks or months. Beltrami County became the first county in the state to reject resettlement after a county board vote on Jan. 7.

According to background information prepared for the commissioners, during the last five years, more than 70 percent of people resettled were women and children. Approximately 95 percent of refugees placed in Minnesota were reunited with family members already here.

In 2019, 848 refugees were resettled in Minnesota, with 22 placed in Stearns County. In 2018, 663 refugees were resettled in Minnesota, with 12 placed in Stearns County. In the past 10 years, approximately 1,300 refugees were placed in Stearns County. Local sponsors report that nearly all refugees placed in Stearns County are reunited with family – almost all immediate family.

Statewide, the top five countries of origin for refugees are Somalia 23,990, Laos 22,033, Vietnam 15,074, Burma 8,549 and Ethiopia 6,364.

Resettlement opponents claim the costs are a burden on county taxpayers. According to data prepared for the county board, in 2018, public health spent \$31,481 assisting refugees, which included assistance and screening for people subjected to trafficking and enslavement. The county spent \$161,000 for interpreter services, all of which cannot be attributed to refugees because the county provides interpreter services for about 16 different languages needed by all residents. Refugees can qualify, the same as any resident, for state and federal public assistance programs administered by the county.

"City governments in the St. Cloud area report no discernible costs associated with refugees or immigrants," according to the report to commissioners.

When commissioners meet again, they should vote to accept primary refugees. Stearns County, along with most of Minnesota, should continue to be a welcoming place that supports diversity. Stearns County has a long history of accepting immigrants who want to join their families already here. That acceptance dates back to the 1850s with the arrival of German Catholics.

More recently, Stearns County is viewed, accurately or inaccurately, as a place hostile to "outsiders" especially people of color. Before Jan. 28, ask your commissioner to support a yes vote for resettlement and make a stand for wiping away the image of hostility.

Canadians know how to get a grip on winter

After enjoying the snowiest, coldest 10 days of the winter, Minnesotans once again proved we know how to handle weather. We can mock those less-hardy citizens in other parts of the country where a few inches of snow or temperatures below freezing mean catastrophe.

But our friends to the north have an even better grip on winter.

Between Christmas and New Year's, our family enjoyed a weekend vacation in Winnipeg. We've visited Winnipeg before, as well as Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal. But all those trips were in summer.

For those who haven't visited, Winnipeg is a six-hour drive along interstates with little traffic. We planned to sample a number of unique restaurants and visit the Canadian Museum for Human Rights that opened in 2014. We couldn't land reasonably priced tickets for a Jets game, but we did watch the Manitoba Moose (a team started 25 years ago as the Minnesota Moose) who play in the American Hockey League. For those on a budget, three U.S. quarters get you a \$1 of Canadian cash.

We arrived in Winnipeg late on Friday afternoon and soon we noticed two curious scenes.

First, we noted that a majority of vehicles lacked hubcaps. My oldest daughter speculated that perhaps Winnipeg suffers from a high incidence of hubcap thefts.

And we remarked, the cars were dirty. Unlike Minnesota vehicles, crusted with dried road salt, dirt

Mike Knaak
Editor



coated our Canadian neighbors' cars.

The answers to these puzzles were not larceny or lust for mud, but Canadians adapting to winter driving.

Canada is one of the coldest places in the world – only Russia, Greenland and Antarctica are colder. So, coping with winter is serious business.

First the hubcaps. When the temperature drops, Canadians bolt on their winter tires and don't bother snapping on hubcaps.

While Quebec is the only province where it's mandatory for every vehicle to have winter tires, Manitoba and other Canadian provinces recommend installing four winter tires when the mercury drops below 45 degrees F.

Winter tires have replaced what used to be called snow tires. The difference is in the tread pattern. Snow tires had deeper grooves for gripping the snow, but the rubber got hard when it was cold and didn't work so well on ice. Today's winter tires have a tread designed to grip both snow and ice by remaining supple in the cold.

Since 2008, it's been a law throughout the province of Quebec for all motorists to have four win-

ter tires installed on their vehicle from Dec. 15 to March 15. These tires must be marked with the peaked mountain-with-a-snowflake symbol, which guarantees the tires have been certified to meet snow traction performance requirements. Getting caught without winter tires risks a fine of \$200 to \$300.

Now about those brown cars. Canadians go easy on the salt. They are not only concerned about the environmental damage of salt, there's a matter of chemistry.

Salt is only effective to around zero and after that the only other tool to help keep cars on the road is sand. Sand is the main treatment for city streets and less-traveled roads.

Instead of salt, Winnipeg is testing spraying beet juice on slippery city streets this winter.

The benefit from using beet-based melting products is that it reduces the chloride loading on streets and the environment. City officials say beet juice works to about minus 22 degrees F. Winnipeg only uses salt on main roads, with brine and sand used on other streets. Two small problems with beet juice...a foul order and staining.

The state of Minnesota and many cities use a commercial product to enhance brine applications ... but no beet juice.

While your friends vacation in Arizona or Florida this winter, consider heading north and test your winter coping skills with the pros.

Impeachment deserves a fair hearing

During the last few months, our country has been in the middle of a process of historical significance, the impeachment of President Donald Trump. Beginning with the revelations about military aid to Ukraine and a July 25 phone call with Ukraine's leader Volodymyr Zelensky, further developments have embroiled the Trump Administration in an investigation of massive proportions. While it is easy to split into our partisan corners, accusing Democrats of a witch hunt or declaring that Trump is absolutely guilty, allegations of this gravity deserve proper scrutiny and resolution.

So how did we get to this point? Throughout the summer, details emerged that President Trump had talked in a phone call with Ukrainian President Zelensky about setting up a White House visit and military aid to Ukraine. As one of our allies in Eastern Europe, Ukraine is currently fighting a war against Russian-backed separatists in their eastern regions. To that effect, Congress had earlier passed a package of almost \$400 million in

Connor Kockler
Guest Writer



aid that was to be sent to Ukraine.

However, this is where the allegations start. According to a whistleblower report and corroborated by multiple witnesses in the impeachment inquiry, Trump reportedly requested Zelensky open an investigation into Joe and Hunter Biden's actions in Ukraine, in exchange for the White House visit and military aid being delivered.

This is what has been talked about in the media as a "quid pro quo." While "quid pro quo" may sound like a confusing, fancy term, it is simply a Latin phrase meaning "something for something." In other words, Zelensky would do something for Trump (opening the investigations) in exchange for Trump doing something for Zelensky (setting up the White House visit and delivering the military aid).

The question may be asked then,

"what's the problem here?" In this case, if Trump in fact did make this request to Zelensky, it would violate several laws and procedures. First, since the aid package was passed into law by Congress, the president must see that it is delivered. The president isn't allowed to choose at will which congressional funding to spend or not to spend, as the Government Accountability Office stated when they ruled Trump's action illegal this past week.

Next, an investigation into the Bidens' conduct in Ukraine could be seen as a material contribution to Trump's 2020 campaign, as such an investigation would hurt the Bidens' reputation. Material or monetary campaign contributions originating from foreign countries or citizens are not allowed under U.S. campaign finance law.

But what if the Bidens really were up to no good in Ukraine? Doesn't that deserve investigation? That could certainly be true, but the way the Trump Administration is alleged to have gone about the process has also been called out as

Hearing • page 7

Hearing

from page 6

suspicious. Rather than going through official State Department and Justice Department channels, Trump tasked his personal attorney Rudy Giuliani with trying to request the Biden investigation. This alone deserves to be looked into.

Now that the House of Rep-

resentatives has impeached Trump, the process will now proceed to the Senate. Presided over by the Chief Justice of the United States, the 100 senators will sit as a jury, where a two-thirds vote (67 senators) is able to remove the President from office. Just like a regular trial, the Senate will hear arguments from members the House has appointed as prosecutors, as well as the president’s de-

fense attorneys. They usually also hear testimony from witnesses.

The potential of witnesses has been a major stumbling block so far, as Republican leader Sen. Mitch McConnell has sought to delay any decision on whether to hear from witnesses until after the first parts of the impeachment trial are over. The Democratic leader Sen. Chuck Schumer wants it decided sooner.

If this impeachment trial is to facilitate a real resolution of the charges against Trump, all the possible evidence needs to come out in order to get to the truth of the matter. Witnesses should be heard from and documents should be released to the senators and the public so all of the facts of the case can be viewed as a whole.

Impeachment is a serious matter, and we as Americans

shouldn’t take this matter lightly. The evidence should be carefully followed, and the appropriate action, whether acquittal or conviction of the President then ought to be carried out. Regardless of party affiliation, senators should vote based on the truth. The integrity of our country is at stake.

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

Don’t overreact to climate change fears

Randy Klaphake, St. Stephen
I would like to respond to a letter written recently in this paper about climate change and list a few things we know, and don’t know, more from a scientific perspective.

We know the parts per million of CO2 in the atmosphere have increased the last 300 years, or preindustrial era timeframe, from 280 PPM to 408 PPM current. We know CO2 is a greenhouse gas that has the ability to deflect back outgoing radiation thus producing warmer conditions. We don’t know all the consequences of such an effect, such as increased cloud cover from higher evaporation rates which have the opposite effect. We do know earth’s temperatures have been steadily increasing recently, which coincidentally coincides reason-

ably well with increased CO2 emissions, but we don’t know the extent of all the other potential contributors.

We know the earth has been considerably warmer in most of its existence. The Mesozoic Era, 250-65 million years ago, which supported the dinosaurs, was generally much warmer, more humid and very tropical. In the Cenozoic Era, from 65 million years ago to current time, the earth became generally much cooler and drier. In more recent time, the Quaternary period, the northern hemisphere has rotated in and out of ice ages.

We currently live in a glacial interlude. We know from pollen grains that 4,000 years ago the climate in Central Minnesota was slightly warmer than is currently. We know one of the glacial interludes produced sea levels about 15 feet higher than present. But we don’t know how gradual these changes were or wheth-

er these changes occurred in intervals of extreme fluctuations.

In relationship to droughts, we know higher temperatures can increase evaporation rates, which can lead to more severe droughts. We also know an increase in evaporation levels can also lead to heavier isolated rainfall amounts. But what we don’t know is how this will play out in the overall weather patterns. We don’t know how many droughts have been avoided completely, or reduced in intensity, because of higher rainfall levels due to increased evaporation rates. We also know from history that droughts have been commonplace occurrences.

We also know droughts can exacerbate wildfires, but we also know most of the Upper Midwest was originally the largest prairie land in the world, which requires frequent burning for sustainability. We also know woodlands, such

as the great Hinckley fire, and more recently Yellowstone, require burning for natural regeneration.

In relationships to extinctions, no doubt changing weather pattens can play havoc on species, but many other human intrusions could be playing even larger roles. We as humans, whether you believe in evolution or creation for our existence, our design gives us two unique traits when compared to other mammals. Our lack of fur or hair, and our high disproportionate number of sweat glands, allow us to survive and even thrive in very warm climates. We also know a warmer climate will increase production in many higher latitude locations around the world, and very possibly here in Central Minnesota. We also know higher carbon dioxide levels encourage plant growth.

From an opinion viewpoint, please be more objective in

your reporting, especially now around election time. Because everyone does not hold the same opinion, please be respectful of other diverse ideologies because facts can be elusive. The article on climate change was very derogatory to people who question all the facts on that subject. The human trait of overreaction is a survival instinct intended to protect us from predators and potential harm, e.g. when we hear the leaves rustle when traveling through a forest, it is better to overreact and flee then to see if it is a harmful predator.

Overreaction also makes us vulnerable to fear tactics, which can prove to be very convincing when only reporting one side. Social media is full of such tactics, but you can do better. I know it is only the editorial page but please try to report and represent both sides more fairly and equally for the benefit of all.

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Community Calendar

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

Friday, Jan. 24

Kindergarten, preschool enrollment, open house 8-10 a.m. with a presentation at 9 a.m., Kennedy Community School, 1300 Jade Road.

Sunday, Jan. 26

Open gym, 9 a.m.- noon. p.m., St. Joseph Community Center, 124 First Ave. SE. \$2

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

Monday, Jan. 27

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

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

"Memoir of War," a film screening, part of the Tourness Film Festival, 7 p.m., Gorecki 204, College of St. Benedict. Free.

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

Tuesday, Jan. 28

Kindergarten, preschool enrollment, open house 5-6:30 p.m. with a presentation at 5:30 p.m., Kennedy Community School, 1300 Jade Road.

Open gym, 6-9 p.m., St. Joseph Community Center, 124 First Ave. SE. \$2.

National Alliance on Mental Health, 7-8:30 p.m., Calvary Community Church, 1200 Roosevelt Road, St. Cloud. The group helps parents raising a child with mental illness learn coping skills and develop problem-solving skills. 320-654-1259.

Collegeville Township Board, 7 p.m., Township Hall 27724 CR 50.

Wednesday, Jan. 29

Pickleball, 6-9 p.m., St. Joseph Community Center, 124 First Ave. SE. \$2.

Thursday, Jan. 30

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

Open gym, 6-9 p.m., St. Joseph Community Center, 124 First Ave. SE. \$2.

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

Sunday, Feb. 2

Breakfast, sponsored by the Knight of Columbus, 8:30-noon, Heritage Hall, Church of St. Joseph.

Open gym, 9 a.m.- noon. p.m., St. Joseph Community Center, 124 First Ave. SE. \$2

Monday, Feb. 3

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, Feb. 4

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

Open gym, 6-9 p.m., St. Joseph Community Center, 124 First Ave. SE. \$2.

"Kinshasa Makambo" a film screening, part of the Tourness Film

Festival, 7 p.m., Little Theater, Quad 363, St. John's University. Free.

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

Wednesday, Feb. 5

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

Pickleball, 6-9 p.m., St. Joseph Community Center, 124 First Ave. SE. \$2.

St. Cloud school board meeting/work session, 6:30 p.m., District Administration Office, 1201 Second St. S., Waite Park.

Thursday, Feb. 6

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

Open gym, 6-9 p.m., St. Joseph Community Center, 124 First Ave. SE. \$2.

Great River Regional Coin Club, 6:30 p.m., Miller Auto Marine Sports Plaza, 2930 Second St. S., St. Cloud.

Saturday, Feb. 8

"Russian Fairytales," 1-3 p.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. Part of the Exploring History and Culture in Central Minnesota - The Museum of Russian Art series. Free.

Sunday, Feb. 9

Breakfast and Silent Auction to benefit Project ASTRIDE, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Moose Family Center, 1300 Third St. N., Waite Park. Nominal fee.

Open gym, 9 a.m.- noon. p.m., St. Joseph Community Center, 124 First Ave. SE. \$2

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.

Dec. 31

11:04 a.m. Attempted entry. 912 Baker St. E. Property management reported two doorknobs not working and reported what appeared to be pry marks around the handles. Management reported the cost to replace each door is \$1,200. Door locks were changed.

Jan. 3

11:45 a.m. Possible fraud. First Avenue NE. A woman and her daughter reported receiving a letter from a collection agency demanding payment for a Verizon bill. They don't have a Verizon account. When the phone number on the letter was called, there was no answer.

Jan. 9

7:02 p.m. Collision. College Avenue S. A man at 725 College Ave. S. reported the right front of his car was damaged. The man said there was another vehicle with bumper damage and what appeared to be a piece of

his headlight on it. The vehicle owner said she may have hit his car but wasn't sure. The woman's husband called and told the man to leave them alone or he would kill them. An officer talked with the woman and she said she did not hit any vehicles and the damage was from a summer collision.

Jan. 10

12:06 a.m. Warrant. CR 75 W. An officer noticed a vehicle parked at Millstream Park. The driver was wanted on a Benton County felony warrant. The driver was taken to Stearns County Jail and a passenger was taken to Place of Hope. A vehicle search turned up a marijuana pipe that was confiscated and destroyed.

Jan. 14

2:32 p.m. Collision. Ridgewood Road and Pearl Drive. Both drivers were eastbound on Ridgewood Road. The first vehicle attempted to pass the second vehicle while the second vehicle was attempting to turn left onto Pearl Drive. The second vehicle was a front-end loader. A passenger in the first vehicle reported her leg hurt and she was transported to St. Cloud Hospital. The front-end loader driver said his turn signal was on as well as slow-moving vehicle flashers.



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