

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Dec. 27, 2019
Volume 31, Issue 25
Est. 1989

Town Crier

Winter gear needed for kids

Winter gear is needed for kindergarten through eighth-grade students. All gently used and new winter clothing accepted. Suggested items include hats, waterproof gloves, snow pants, coats/jackets, boots and warm socks. Drop off donations between 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. at United Way of Central Minnesota, 921 First St. N., St. Cloud. Contact Mary Krippner, United Way volunteer engagement manager, at 320-223-7991 or mkrippner@unitedwayhelps.org.

This is Life: The Cost of Community simulation

This is Life: The Cost of Community Crisis scheduled for 8:45-11 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 9 at Capital One. This event is an interactive immersion experience that depicts real-life scenarios faced by many of the families living in Central Minnesota who are sometimes one paycheck away from homelessness or crisis. During this experience, you will take on an identity. You and your family will work together to sustain yourself as you live a month in crisis. Visit unitedwayhelps.org to register.

EZ-Go drivers needed

St. Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, is seeking volunteers to drive sisters to different areas on campus in an enclosed golf cart. Hours are flexible for morning or afternoon shifts. Contact Sister Jean Schwartz at 320-363-7105 or jschwartz@csbsju.edu.

Christmas tree collection

St. Joseph residents can dispose of holiday trees on Thursday, Jan. 9. Remove decorations, stands or bags and place trees on the curb by 6 a.m.

Delivery driver wanted

The Newsleaders is immediately hiring a driver for every other Thursday (starting Jan. 9) from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Must have clean driving record and a Minnesota license. Contact Janelle at janellev@thenewsleaders.com or call 320-363-7741 Option 1.

INSERT:
Bello Cucina/
Sliced on College Avenue

Kuebelbeck creates cards for classmates

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

Grace Kuebelbeck of St. Joseph set an ambitious goal for herself and accomplished it. She planned to spread not just a little, but a large amount of kindness.

Kuebelbeck planned to do this by making a card for each student who attended school with her at Kennedy Community School, before they all left for winter break Friday, Dec. 20.

Kuebelbeck, an eighth-grader at the school, said she wanted to do this project "simply to make someone's day."

"School and life can be tough and I wanted to wish everyone a good break," she said.

Kuebelbeck said she got the inspiration to do this project from her principal, Anna Willhite.

Willhite told Kuebelbeck that when Willhite was in school they would sometimes put nice notes on people's lockers.

"I started small, in sixth grade and I put about two hundred cards on certain people's lockers," Kuebelbeck said. "I then expanded to all of the middle school levels in seventh grade. Now, I am (making them for) the entire school which will have me making about 825 cards."

All of the cards Kuebelbeck made included hand-drawn artwork using markers and sometimes paint for a splatter effect. They also included

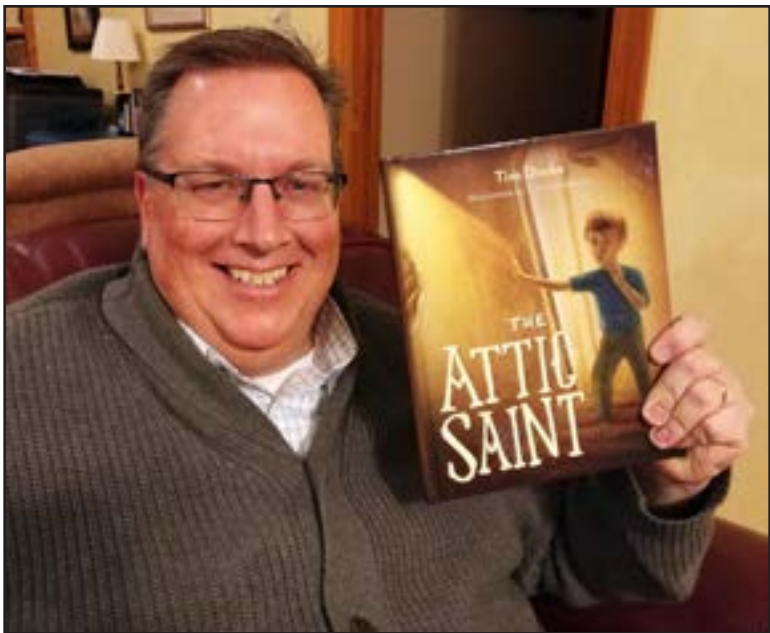
Cards • page 2



contributed photo

Kennedy Community School eighth-grader, Grace Kuebelbeck, works on some of the many cards she created for students at her school. She did this ambitious project simply to help "make someone's day."

Forgotten painting inspires children's book



contributed photo

Tim Drake holds a copy of his children's book, "The Attic Saint."

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Author Tim Drake had been waiting 15 years for his latest book, "The Attic Saint," to become a reality, but as the delivery deadline arrived and the book still hadn't, he was growing impatient.

"It's been 15 years of waiting. I still haven't held the book," Drake said last week as he showed a visitor his manuscript, notes and illustrations.

One day later, the book arrived, ending a journey that began some 20 years ago.

Back then, Drake's curiosity led him to the attic of Zardetti House on the Cathedral High School campus in

St. Cloud. Drake worked for Catholic Charities and his office was in the house, built for St. Cloud's first bishop, Otto Zardetti.

"I can't tell you what drove me to go up to the attic, but one day I did," Drake said. "There were all sorts of treasures up there."

Among the treasures, he found four large paintings.

The colors and professional style drew him to a portrait of Pope Leo XIII, who created the Diocese of St. Cloud in 1889.

The painting, by local artist Peter Martini, sat in his office for a year before he offered it to the Stearns History Museum. Martini also painted St.

Painting • page 3

2019 Year in Review

Leaders change at city hall, schools in 2019

Jan. 11 edition

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

Jan. 25 edition

St. Joseph police will now be part of a joint powers agreement that will make crime-fighting easier after City Council action Jan. 16. Police Chief Dwight Pfannenstien asked the council to approve the agreement with the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office to share investigative data.

Feb. 8 edition

The St. Joseph City Council moved forward Feb. 4 with an estimated \$2.2 million plan to improve and reconstruct city streets and underground utilities. The council unanimously voted to order the projects, which will trigger work so the work can be put out for bids.

Feb. 22 edition

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 board member, was

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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: Yo’s Clinic.
2. The stated address of the principal place of business is or will be: 311 Third Ave. N., Sartell, Minn. 56377.
3. The name and street address of all persons conducting business under the above assumed name

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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: Dec. 3, 2019

Filed: Dec. 3, 2019

/s/ Jeremy Olson

Publish: Dec. 27, 2019

Cards

from front page

a phrase such as "Happy Holidays," "Enjoy your break" and more.

The cards were taped on student's lockers on Dec. 19, the night before the last day of school before winter break. This took about two hours.

Kuebelbeck said some cards were misplaced while they were being put on the lockers and a student accidentally tossed a few of them not knowing what they were. She said she got cards to all the grades except eighth-grade and apologized to those students who noticed and asked her about it.

Students who received the cards were surprised and told their friends which card they received. One class thanked her.

"All I could see were smiles," Kuebelbeck said. "I hope my cards will teach people how to be kind to others without expecting anything in return.

She also said she hoped everyone has a "good and safe holiday."

Willhite commented about Kuebelbeck's ambitious project.

"Grace is a wonderful young woman," Willhite said. "She



contributed photo

Kennedy Community School eighth-grader Grace Kuebelbeck created cards such as these for the students at the school and delivered them before students went on winter break.

is always looking for the good in others and finding ways to spread positivity and kindness to others. This project is among many Grace has embarked on during her time here at Kennedy that gives back to our community. It is amazing to watch another one of our young and rising stars find a wonderful way to share kindness with others. Great job Grace."

Besides creating the cards, Kuebelbeck has also created chalk portraits on the walls of Kennedy and paintings for

teachers.

Kuebelbeck is the daughter of Mary and Nathan Kuebelbeck, and has one sister, Maddy. The family has two cats, Beanz and Leroy and two dogs, Micky and Johnny. Mary Kuebelbeck owns the local restaurant Sliced Pizza and Grill on College Avenue in St. Joseph and Nathan Kuebelbeck works at Coldspring, a bronze manufacturer, natural stone fabricator and quarrier of all types of natural stone in North America, in Cold Spring.

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.

Nov. 23

7:09 p.m. Fraud. Fourth Avenue SE. Two women reported they were contacted via email by a person who they thought was their pastor. They emailed cards worth \$700 and they were redeemed on eBay.

Nov. 27

9:54 a.m. Collision. Minnesota Street E and 16th Avenue SE. One driver was traveling east on Minnesota Street and the other driver was traveling north on 16th Avenue and slid through the stop sign because of the slippery road and the road's downhill slope.

Nov. 30

12:40 p.m. Burglary/theft. Ridgewood Court. A man reported that

sometime in the past two weeks, someone entered his rental storage unit and removed items from his 2010 Camaro.

Dec. 11

11:36 a.m. Burglary. Ridgewood Court. A man reported the lock was cut on his storage unit and the unit entered. Several boxes of records were emptied but nothing appeared missing.

7:04 p.m. Crash. CR 75 and College Avenue. A crash was reported at CR 75 and College Avenue. Both people reported they were shook up and did not require treatment.

Dec. 15

7:09 p.m. Collision. CR 75 and 20th Avenue SE. Two vehicles collided at CR 75 and 20th Avenue SE. A woman said she was driving west on CR 75 and pulled into the turn lane to turn south on 20th Avenue. She said she was adjusting frost controls on her vehicle and her foot slipped off the brake. Her car collided with another vehicle stopped in the lane for a red light. There were no injuries.

REIMBURSED STIPEND VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota is looking for volunteers, 55+ to serve in our LSS Companion Program. Our volunteers receive a stipend, mileage reimbursment and other benefits.

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Newsleader staff members have the responsibility to report news fairly and accurately and are accountable to the public. Readers who feel we've fallen short of these standards are urged to call the Newsleader office at 320-363-7741. If matters cannot be resolved locally, readers are encouraged to take complaints to the Minnesota News Council, an independent agency designed to improve relationships between the public and the media and resolve conflicts. The council office may be reached at 612-341-9357.

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contributed photo
This painting of Pope Leo XIII inspired Tim Drake’s book, “The Attic Saint.”

Painting

from front page

Cloud’s patron saint and the work hangs in the chancery. “This artwork should not be in the attic,” Drake said. Discovering the “saint in the attic” inspired a tale, and Drake begin telling it to his son, Elias, who was 6 or 7 at the time. (Today is his 24th birthday.) The book is richly illustrated with the artwork of Theodore Schluenderfritz. The two men met at St. Anthony’s Church in St. Cloud when they were fathers taking care of toddlers. Drake shared ideas with Schluenderfritz. Throughout the years, they exchanged ideas via email for the text and illustrations and made the deal with a publisher about four years ago. “The Attic Saint” tells the story of Leo and his family, who have just moved to a strange home in a new city. The house has stained glass windows, steaming radiators and a cavernous basement. But it also has an attic. “In the attic, where the veil between heaven and earth becomes very thin, Leo will form

a friendship that transcends both time and space,” according to a description of the book published by Emmaus Road Publishing. Leo’s discovery in the attic leads to changes for him and his family. Drake, 52, is executive director of Pacem in Terris Hermitage Retreat Center near Isanti. He is the author of seven books and he has contributed to half a dozen other titles, such as "Surprised by Truth 2" and "Moments of Grace.” His career as a teacher and journalist includes reporting for the National Catholic Register. Drake and his wife Mary have five children ages 17-24. Storytelling has always been part of his life. He remembers that as a child, his mother read to him. He later put together his own magazine, called, he remembers, “That’s Life.” “The Attic Saint” is available on Amazon and St. Cloud Book Shop in downtown St. Cloud. Drake wants parents to read the book about the wisdom and beauty of the Catholic faith to their children, just as his mother did for him.

Woman's Army career leads to world travels, large family

The American Legion is celebrating its 100th birthday in 2019. Profiles of St. Joseph-area veterans were 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

Judith Ann (Scholten) Hansen, 72
U.S. Army – Vietnam Era

Hansen was born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She was the oldest girl of 14 siblings (five brothers and eight sisters). She grew up on a 160-acre “hobby farm” in Lyon County – the most northwestern county in Iowa. As the oldest girl in the family, she was called upon to help care for her younger siblings as well as help with homemaking chores such as cooking and cleaning. Hansen says she was raised in a “strong traditional Catholic family.” She recalls the wonderful adventures of being raised in the country on a farm and also transporting younger brothers and sisters to school over ice and snow-packed roads. Hansen did well academically in school. There were only 11 members of her high school class. In spite of her father’s discouragement, she was the first in her family to attend college. Briar Cliff was a small Catholic Franciscan Liberal Arts College in Sioux City, Iowa. Hansen paid her way through college by grants, work studies and one summer as a nanny/ housekeeper for four teenage boys and their father. During one summer, Hansen joined her college roommate Erna and traveled to New York City. She lived with Erna’s Puerto



Judy Hansen

Rican family. Hansen’s cultural immersion was further enhanced by working in a dress factory in the garment district. Hansen traveled 1½ hours to work each day. While in New York City, she availed herself of Broadway shows and the Puerto Rican night club scene. In Hansen’s junior year of college, she signed up for the Women Army Corps junior course. It was a program in which young women are invited to go for a trial enlistment of a month and in so doing become familiar with a military career. Prior to making

Army • back page

Newspaper Audit Report

St. Joseph • Sartell-St. Stephen

Reaching Everybody!
Newsleaders

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YIR

from front page

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.

March 8 edition

St. Joseph could soon be home to new industrial businesses, if a plan to develop an industrial park comes to fruition. The City Council approved March 4 a preliminary plat of an industrial park development southeast of CR 133 and east of 19th Avenue NE. The development is just northeast of the St. Joseph Coborn's. If the plan moves forward, construction could begin as early as May, said Randy Sabart, city engineer.

St. Joseph will host 300 bicyclists and support-crew members this summer for the start and finish of the Bicycling Around Minnesota Tour. The riders will arrive on Aug. 14 and camp overnight before heading out on the four-day ride on Aug. 15. They will return on Aug. 18.

March 22 edition

Mayor Rick Schultz and city leaders shared their vision for the city as well as offered updates on a variety of plans at the Chamber of Commerce meeting on March 13. The vision includes adding programming at the community center, pushing forward with bonding requests from the Legislature, organizational and policy changes at city hall and exploring how St. Joseph can become a digital city. Schultz hit on a number of projects starting with the community center. He said the city is working with the St. Cloud school district as well as the YMCA to help with youth activities as well as senior activities.

Kennedy Community School principal Laurie Putnam has been appointed to a new position as the assistant superintendent of secondary education and will be leaving Kennedy at the end of the school year. In her new position, she will oversee Kennedy as well as Apollo and Tech high schools, North and South junior high schools and McKinley-ALC.

April 5 edition

If you are age 55 or older and are seeking ways to meet some new friends, then the St. Joseph Senior Citizens group might be what you are looking for. The group is a social club that meets once each month to play the game of 500 cards or bingo and share some conversation over lunch.

For additional news highlights from 2019, go to www.thenewsleaders.com.

April 19 edition

If any business can be considered “too successful,” it’s Bad Habit Brewing in St. Joseph – so sudsily successful, in fact, that it had to find a new location. That new place is at 25 College Ave. N., just a stone’s throw from its current location at 15 Minnesota St. E. Bad Habit fans – they are legion – are excited about the new place, which will open for business Saturday, May 4.

The police standards board has revoked the license of former St. Joseph Police Chief Joel Klein. After complaints, the St. Joseph City Council placed Klein on administrative leave in April 2018. While an investigation of the claims was underway, Klein resigned in May. The Minnesota Police Officer Standards and Training board conducted an investigation and revoked Klein’s license on Jan. 19 for sexual harassment.

May 3 edition

The rebuilding of CR 75 is on schedule and Stearns County officials expect the major work to be done in time for the Fourth of July events in St. Joseph. Crews are paving the eastbound lanes this week and in about three weeks, repaving will begin on the westbound lanes, according to Jeff Miller, assistant county engineer. The \$11-million project runs from west of St. Joseph to 15th Avenue/CR 81 in Waite Park. Plans call for a new road surface as well as safety and drainage improvements along the 5.7-mile stretch of the four-lane divided highway.

May 17 edition

Despite concerns over new road and infrastructure costs, the St. Joseph City Council is moving forward with its support for a new affordable-housing development on the city’s east side. The council voted 4-1 to support the project at a meeting May 6 with council member Brian Theisen dissenting.

The project includes a 48-unit apartment building on a property southwest of the U.S. Army Reserve facility on 20th Avenue SE. People with incomes below the area’s median income of roughly \$57,000 could be eligible for the one-, two- and three-bedroom units.

May 31 edition

Sixteen Kennedy Community School students recently participated in an after-school computer science coding club. The club was named the Coding Club and students learned about coding and much more. This is the first year the club has been available to students. Holly Nelson, librarian/media spe-

cialist at the school, and Peter Ohmann, assistant professor of computer science at the College of St. Benedict and St. John’s University, voluntarily directed the club which was available free to all students.

June 14 edition

After 33 years, Judy Weyrens will say goodbye to city hall, retiring as city administrator this summer. The City Council accepted Weyrens’ resignation at Monday’s meeting, with a vote of four to one, with council member Troy Goracke dissenting. The city has been working on a number of major projects in recent months, including road and infrastructure improvements and considering an affordable-housing development.

June 28 edition

Club members of the St. Joseph Y2K Lions appreciate their senior citizens and want them to be recognized for all the wonderful service deeds they do in the area. That’s why they recently chose Fran and Marilyn Court to be this year’s Senior Queen and King for the annual Fourth of July parade.

Leander Meyer has had the chance to be in the annual July Fourth parade several times before and could share many stories, but this year he will have a special place in the parade lineup. The St. Joseph Lions Club recently announced he will be the grand marshal of the upcoming July Fourth parade.

July 12 edition


Parishioners from the Church of St. Joseph Catholic Church had a chance to see a newly restored and renovated church interior at a Rededication Mass on June 29.

July 26 edition

St. Joseph is the safest city in Minnesota – at least it is in so far as SaveStations. That fact was announced on a warm July 12 morning when St. Joseph resident Audrey Twit was honored for donating \$11,000 for four SaveStations in St. Joseph. SaveStations are outdoor cabinets where automatic external defibrillator machines are kept so anyone in an emergency can have ready access to them.

Aug. 9 edition

Kris Ambuehl, the newly hired city administrator for St. Joseph, said he is “super excited” to start his new job for a number of reasons. Ambuehl, 42, will begin his first day Monday, Aug. 12. In an interview, he said he is happy that his job in St. Joseph will be closer to his home near Bowlus – about 20 miles. Before he was hired by St. Joseph last month,

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Our View

Volunteer, vote instead of checking out

In case you hadn't noticed, 2020 will be an election year.

Enough Democrats to populate two volleyball teams have been campaigning for a year for an election that's still 11 months away. Donald Trump started campaigning for re-election the day after he was sworn in.

Analysts tell us most voters are alienated and unmoored, and that electoral politics are far removed from many people's priorities.

Although the presidential race dominates the news, there are many ways for voters to have a voice and make a difference on issues that matter.

At the national level, the president, all 435 members of the House and a third of senators, including Minnesota's Tina Smith, will be up for election.

In Minnesota, all legislative seats, 67 in the Senate and 134 in the House, will be up. Statewide offices, such as governor, are not on the ballot in 2020.

Locally, voters will elect school boards, city councils, mayors and county commissioners and those local officials decide issues about taxes, schools, roads and local growth that touch us all.

Citizens' most important responsibility is voting. There will be three elections in Minnesota this year. The state's new presidential primary will take place on March 3, although Trump has blocked all names but his on the Republican ballot. The usual primary election to select other candidates will take place on Aug. 11 and the general election is Nov. 3.

The parties will still conduct caucuses on Feb. 25 to nominate candidates for other offices and debate party issues.

Minnesotans lead the nation with more than 70 percent of eligible voters going to the polls. Our goal should be to not only lead the nation but turn out more than 70 percent.

If you're passionate about government, consider running for office. Robust debate results when there are competitive races for school boards, city councils and county commissioners. The community is not well-served when incumbents run unopposed or when there's only one name on the ballot.

Citizens have other options in addition to filing for office. Campaigns need volunteers to contact voters, raise money, host parties and pass out literature. Volunteering is a great way to support issues important to you and to make new friends at the same time.

Government also needs volunteers for boards and commissions. Cities and counties have a number of boards and commissions that shape local policy. Park boards, planning commissions, human rights commissions and economic development commissions need people with an interest and curiosity about local issues. Those positions are typically nominated or approved by mayors, councils or school boards.

There's one way to cure frustration or alienation from government. The answer is not to check out by not voting or not looking for every chance to participate.

The answer is to volunteer and to vote.

Every person makes a difference. Trump is president because one or two voters in each precinct in three states decided not to vote in 2016.

Let's not let that happen in 2020.

Opinion

After chaos, 'competent' looks appealing

When it's time for your annual job review at work and your boss rates you "competent" that's not a time for celebration. A "competent" rating means you won't be fired, but you probably won't be getting a raise or promotion either.

A competent performance is indeed a low bar...everywhere but in politics where it appears beyond reach. No wonder only about 25 percent of voters think government can solve problems.

As we approach another election year, demonstrating to voters that you are at least competent to govern will be a challenge.

Thanks to Donald Trump, chaos replaced competence and nonsense drowned out common sense. Disinformation and distrust locked up the levers of power.

Government failed the competency standard by failing to fix roads and bridges (remember how many times Trump proclaimed Infrastructure Week), improve health care instead of dismantling it, act on climate change instead of ignoring it and crafting a serious, comprehensive immigration plan.

Jon Tester is a three-term senator from Montana. He's a Democrat in a state Trump won by 20 percentage points. Last week he addressed competence.

"The American people expect their government to work," said Tester, a farmer and former music teacher. "There's a pile of bills that have come through the House that are piling up in the Senate. We could have been doing a lot of these bipartisan bills...no brainers. But we haven't. McConnell hasn't brought them up. Let's do a little deliberating and let's do a little debating. Why is he holding them up? You got me."

He's talking about some 400 bills, 275 of them nonpartisan, passed by the Democrat-controlled House that are piled on Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's desk while he's busy getting marginally competent, right-wing federal judges confirmed.

A competent leader needs more than a catchy slogan.

Trump won the White House by riling up voters' fear, anger and sense of grievance with effective marketing. Thanks to catchy slogans, he captured just enough electoral votes.

"Build the Wall," is not an immigration strategy. Instead of a plan, Trump offered technology that became obsolete in the 16th century to solve a 21st century problem.

"Drain the Swamp" doesn't mean appointing, and then firing, a record number of ethically challenged officials.

He's staked his re-election on a robust economy. But while overall growth has been solid, the areas of weakness have come precisely in those things Trump tried to stimulate. Trump's only major legislative accomplishment was a huge tax cut for corporations that was supposed to lead to a surge in investment. Instead, corporations pocketed the money, and business investment fell. His trade war was supposed to shrink the trade deficit and revive U.S. manufacturing. But the trade deficit widened and manufacturing shrank.

Trump's challengers aren't doing much better. Medicare for All, Free College Tui-

Mike Knaak
Editor



tion and College Loan Forgiveness are not policies to meet the low bar of competent government.

Presidential candidate Sen. Amy Klobuchar argued in last month's debate against these attractive promises.

"I'm not going to go for things just because they sound good on a bumper sticker and then throw in a free car," she said.

If elected, can she govern? Here's the record: Klobuchar passed more legislation than any other senator by the end of the 114th Congress in late 2016. As of Dec. 16, 2018, she had sponsored or co-sponsored 111 pieces of legislation that became law.

Joe Biden continues to lead other Democrats for the nomination. Former Time magazine editor Nancy Gibbs writes in the Washington Post that Biden's slogan appears to be "Pick me and I'll leave you alone while I fix stuff."

That's a nice way of saying let's have competence over chaos.

Along with Klobuchar, another so-called second-tier candidate is Colorado Sen. Mike Bennet. Bennet is a former Denver school superintendent who grew enrollment, decreased dropout rates, and improved graduation rates and college enrollment.

Conservative columnist George Will credited him with "the most charming, the most adult campaign promise this season."

"If you elect me president, I promise you won't have to think about me for two weeks at a time," Bennet said.

It's not a great bumper sticker. But Bennet, along with Tester, Klobuchar and Biden, know that governing is not about red hats and red-meat slogans.

welcome break to be able to slow down a bit and really have quality time.

It's almost like the world becomes a little bit of a nicer place too. Like one of those Hallmark holiday movies, people go that extra mile to show they care and appreciate people. Holiday parties and gift exchanges provide a chance for co-workers to connect and bell ringers fill the air with music for a good cause. You hear people say "Happy Holidays" and "Merry Christmas" with a cheer. It's an infectious energy for feeling good and bringing people together.

These feelings aren't just something we should leave for the holidays. We should take them with us and remember them as we move into 2020. The values of giving, generosity and family have the power to unite across all sorts of divisions. The holidays ultimately help us to remember we are all here together, and show us how much we all really have in common.

So stay connected with family, even if they're far away, greet your co-workers or classmates with a smile, get involved and give back to your community around you. If we make all of the year a little bit more like the holiday season, the world will certainly be a better place.

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

Connor Kockler
Guest Writer



Holidays remind what unites us

As we enter the holiday season once again, it can be easy to think we're in troubled times for our country. The impeachment process involving President Trump rages on, and the 2020 election looms on the horizon as another episode of fractious debate. It may seem like there's not much any of us can agree on, or that things are destined to get worse in the new year. However, the holiday season has arrived just in time to remind us of what really matters.

With the cold winter arriving here early in Minnesota this year, it almost seemed to exacerbate the chilly effects of what had already been building throughout the year. Following the midterm elections last year, open conflict between the Democratic House and Republican Senate has been all over the news. The Mueller investigation into President Trump concluded, and another investigation, resulting in impeachment proceedings, is currently underway.

As if that wasn't divisive enough, another election is coming up quickly. Many of us can clearly remember the 2016 election and the intense debates that raged as Clinton and Trump supporters argued on TV and across dinner tables. It looks to be more of the same as many Democratic candidates look to be the nominee to face off with the president in 2020.

Through all of this debate and blus-

ter it's sometimes tough to see what our country has in common. Not just in politics, it feels like we know our neighbors less and aren't as knowledgeable about our communities as a whole. It's easy to feel that way when it doesn't look like there's a solution in sight. Entering the holidays though, I think the messages we share throughout this time are things that can help us throughout the year.

Once the Thanksgiving turkey has been eaten and the Christmas and holiday season comes upon us, the festive atmosphere quickly takes over. Shopping deals for presents are advertised everywhere. The radio and music services turn into a compilation of songs old and new that we only roll out for this time of year. There's snow on the ground, and lights strung across houses.

These changes in appearance reflect the changes in attitude and outlook the holiday season brings. It's a time for giving, sharing, being with family and friends. Along with the new year, it's a chance to reflect on how the year went for us, enjoy what we have, and decide what we want to do next. In our fast-paced, modern world, it should be a

YIR

from page 5

Refugee/immigrant news:
Dream, build, act together

they want to return for another visit – is the goal of the St. Joseph Convention and Visitors Bureau. CVB members welcomed local business and community leaders to Bad Habit Brewery on Nov. 18 to introduce the CVB’s mission to drive tourism.

Ann Riesner of the La Playette, Mary Bruno of Bruno Press and Aaron Rieland of Bad Habit explained the mission to make St. Joseph a destination for arts, culture, food and family-friendly events to two dozen local leaders.

St. Joseph Catholic School sixth-grade students in Susan Huls' classroom have been busy crafting and making items for the Friday, Dec. 6,

Winterwalk Christmas Arts and Craft Sale, to fund their Catholic Social Teaching action projects this year. The Arts and Craft sale is from 4-8 p.m. and students plan to host their booth during all shifts.

Dec. 14 edition

In 1976, a young dentist from Chicago, Ill. moved to Central Minnesota to set up a dental practice in St. Joseph and built his practice from the ground up. After serving his patients locally for 43 years, Dr. Joseph R. Styles has decided to retire Jan. 1. Styles, 72, considered retiring six years ago, but wasn't quite ready at that time and found he still loved practicing dentistry. He was in good health, liked his patients and employees and said every year he put it off a little longer until this year.

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.

by Missy Holbrook
Cultural Bridges member

On Dec. 7, ISAIAH, a multi-racial coalition of faith communities working for racial and economic justice in Minnesota, met to discuss a

draft of its vision statement for the St. Cloud chapter. The group shared delicious food, told stories and made plans for political action. The three core values articulated were "Faith over fear," "Abundance over scarcity" and "Connection over isolation."

As part of the four-hour meeting, participants worked in small groups to share core values and to determine where those values came from, envisioning what would be possible for you and your family if those core values became a reality, and what is at stake for you. Some time was also spent sharing what is lovely about living in the St. Cloud area!

Next steps included training

for participating in caucuses, meetings with St. Cloud’s mayor, attending listening sessions with the school board and a number of other related activities.

ISAIAH is a culturally diverse coalition whose purpose is to build communities of welcome in the St. Cloud area. Everyone reading this is invited to be part of its inspiring mission.

For more information, contact: Christina Nelson, ISAIAH Central Minnesota Organizer. cnelson@isaiahmn.org. Office phone 651-376-1028.

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

Community Calendar

Is your event listed? Send your information to: Newsleader Calendar, 1622 11th Ave. SE., St. Cloud, MN 56304 or 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.

Monday, Dec. 30

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

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

Tuesday, Dec. 31

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

Thursday, Jan. 2

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

Sunday, Jan. 5

Breakfast, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Church of St. Jo-

seph, Heritage Hall. A homemade breakfast of sausages, fresh eggs, hash browns, pancakes, fruit, caramel rolls and more.

Monday, Jan. 6

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

St. Cloud school board re-organization meeting, 5 p.m., District Administration Office, 1201 Second St. S., Waite Park.

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

Tuesday, Jan. 7

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

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

Wednesday, Jan. 8

Breakfast Club, 9-10 a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S. Free for members, nominal fee for nonmembers. 320-253-8424.

St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce, 11:30 a.m., St.

Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. stjosephchamber.com.

St Joseph Y2K Lions Club, 6:30 p.m., St. Joseph Community Fire Hall, 323 Fourth Ave NE. Kay Lemke 320-363-8663.

Thursday, Jan. 9

St. Joseph holiday tree curbside pickup, 6 a.m.-1 p.m., remove all ornaments, stands and bags.

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

St. Joseph Senior Citizens, 1:30., St. Joseph Community Fire Hall, 323 Fourth Ave. NE.

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Army

from page 3

a final commitment and still in school, Hansen would receive an allowance comparable to an E-4/corporal's pay and a housing allowance.

After the WAC military orientation course at Fort McClellan, Alabama, Hansen signed off on a two-year commitment.

On May 24, 1969, Hansen graduated from college with a degree in English. That same day she was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army. For many Americans, 1969 was a time of intense debate over this country's involvement in the Vietnam War.

From May 24, 1969, until her discharge from the Army in June of 1976, Hansen experienced several assignments and duty stations. Basic training at Fort McClellan was the beginning of a rewarding career. All of her assignments involved personnel and personal affairs administration.

One particular somber duty was coordinating the notification of a soldier's death to the next of kin in Minnesota, South Dakota

and North Dakota. She also monitored the Survivor Assistance Program.

Constantly availing herself of educational opportunities and experiences that honed her competences, Hansen completed the Adjutant General Office Advancement Course. She was promoted to captain.

While there, she met Norm, also an Army officer (April 12, 1975). Their first date involved taking in the Indianapolis 500 time trials.

After a short courtship, Norm and she married. She became pregnant, resigned her commission as an Army officer, gave birth to a healthy daughter (Renee) and became a stay-at-home mom. A son, Eric, was born shortly before Norm was assigned to Aschaffenburg, Germany (12-20-1977).

Norm was already in Germany looking for living arrangements for his growing family while Judy Hansen remained back in Iowa.

Picture the scenario. It is March 17, 1978, St. Patrick's Day, and it is a very busy and congested LaGuardia Airport in Queens, New York. Hansen gets in from a flight from Sioux Falls. She is carrying Eric, 2 months

old, in a front pack. Renee, 15 months, is in a backpack and she is hauling three large suit cases. They transferred across town to Kennedy Airport for the last leg on this 24-hour plus odyssey.

While stationed in Germany, Norm, Judy and their children toured much of Europe, met lifelong friends and welcomed another child, Kara, into the Hansen household.

After 3½ years Judy Hansen and family, returned to the United States (1978-1981).

With Norm's assignment now at the Pentagon, the family settled in Bowie, Maryland, where they remained for eight years. Son Brett was born in 1981. Now the Hansens have lived 30 years in a residence just north of St. Joseph.

Norm and Judy have five children, including an adult adopted daughter, Jennifer, and her family. They have 10 grandchildren. "They all come home for the holidays, for upward of five days," she said. Everyone is encouraged to help in the 1,000-piece puzzle. She, the consummate host, takes hospitality to a new level of appreciation. She makes any guest feel special and welcome.

Judy and Norm have been married for 44 years. For 29 years

they have been active in World Wide Marriage Encounter. They are active in their faith. Their volunteer work is most evident to many particularly the St. Joseph Catholic Church community. Not unlike those of us facing the minor inconveniences, limitations and infirmities of aging, they do so with courage, hope and dignity.

Hansen's profile is an appropriate story to share during the holiday season. Being far away from home and extended family, she took it upon herself to create lifelong traditions and memories for her family – particularly during the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

While in Germany, Hansen started making cookies. She has continued to bake Christmas cookies – more than 30 different varieties, most of which Norm and Judy give away to friends and neighbors.

The Hansen home is decorated for Christmas – a large tree positioned conspicuously. The tree is decorated with ornaments from places visited and memories captured in time. The first Christmas away from home was emotionally hard for Judy. Her mother surprised her with a ceramic nativity scene that she her-

self had made. And to this day it holds a place of prominence in their home "evoking memories of being loved."

While in Germany, she and Norm started writing a Christmas letter which they continue to do annually.

Also while in Germany, Hansen was introduced to the pretzel tradition, Neujahrsbretzel, which is a traditional welcoming in the New Year. A very large pretzel is shared with friendship and hopes for the New Year.

One particularly memorable occasion was when Judy, Norm and friends celebrated Christmas Eve near Salzburg, Austria. It was about 200 years ago that the Christmas carol, "Silent Night," was first played there.

Another memory Hansen said she recalls were the big dances in the German town plaza as a way of welcoming the New Year. Music, beer, food, fireworks and friends.

Hansen's efforts to create a joyful Christmas celebration for her family and friends one might suspect emanated out of a very giving heart and the conviction that Christmas is really about family, fellowship and the uncompromising belief in the hope found in the birth of Jesus.

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Stories profile 26 St. Joseph vets

by Tom Klecker

St. Joseph American Legion

This is the last of 26 articles profiling some unassuming, yet remarkable human beings who just happened to be your neighbors, friends and veterans.

They collectively represented all those who answered the

call to military service.

The American Legion Post 328 members wish to acknowledge our appreciation to the St. Joseph Newsleader for allowing this venue.

As we celebrate this holy and festive time of year, let us pause and reflect on the past year and our aspirations for our

future. Regardless of our particular religious convictions, let us prayerfully give thanks for all those who stand the watch this holiday season far from home, family and friends.

May the year 2020 usher in the beginning of a more just and peaceful world.

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