

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Sept. 18, 2020
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Est. 1989

Town Crier

Millstream Arts Fest online next weekend

Millstream Arts Festival is online this year Sept. 25-27 featuring an Artist Showcase! See our advertisement on Page 4 or on our website or Facebook page for more information and the artist schedule. millstreamarts-festival.org.

Personal products, gift cards needed

Promise Neighborhood is in need of feminine hygiene products, gift cards for gas, Walmart, Cashwise or Coborn's, toothpaste, toothbrushes, cleaning and sanitizing supplies, educational games and unopened food items. Contact Promise Neighborhood for available times to donate at 320-251-0571 or sheenapromiseneighborhood@gmail.com

Big Brothers Big Sisters mentors needed

Big Brothers Big Sisters offers virtual matching by attending an interview via Zoom. This is a one-on-one volunteer opportunity to provide friendship and guidance to a child in Central Minnesota. Visit www.BigDefenders.org and click on Be a Big or call Brenda at 320-258-4534.

Sexual assault advocates sought

Volunteers at Central Minnesota Sexual Assault Center provide services for sexual assault victims at medical facilities, law enforcement centers, and during court and legal proceedings. Volunteer advocates also answer phone calls on their 24-hour crisis line and provide crisis intervention, information, referral, and guidance to victims of sexual assault in the evening and on weekends. Visit www.cmsac.org or call 320-251-4357 to learn more.

Newsleaders seeks GoFundMe donations

During these turbulent times, advertising support has dwindled. The Newsleaders wants to continue providing up-to-the-minute local coverage both on our website and in print. Please help support the Newsleaders by viewing/contributing to our GoFundMe page on Facebook. Thank you to our recent contributors! Any amount is greatly appreciated.



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Handbags of hygiene

Members of the St. Joseph Women of Today fill handbags with hygiene products Sept. 14 at Millstream Park in St. Joseph. They are (left to right) Frances Nelson and Charity Hunter, both of St. Joseph; and Rubi Delgado, St. Cloud. The club will donate 30 handbags to AnnaMarie's Alliance.

St. Cloud school board election

Editor's note: Seven people have filed for four seats on the St. Cloud school board. Two of those candidates were featured Sept. 4 and two more are profiled in this edition. The other candidates will be featured in future editions.

Haws: All can reach excellence despite backgrounds

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Shannon Haws of St. Cloud, a candidate for the St. Cloud school board, strongly believes with a strong beginning and lots of support, every child can achieve educational excellence regardless of socio-economic-demographic backgrounds.

An incumbent board member, Haws, 55, is one of seven candidates vying for four seats on the school board in the Nov. 3 general election. Those seats are now occupied by Haws, Al Dahlgren, Jeff Pollreis and Monica Segura-Schwartz. Pollreis did not file for re-election.

Haws is general manager of Comfort Keepers Home Health Care. She and her husband, Tim, have four children: Haiden, Zander, Olivia and CrystalAnne.

Haws earned a bachelor's degree in business management and human resources from St. Cloud State University. A former Head Start teacher and swim

coach, she is the current vice chair of the school board and served on many committees: board development, policy and governance; legislative, achievement, integration and equity; community linkages; and student-activity advisory.

Haws gave her responses to the following questions for the Newsleader:

How can you help ensure every child has full access to the best education so no child is left behind?

"We need to provide pathways to success for each of our students regardless of socio-demographics," she said. "That starts with strong pre-K support and community-education support for parents. Socio-demographics should not be an indicator or deterrent of student success."

The district, she said, must meet each student at his/her incoming levels and then believe in their potential – supporting and challenging them to excellence.

How can you help guaran-

Haws • page 2



Podi: Community center would boost students' success

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Omar Abdullahi Podi, a candidate for the St. Cloud school board, believes a community center would provide after-school educational programs and skill learning to supplement what students learn in classrooms.

Podi is one of seven candidates, including three incumbents, vying for four open seats on the school board in the Nov. 3 general election.

Born in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia in east Africa, Podi, who is 40, moved to St. Cloud in 2012 after attending a community college and Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. He is currently a student at St. Cloud State University where he is majoring in political science.

Podi is president of the Waite Park Somali Community Association and volunteers and does volunteer work for it part time. He is married to Nafiso Omar

Mohamud.

Podi had been employed by the Coleman Co. in Sauk Rapids but was laid off because of the ongoing Covid-19 virus crisis. That virus, he said, has adversely affected him and all the other people in the area, especially members of the Somalia-immigrant community.

Podi gave his responses to the following questions for the Newsleader:

How can you help ensure every child has full access to the best education so no child is left behind?

If elected, Podi said he would represent all students without respect to color or national origin.

"These are all our children, and we need to help all of them – not only Somali-Americans or those from the east African community."

The first thing Podi would do, if elected, is to meet personally with as many parents as possible to find ways to ensure the safety of children in schools and then to fine-tune strategies so no child is left behind in education or in other ways.

A community center for children and parents would allow students to learn all kinds of skills with help from parents and

Podi • page 2

Property taxes could go down

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

The final numbers aren't set yet, but St. Joseph residents could see a decrease in their property tax bills next year.

Finance Director Lori Bartlett updated City Council members on preparations for the 2021 city budget at the Sept. 8 meeting. The council needs to set a preliminary levy by Sept. 30.

Uncertainty over the impact of the coronavirus pandemic as well as prospects for state aid could affect the budget, but Bartlett informed the council that "as of now, the state is not proposing a reduction in the 2021

LGA and in July certified the amount based on the current law."

Preliminary calculations from the Stearns County Assessor's Office indicates an 8 percent tax capacity increase in market values, which means the urban tax rate should decrease by 4 percent.

The 2021 budget includes staffing increases in the police and public works departments.

City staff also proposed adjusting pay for the mayor and City Council members after researching the pay in surrounding cities.

St. Joseph council members are paid \$314.40 a month and the mayor is paid \$524 a month plus

Taxes • page 3

FREE
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SEPTEMBER 26 • 11-5pm

SEPTEMBER 27 • 11-5pm

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CMAB

"This activity is made possible in part by a grant from the Central MN Arts Board with funds appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature from its general fund."

mill
STREAM

AND

art crawl

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN ST. CLOUD, MN

Artist Spotlight Roster

| ARTIST | MEDIUM | FRIDAY 25th |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Kerry Kupferschmidt | Painting | Friday 5:00PM |
| David Barthel | Photography | Friday 5:30PM |
| JD Jorgenson | Ceramics | Friday 6:00PM |
| Megan Jorgenson | Ceramics | Friday 6:30PM |
| Sarah Drake | Author & Collage | Friday 7:00PM |
| Mary C Bruno | Printmaking | Friday 8:00PM |
| ARTIST | MEDIUM | SATURDAY 26th |
| Eve & Gary Wallinga | Painting | Saturday 11:00AM |
| Andrew and Katie Webster | Ceramics | Saturday 11:30PM |
| Aryn and Courtney Kern | Woodworking | Saturday 12:00PM |
| Natalie Rath | Painting | Saturday 12:30PM |
| Julie Jensen | Jewelry | Saturday 1:00PM |
| Adam Spaeth | Mixed Media | Saturday 1:30PM |
| Anita Jacobson | Fiber Arts | Saturday 2:00PM |
| Bruce Jacobson | Wooden Jewelry/Sculpture | Saturday 2:30PM |
| Jake Jensen | Ceramics | Saturday 3:00PM |
| Shane Mahon | Sculpture | Saturday 3:30PM |
| Sandy Bot-Miller | Fiber Arts | Saturday 4:00PM |
| Zach Heilman | Painting | Saturday 4:30PM |
| ARTIST | MEDIUM | SUNDAY 27th |
| Matt Hebert | Oil Painting | Sunday 11:00AM |
| Peder Hegland | Ceramics | Sunday 11:30AM |
| Mary Gohman | Jewelry | Sunday 12:00PM |
| Linda Clayton | Painting | Sunday 12:30PM |
| Kat Patton | 2-D Design | Sunday 1:00PM |
| David Glenn | Ceramics | Sunday 1:30PM |
| Laura Ruprecht | Mosaic | Sunday 2:00PM |
| Barb Kellogg | Photographer and Author | Sunday 2:30PM |
| Zapf Legacy | CanoesWood Craftsman | Sunday 3:00PM |
| Lou Lou | Painting | Sunday 3:30PM |
| Mary Opatz Herges | Painting | Sunday 4:00PM |
| Sam Spiczka | Sculpture | Sunday 4:30PM |

Haffner appointed city administrator

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Therese Haffner is St. Joseph's new city administrator after the City Council approved her appointment at its Sept. 8 meeting.

She replaces Kris Ambuehl who resigned to take a position in the private sector.

Haffner has served as the city's Community Development director for four-and-a-half years and she served as interim city administrator while a search for Ambuehl's replacement was underway. Prior to working in St. Joseph, she worked in Becker and Sartell.

Haffner was selected from a field of 16 applicants and was one of four finalists interviewed by the council.

"I am excited to be the new city administrator for the city of St. Joseph. St. Joseph is a great community with small-town charm and high quality of life," Haffner said in an email.

Her priorities include maintaining the small-town charm and high quality of life, while growing economic development.

Extension

from page 3

ment is \$24,840. The other assessed property is owned by the apartment developer, St. Joseph Vista LLC., and River Bats Stadium LLC.

City officials said installing the water main will make the surrounding property more valuable and more attractive for development. Rassier argued he has no plans to develop his land and he will incur expenses for security and fences and he will have to put up with noise from the neighboring development.

"No way this water main is making our land more valuable," Rassier said.

The council approved the assessment plan on a 3-1 vote, but the motion included deferring the assessments for the Rassier and River Bats properties for 30 years or until the properties are sold or developed. There will be no interest on the assessments for 15 years.

The apartment assessment will be \$38,417.47 and the deferred River Bats assessment will be \$81,640. The Rassier and River Bats final costs were reduced after a city subsidy limiting the amount was applied.

Mayor Rick Schultz and council members Anne Buckvold and Troy Goracke voted in favor of the assessment plan and the project's bid. Council member Brian Theisen voted no on both measures. Theisen also voted against previous council actions approving the affordable-housing apartment complex. Council member Bob Loso was not at the meeting.

Evergreen Village

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Course: online Cost: cost share/donation

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays: Oct. 26-Dec. 18 2-3 p.m.

Living Well with Diabetes

Learn ways to self-manage your diabetes and achieve your goals for health.

Course: online through Zoom

Cost: cost share/donation

Wednesdays, Oct. 7-Nov. 18 9:30 a.m.-noon

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Classes are offered online

Register by calling:
1-855-215-2174 or
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Whitney is open!

Save the Dates:
Saturday and Sunday
September 19-20, 2020

We're having a Virtual Festival!

Virtual Franny Flyer 5k

Registration and details can be found at www.stfrancisartell.org

Online Silent Auction

This year we are hosting our silent auction online through 32Auctions. We are currently accepting completed baskets or large items that are new or like new for the auction.

The auction will go live Friday, September 11th at 5:00 pm and end at noon Sunday, September 20th.

Contact:
Bonnie Nies Candice Koopmeiners
320-252-7838, bonnienies@yahoo.com 320-654-1350, candicesews@hotmail.com

Big Ticket Raffle

We hope to do our best this year to make the raffle successful. In order to do that, we need you to pick your tickets up from the gathering space starting the weekend of August 21st.

More information to be communicated through FlockNote Messaging.
Not on Flocknote yet? Need to update your contact info?
Go to www.stfrancisartell.org to sign up for eCommunications.

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Franny
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2020

Animal Cruelty Statistics

An animal is being abused, neglected or forced to fight every minute — even as you read this.

One of the first steps in creating positive change for these animals is understanding and recognizing the cruelty they face on a daily basis. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has made this its mission and works tirelessly to rescue animals, pass humane laws, share resources and raise awareness across the nation. Here are just a few relevant statistics on animal cruelty.

- STAY INFORMED
- On average, there are 2,000 cases of animal abuse or cruelty reported in the media each year.
 - 60 percent of these cases involve dogs.
 - These numbers are considered very low and inaccurate, because many states do not include livestock in their cruelty laws.
 - The most common types of reported animal abuse involve neglect, shooting and poisoning.
 - Dog fighting, cockfighting and other forms of organized animal cruelty are closely tied to other violent crimes across the United States.
 - According to Canine Journal, 66,000 dogs and 21,000 cats are subjected to



- testing every year.
- In addition, 100 million animals — including mice, rats, dogs, cats, rabbits, monkeys and others — are killed in U.S. laboratories each year.
- According to the ASPCA, more than 250,000 animals fall victim to hoarding each year. This is when there are too many animals in unsanitary conditions.
- Florida is the worst offending state for animal cruelty, according to Pet Abuse's 2008 report. The state ranks the highest for the number of dog-fighting cases under investigation, highest for the number of dog beatings, highest for the number of cases involving neglect or abandonment of animals, and highest for animal drowning, choking and suffocation.
- The connection between animal and human violence is well documented. A survey of the 50 largest shelters for battered women in the United States found that 85 percent of women and 63 percent of children entering shelters discussed incidences of pet abuse in the family.

Pine Cone Pet Hospital

Drop-off appointments, extended evening & emergency appointments are available



Opinion

Our View

The emergency is not over

How many deaths can we tolerate?

Minnesota’s Covid-19 death toll will soon pass 2,000. Nationwide, we’ve tolerated 200,000 deaths and about 1,000 Americans continue to die each day.

Imagine if a tornado wiped out one of the Minnesota cities with about 2,000 residents such as Nisswa, Hinckley or Aitkin. How would we react? Since the pandemic set in, an average of 11 Minnesotans have died each day.

Daily reports of new deaths often mention the majority of Covid-19 fatalities – about 73 percent – are residents of long-term care or assisted living facilities. More than 85 percent of deaths are people age 65 or older. Highlighting these statistics implies the deaths of older, sicker people are less of a concern than young people. Gen Xers mockingly call the pandemic the “boomer remover.”

States and cities that ignored science and rushed to open too soon paid with rising case counts, deaths and a return to even more restrictive measures. Minnesota didn’t follow that politically driven path. Our Covid-19 deaths have leveled off with deaths in the single digits. Apparently that’s how many deaths we can tolerate.

Minnesota Republicans ARE ready to tolerate more. They have criticized the state’s enforcement of rules for bars and restaurants and continually vote to end the governor’s emergency powers, claiming the emergency is over.

Last week, state inspectors visited 167 bars and restaurants in southern Minnesota and found nearly half were out of compliance with safety requirements such as staff not wearing masks or tables too close to allow for social distancing.

Investigations linked about 1,200 infections to identified outbreaks in bars and restaurants.

Educating noncompliant owners and patrons is the state’s goal, though officials have the added incentive of enforcement actions and financial penalties, said Booker Hodges, assistant commissioner for public safety, according to a StarTribune report.

“When we go out to bars and restaurants to observe, our goal isn’t to hammer people,” Hodges said.

Republican legislators, though, see the effort differently. In a statement last week a number of legislators called the state’s efforts “heavy-handed.”

The statement continued, “We are troubled by the threatening tone of the letter when considering the administration’s previously stated goal that compliance checks would be ‘educational’ in nature and not punitive. Instead, you are weaponizing state agencies and threatening businesses with fines, closures and investigations at a time when so many are struggling just to keep their doors open. Since the onset of the pandemic, businesses have been doing their best to comply with your administration’s complicated, burdensome, and ever-changing executive orders and mandates.”

The Republicans’ stand does not match the facts and the inspections need to continue. Several Central Minnesota establishments are openly defying the rules and others have been tagged by the state.

Here’s what you can do to help:

- Follow the rules. Inspectors observed in some situations, businesses were making efforts to follow guidance requirements, but customers were not doing their part to protect worker safety and public health. Customers who refuse to wear masks and ignore social distancing guidelines by moving tables and chairs to accommodate larger groups jeopardize the operations of these businesses.
- If you visit a bar or restaurant and you don’t feel safe because staff and patrons are not following the rules, leave. On your way out, tell a manager why you’re leaving.
- When you get home, tell your friends. Share your experience on social media.
- Visit the state’s Covid-19 website, staysafe.mn.gov and report the offenders.
- Republican politicians that with hundreds of people getting sick each day and people dying, the emergency is not over.

“Give me liberty AND give me death” is not a winning slogan.

Mayors: It’s never been about the pay

Why do people want these jobs? We’ll soon be voting for a long list of candidates, with the presidency at the top of the ballot. Our elected leaders have tough jobs – especially now with a raging pandemic, a sinking economy, renewed attention to systemic racism, the West Coast in flames and hurricanes threatening the Gulf Coast. The biggest threat of all – climate change – hardly rates a headline. And as we were reminded last week on the anniversary of 9/11, there are still people in the world who hate Americans.

When we prepare to vote, let’s focus some attention and respect on the offices on the bottom of the ballot – the mayors, city council members, county commissioners and school board members.

Unlike their counterparts in Washington or St. Paul, these officials conduct the public’s business part time and their pay comes nowhere close to covering the time they actually spend. Yet the issues are just as challenging. This summer I’ve watched school board members debate how to balance safely opening school with the economic struggles of parents who can’t work at home. After the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, citizens asked their mayors and city councils what’s happening with racial justice in their cities to prevent such a tragedy here. With tax revenues sinking at the same time as more people need the government’s support, these local leaders need to figure out how to pay for the ongoing costs of public safety, roads and teachers while unexpected pandemic expenses pile up.

These public servants don’t do it for the money. While members of the U.S. Senate and House are paid \$174,000 a year...a check most of us could survive on...our

Two young men sat in the auditorium and snickered as they exchanged a series of nasty jibes against Blacks, peppering their remarks with the “n” word.

They were students in the Alexandria Technical College Law Enforcement program. On that day, nearly four decades ago, they were there in a class to learn how to be sensitive toward people of color.

I was there as a reporter, sitting in the same row. I was hoping they’d flunk because that law enforcement program was – and still is – considered one of the finest in the nation. To this day, every time there is police violence against Blacks, I think of those two snide students.

Law enforcement agencies must weed out blatant racists. Just about every time an officer murders a Black man or woman, there’s been a history of complaints of him of using excessive force. They should be removed before their attitudes escalate into murder. Too often, histories of excessive force are ignored or hushed up. It is no wonder the Black Lives Matter movement has such urgency these days, thankfully with the approval of many whites.

Meantime, we should all learn more about race issues, a first step toward human harmony. That is what I’ve been doing for the past couple of years. I grew up in all-white St. Cloud, utterly unaware of racial issues in my younger years. In college, I took a course called “Black Literature.” It was enlightening, but I realized then there was more to learn. Now’s the time.

Some things I’ve been learning:

Mike
Knaak
Editor



local leaders make far less.

Last week, St. Joseph’s city staff proposed a new pay structure for that city’s mayor and council members. St. Joseph is the only area city that pays a salary, plus a stipend for attending meetings. To simplify things, the staff proposed a small pay increase and eliminating the stipend. Staff research included what area cities pay their mayors and council members and it’s not much.

St. Joseph’s new pay structure raised the mayor’s monthly pay to \$650 and the council members’ pay to \$435 with no meeting stipend. Mayor salaries in nearby cities are \$600 in Waite Park, \$665 in Sauk Rapids and \$675 in Sartell. Cold Spring currently pays its mayor \$450 but a pay raise to \$475 has been proposed. Council members in area cities are paid \$300 in Waite Park, \$433.33 in Sartell and \$475 in Sauk Rapids. Cold Spring proposed raising council members pay from \$300 to \$325.

I wanted to calculate how much that works out to an hour, so I asked Sartell Mayor Ryan Fitzthum and long-time St. Joseph Mayor Rick Schultz about their work weeks. (City Council member Anne Buckvold is challenging Schultz in the Nov. 3 election.)

Both men attend city council and other meetings such as the Area Planning Organization, city boards and commissions. Outside those set duties, there are emails,

phone calls, lobbying at the Legislature, representing the city at events and meeting with constituents and local business owners.

“Being mayor is NOT a turn-it-on, turn-it-off kind of position, like a job,” Schultz told me. “Of course, there are official duties, but you are always mayor, you can’t disappear from being mayor and people recognize you as mayor. The hours never end when you’re in public.”

Fitzthum says he’s at City Hall two to three times a week, answers a dozen or more emails a day as well as returning phone calls.

“I am half-way through my first term as mayor,” Fitzthum said. “I never expected the role would be this time consuming, yet I also never expected it would be nearly as rewarding. I have absolutely loved the community engagement aspect of the job. The mayor could not lead a community without a strong and functioning City Council. While their time commitment is very different of that as the mayor, their importance is equal.”

Shultz didn’t offer a number of hours spent on city business, but Fitzthum estimated about 25 hours a week. So to make the arithmetic easy, let’s go with 20 hours a week. That’s 80 hours a month for an hourly rate of just more than \$8. If it’s just about the money, Target’s \$15 per hour starting pay would be a better choice.

Shultz made the case for public service and local elected office.

“It’s one of the most enjoyable positions I’ve ever had – knowing I serve something larger. You really have to put your own goals and feelings aside for that of something larger. It’s never been about the pay.”

ings were actually considered appropriate punishments for “uppity” Blacks.

Monstrous Jim Crow laws doomed Blacks to be property, things, beasts of burden – just as they had been “nothings” as ripped-apart slave families on auction blocks for more than 200 years.

Lincoln freed the slaves, but they were virtually re-enslaved within the Jim Crow nightmare. It was so depraved that the Nazis studied that caste system and then adapted it to de-humanize the Jews in the years just before the widespread butchery of the Holocaust.

I hope others do some reading, learning, sharing. I highly recommend the following books: “Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom” by David W. Blight (biography of the towering 19th Century runaway slave, orator and visionary); “The Warmth of Other Suns” by Isabel Wilkerson” (heartbreaking history about Blacks fleeing the South and seeking freedom elsewhere, only to by humiliated and stymied by systemic racism at every turn), “Caste,” just published, also by Isabel Wilkerson (about how a caste system was concocted to keep Blacks as brutalized underdogs), and “Humane Policing” by Darron Spencer (insightful account by a Colorado police officer on how he learned to empathize on his beat with people in crises, including Blacks, and the strategies he brought to bear to de-escalate dangerous encounters).

A warning: Those first three books contain unspeakably horrific accounts of unspeakable mental and physical *cruelties*.

Dennis
Dalman
Reporter



There has always been bristling mistrust between Blacks and whites; we are all likely “racist” to some degree. Racism not only causes the arbitrary killings of Black people, it can lead to inequities in housing, health care, education, jobs, wages and more. There is also a “silent” racism in which many, if not all, whites and Blacks tend to harbor a socially conditioned fear of one another. Negative notions scurry across the mind; baseless assumptions skitter to the surface; stereotypes abound.

That psychological divide began with the separation (physical, psychological) of whites and Blacks throughout centuries of slavery. Thus, they (we) did not get a chance to know one another as full-fledged human beings, all deserving of respect.

Post Civil War, that segregation was re-enforced by a perverse socio-economic structure called (by whites, of course) “separate but equal.” Such a convenient legal delusion stemmed from a Supreme Court decision of 1896, Plessy vs. Ferguson, an appalling decision that legally enabled Southern states to re-impose a caste system dubbed “Jim Crow” (so-named after a vicious “entertainment” caricature of a Black man). That system was so atrocious that torture, mutilations and lynch-

Westlund challenges Demuth for House 13A seat

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

Two women – one incumbent and a newcomer – are competing to represent the residents of Minnesota House District 13A starting in January of next year. That seat will be determined in the Nov. 3 general election. The two candidates are incumbent Lisa Demuth (R-Cold Spring) and Katy Westlund (DFL-Paynesville). District 13A includes the cities of St. Joseph, Avon, Cold Spring, Paynesville and Kimball. The following are profiles of the two candidates: **Demuth** was elected to the Minnesota Legislature on her first try in 2018 when she defeated DFL candidate Jim Read of Collegeville by a nearly 2 to 1 margin. The district had previously been served by Rep. Jeff Howe (R-Rockville), but in

2018 he decided to compete for Senate District 13, which was held by Sen. Michelle Fischbach (R-Paynesville) until she resigned after becoming lieutenant governor. Howe went on to win that seat. Demuth lives near Cold Spring with her husband, Nick. They have four grown children. She and Nick own a commercial-property rental company called Boardwalk Business Center. She has been a member of the Rocori school board for 11 years. As a member of the House, she serves on the following committees: Early-Childhood Finance and Policy, Education Finance, and Greater Minnesota Jobs and Economic Development Finance. Demuth has authored or co-authored many bills in her 21 months in the House. Those bills involved dealing with inva-

sive species, requirement of record-keeping for childcare assistance, penalties established for people in authority having sex with students, aid increases for special-education funding funds and funding for Phase I of the St. Joseph Community Center. Like other Republican legislators, Demuth was active since March in measures to deal with the Corona-19 virus pandemic, including efforts to open businesses and schools partially with proper safety measures. She joined other Republicans in voting against Gov. Tim Walz’s executive emergency powers in dealing with the pandemic, claiming such powers were an over-reach of the governor’s role. The Democrats, however, several times blocked the Republicans’ efforts to limit those emergency powers. Demuth strongly favors the Second Amendment (right to

bear arms) but is also in favor of extensive background checks. She advocates for more local control of schools and more funding for school districts outside of the Metro area. She believes there must be serious reforms made to healthcare access, but she prefers any reforms be tailored for Minnesotans, not mandated by a federal government plan like the Affordable Care Act. Child protection remains one of her deepest concerns. The DFL-endorsed **Westlund** of Paynesville, who is manager of a cyber-security company and is also a small-business owner. She also serves on the Paynesville Planning Commission. She and her husband, Andy, have three sons, the oldest 22. Two of the sons suffer from epilepsy, and Westlund is active in the fight against that disorder. She is a member of the Epi-

lepsy Foundation of Minnesota, as well as the Neighborhood Coalition and the Downtown St. Cloud Council. In her campaign for the District 13A House seat, Westlund has been emphasizing three themes: farmers, families, small businesses. She said she believes there is too much corporate control over the lives of people and that corporations not only can “buy” elections but also determine which laws get passed. Westlund is in favor of a healthcare system affordable and with access by all. She also favors term limits for state and federal legislators, an expansion of broadband technology to rural areas, more school funding, more staff and funding for nursing homes, and urgent help for the many farmers who are falling behind financially and even losing their farms.

Community Calendar

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| Friday, Sept. 18 St. Joseph Farmers’ Market, 3-6 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2, St. Joseph. | 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph. Fare for All, 3:30-5:30 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2, St. Joseph. St. Joseph City Council, 6 p.m., Government Center, 75 Cal-laway St. E. St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club, 7 p.m., American Legion, 101 Minnesota St. W. | Thursday, Sept. 24 St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph. Cub Scout Sign-up Night, 6 p.m., Millstream Park Shelter, for kindergarten through fifth grade. | Monday, Sept. 28 St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph. St. Joseph Township board meeting, 7 p.m. Township meet-ings are conducted through tele-conference. | Thursday, Oct. 1 St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph. Blood Drive, Avon Commu-nity Church, 204 Avon Ave. N, Avon. 320-248-3375. |
| Saturday, Sept. 19 Outdoor Vendor and Craft Event, 9 a.m.-3p.m., behind the St. Joseph Community Center. Masks required. | | Friday, Sept. 25 St. Joseph Farmers’ Market, 3-6 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2, St. Joseph. | Tuesday, Sept. 29 Collegeville Township Board, 7 p.m., Township Hall, 27724 CR 50. | Friday, Oct. 2 St. Joseph Farmers’ Market, 3-6 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2, St. Joseph. |

Mayor, police chief address local concerns over Floyd unrest

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| <p>Residents of St. Joseph</p> <p>With the unrest that has occurred in recent months across the country, many of you have asked what we are doing to prevent such events from occurring in St Joseph. I want to emphasize that, the expectation of our officers is to treat anyone in custody with respect and dignity. A person’s care while in our custody is of utmost importance. While we are always learning and striving to cultivate a police department with officers skilled to handle all situations appropriately. We have already taken significant steps to prevent a similar occurrence from happening in our community.</p> <p><u>Hiring of Officers</u></p> <p>The first step starts with the hiring process. One of the primary skills we look for when recruiting and hiring police officers is a person’s social skills and their ability to deal with people. Most of modern community policing, requires an ability to communicate clearly and effectively. We emphasize these interactions are the foundations needed to de-escalate tense situations. Additionally, we conduct extensive background investigations on all potential officers.</p> <p><u>Training</u></p> <p>Our defensive tactics training starts with de-escalation training. We underscore the importance</p> | <p>of using only the amount of force necessary, to be quick, decisive, and efficient with the arrest and to allow the person to quickly recover and to render aid if needed. New officers participate in a three-month field-training program, where they shadow current officers on different shifts. Our experienced officers work closely with the newest hires to ensure their work behaviors and demeanor is acceptable. This framework helps us identify potential areas of improvement and further training, prior to any incidents occurring.</p> <p>Once new officers complete their field training, they are placed on a probation period where supervisors continue to monitor their progress. Continual review and feedback are done during this period to provide additional places to gather information and learn skills. At the close of probation period, recommendations are forwarded to the Chief of Police and a determination is made whether the officer will continue in the city’s employ. All officers train according to requirements by the Minnesota Peace Officers Standards and Training board.All officers train annually on multiple topics which include the following: deadly force, use of force, implicit bias, critical incidents, mental health and defensive tactics, just to name a few.</p> | <p><u>Critical Debriefs</u></p> <p>Any time there is a critical incident, officers are immediately evaluated by supervisors and if necessary are provided with proper medical and mental needs. Officers are provided time off to attend debriefings hosted by the lead agency on all situations they have assisted.</p> <p><u>Steps Taken to Reduce Deadly Force Encounters</u></p> <p>The Department of Public Safety recently concluded a series of meetings during the past year, to review “Police-Involved Deadly Force Encounters.” Their report was issued in February. St Joseph already follows many of the recommendations in the report. This includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased training hours on de-escalation. Many of the sworn officers have either been through a 40-hour Crisis Intervention Tactics de-escalation course or are on a list to complete this training.• Equipping officers with tourniquets and First Responder certification.• Mandated annual racial equity training for all sworn officers.• Created a body-worn camera program. This program allows us to capture video of interactions between our officers and the community. The video can also be used to identify training needs to improve officer performance through proactive coaching and | <p>mentoring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated our Response to Resistance (Use of Force) policy and other related matters. We accomplished this in partnership with area law enforcement agencies; and• Increased level of supervision officers receive on all shifts to ensure a positive and consistent message is communicated throughout the department. <p><u>Community Engagement</u></p> <p>The Police Department makes significant efforts to interact with the community daily. This type of intentional relationship building results in a solid foundation of trust with our community. Consistent communication enables our officers to respond proactively, rather than responding after an incident has occurred. Our department engages with the community in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting regularly at local businesses for Coffee with a Cop – a chance for community members to chat with cops with no agenda. With Covid-19, this program has been postponed, however it did work well, and we plan to continue with additional locations, when more restrictions are lifted.• Participating in National Night Out, which is an annual nationwide event that encourages residents to get out in the community, meet neighbors and partner with police. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Holding monthly community relations meetings with the College of St. Benedict and St. John’s University. These conversations lead to better relations with the colleges and are a proactive means to collaborate with campus security on upcoming college events.• Officers are encouraged to get out in the community whenever they can in non-enforcement situations and build those relationships.• St. Joseph Police partner with ISD 742 and Kennedy Elementary school to provide school resource officers. This program helps shape the school social climate and students’ connections with our officers. <p><u>Our Commitment to You</u></p> <p>The St. Joseph Police Department will continue to listen and address the needs of our community. We will remain committed to providing our community with police services that recognize the dignity and respect for all residents and guests of the City of St. Joseph. We want to ensure all people visiting or living in this community receive fair, positive and professional services from our police officers. We are committed to treating everyone equally and with transparency.</p> <p>Mayor Rick Schultz Chief Dwight Pfannenstien</p> |
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FINANCIAL PLANNING | TARGETS

Time to Set Goals

Financial goals inspire, motivate and mobilize us into action. They keep us on track during the tough months and help us avoid unnecessary impulse spending that can have a negative impact on our finances.

And setting a goal is the easy part. Sticking to that goal is where the challenge begins.

Unforeseen expenses, untimely bills and material temptations are part of daily life. Only those who are serious about overcoming these roadblocks are truly ready to achieve their financial objectives.

HOW TO SET A GOAL

Don't wait until your New Year's resolution to set your new financial goals. Grab your past few bank statements, a piece of paper and a pencil, and get busy.

Write down where every one of your pennies went during the past couple of months and organize them into sections like "necessary bills," "entertainment" and "eating out."

Determine which one of these segments has some wiggle room and set a goal to decrease similar spending next month.



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DEFINE YOUR GOALS

When it comes to finances, you should have short-term and long-term goals. A short-term goal may be a plan to pay off a credit card or save enough to put a down payment on a new house.

What types of purchases or payoffs are you looking to accomplish in the next six to 12 months? Put them down on paper and keep track of monthly progress toward your goal.

And stay dedicated. Even an extra \$20 saved from eating in on a Friday night can go a long way toward

achieving your goal and building your confidence in your ability to save.

BE REALISTIC

If you earn \$3,000 month, it probably isn't a realistic goal to shove \$2,000 of your income into savings every 30 days. Be honest with yourself and

choose a number that you can achieve within your short- or long-term target.

If you have more than one financial goal, it is probably best to choose a primary one that receives most of your attention. This will help keep you focused on where to most effectively distribute your income.

And remember to think about the long term. Growing your savings can seem like a sacrifice in the short term, but the more you sacrifice now, the more wealth you'll be able to achieve. You'll be living a much more secure, financially rewarding life in the future if you take the right steps today.

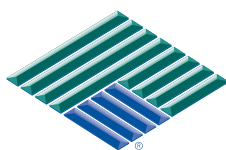
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Innovative.

Seek to know more, do more
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