

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, March 19, 2021
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Est. 1989

Town Crier

Lions fish fry, meat raffle set April 2 at Sal's

The annual fish fry and meat raffle, sponsored by the St. Joseph Lions Club, will be held from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, April 2 in Sal's Bar & Grill, 109 W. Minnesota St., St. Joseph. All proceeds benefit Lions endeavors.

Tri-CAP is in need of donated vehicles!

Tri-CAP accepts donated vehicles, works with local repair shops to make them safe and then sells them to income-qualified residents in Stearns, Benton or Sherburne counties. All proceeds from the program support future vehicle repairs and the program's operation. Tri-CAP is a licensed dealership with the state of Minnesota, to best protect the donors and clients they work with! If a vehicle is sold to a client in need at the discounted price, the full fair market value may be used as a tax deduction. To learn more about the donation process, check out their website at <https://tricap.org/vehicle-donation/> or call 320-251-1612.

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Around Cloud Tutors is a partnership mission of United Way of Central Minnesota/PFSS and Greater St. Cloud Development Corp. with the goal of providing equitable educational opportunities for all through free digital K-12 tutoring. Tutors will support the educational needs of students by serving as an online tutor, reading helper or post-secondary advisor. Volunteers will help students' complete homework by being a present resource, dependable, punctual and must have technology equipped with a video camera and working knowledge of Zoom and Google Meets. All tutors must complete a training session and complete a background check. Visit aroundcloudtutors.org to sign up or email aroundcloudtutors@gmail.com for more information.

Help with food distribution

The Yes Network is dedicated to creating prosperous engagement with youth and families in the neighborhoods in which they live. Engaged youth and active parents playing and working together will foster safe neighborhoods, health families and strong communities. They are looking for volunteers to help cup food on Wednesday/Thursdays of each week, noon-3 p.m. each week at Short Stop kitchen. Contact Lindy, Yes Network, at lindy@yesnetworkmn.org.

City council talks property plans, staffing

by Heidi L. Everett
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Property sales, community center planning and staffing changes headlined St. Joseph City Council meetings in March.

Property sales

At the March 15 meeting, council members entertained three options regarding the sale of the old police station and fire hall.

The police station, built in 1920, has been vacant since 2017. "It's not move-in ready," said Therese Haffner, city administrator.

The old fire hall garage was built in 1985. Bad Habit Brewing Company currently leases the space for storage on a short-term lease set to end in June.

The water treatment plant located behind the fire hall was built in 1985 and is in operation.

Upgrades to the water treatment plant were made in 2017

with an anticipated life of approximately 20 years.

Three parties are interested in purchasing both the old police station and fire hall garage, Haffner said. The city would retain the water treatment plant.

The sale would require separation and rerouting of utilities, including water, sanitary sewer, gas and electric with the buyer covering the cost of plumbing, gas, and electrical upgrades and separation.

The city would need to complete sanitary sewer and water main work at a cost of \$52,300 to \$80,300 depending on building configurations.

The council approved selling both buildings and starting the proposal process for water and utilities.

Community center planning

At the March 1 City Council

meeting, a motion was approved for staff to contact HMA Architects to submit a proposal for the St. Joseph Community Center and Jacob Wetterling Recreation Center project for review and approval.

The community center planning committee recommended hiring HMA Architects because they previously had been hired for the Government Center Campus. In 2015, the City of St. Joseph purchased the former Kennedy School property for a new city hall, police facility and a community center. HMA Architects had prepared the community and recreation center schematic and conceptual design package in 2017.

The Kennedy building was sold January 2021, reopening discussions on the community center plan.

The project will be funded by a \$4-million bonding request from the state, and the City Council

committed \$6 million from half-cent regional-sales-tax dollars. Additional fundraising efforts will be forthcoming.

Committee members toured St. Cloud YMCA and Sartell Community Center and planned to meet again March 18.

City staffing

A full-time police officer has been budgeted for July 2021. The position will be advertised for one month beginning April 1, 2021. The last budgeted full-time position was created in July 2017. The department also added an officer through a Department of Justice COPS grant in 2020, which is also now in the budget.

St. Joseph Recreation Director John Anderson announced his resignation in a letter March 3 effective March 31, 2021 to enjoy retirement with his wife.

The next city council meeting is April 5.

Cheers to St. Joseph food, drink honors

by Heidi L. Everett
editor@thenewsleaders.com

St. Joseph has some serious street cred when it comes to food and beverage in the United States. Two local establishments have been recognized on a national stage for being the best.

Krewe walked away with Midwest Living magazine's Best New Restaurant 2021. In the citation, the magazine noted:

"St. Joseph, Minnesota owners Mateo Mackbee and Erin Lucas could have rocked the Twin Cities with their Cajun-Creole dishes inspired by the cooking of Mackbee's New

Orleans-born mother. Instead, they opted to be the first Black-owned business in this rural college town of 7,000, working to shine a light on racial inequities while serving the best jambalaya, crawfish and crab cakes for hundreds of miles around."

And, we are so glad they did.

If you have yet to indulge in their mouthwatering jambalaya-smothered catfish or grandpa's gumbo, what are you waiting for?

Krewe is open from 5 to 10 p.m. Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and then 5 to 10 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. You can also order online at

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contributed photo

Krewe in St. Joseph earns Midwest Living's Best New Restaurant 2021.

First female police sergeant in Waite Park from St. Joseph

by Heidi L. Everett
editor@thenewsleaders.com

In August 2020, Rebecca Grosz was named the first female sergeant of the Waite Park Police Department. A little over six months into her new role, this St. Joseph native shares a bit about her work.

Grosz's reasons for wanting to be in law enforcement are personal. She grew up in St. Joseph from the time she was 5, and she remembers encounters with then-Chief Pete Jan-

sky and other officers who were there at the time.

"When I saw them being able to help fix situations, I knew this is what I wanted to do," she said.

Grosz got her start as a non-licensed community service officer in Elk River dealing with parking and animal control. In 2012, she joined Waite Park as a patrol officer where she spent five years responding to calls and traffic stops as well as working on investigations.

"Our patrol officers often

work cases from start to finish," she said. "We're a small agency."

In 2018, she traded the uniform for plain clothes to work as a general investigator. While she enjoyed the work, it added more time sitting at a desk than she wanted.

When she was promoted as the first female sergeant, she got to go back on the road. Her new leadership role includes supervision of three officers as well as oversight and input on the officer reserve program and

field training program.

For as small as Waite Park is – just more than 7,600 – the police are kept busy.

"We have a small population, but during the day our population skyrockets to above 30,000 because of people interacting with the many businesses we have," Grosz said. "The majority of our calls are affiliated with businesses."

Grosz appreciates that no two days are alike.

"I love that it is always dif-

Grosz • page 4

Awards

from front page

www.krewemn.com.
Congratulations, Krewel!
And then there's Milk & Honey Ciders, who are among the finalists in USA Today's

Readers' Choice 2021 for best cidery.
As USA Today explained, the popularity of cider as a beer alternative has exploded in recent years. According to Statista, there were more than 800 cider makers in the United States as of 2018.
USA Today asked a panel

of industry experts to nominate their 20 favorite cideries from coast to coast. Milk & Honey Ciders made the list along with some stiff competition from across the country, including cideries from Atlanta, Boston, Denver, New Orleans, Pittsburgh and Spokane.
And if you didn't know: Milk

& Honey Ciders makes their beverages from heirloom and traditional cider apple cultivars. The focus is on dry, aromatic and tannic ciders produced with minimal intervention to let the natural apple flavor shine through.
Fans voted online until Tuesday, March 16. Winners will be

announced on Friday, March 26.
Regardless of the outcome, Milk & Honey Ciders is number one in our book.
Learn more about the taproom at www.milkandhoney-ciders.com.

District 742 academic calendar includes 3 digital days

by Heidi L. Everett
editor@thenewsleaders.com

At the Feb. 17 Board of Education meeting, the 2021-22 academic calendar was approved with staggered start dates, new distance-learning days and the end of what many Minnesotans have known as "snow day" make-up days.

Start dates

Beginning Tuesday, Aug. 31, high school students can attend goal-setting conferences.
On Wednesday, Sept. 1, goal-setting conferences will be held for students in ECFE,

elementary and junior high grades.
Labor Day is Sept. 6, so schools are closed. Schools also are closed Sept. 7.
On Wednesday, Sept. 8, sixth-graders, students new to North and South Junior High schools, ninth-graders and students new to Apollo or Technical High Schools have their first day of classes. Goal-setting conferences for all grades also take place Sept. 8.
All District 742 students will be in class Thursday, Sept. 9.

Digital-learning days

The District also announced

three digital-learning days on the calendar set for Oct. 1, Dec. 3 and March 4.
Dr. Marsha Baisch, assistant superintendent of elementary education, explained these are days planned for in advance and counted as instructional days.
Digital-learning days could include morning instruction, assignments posted and planned, potential teacher office hours on google meets, advisory meetings, collaborative planning and professional development, Baisch said.
"How those days will fully look is yet to be determined,"

she said.
The addition of these days to the academic calendar are to remain prepared for any potential schedule changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
"We're having these digital learning days for the purpose of having students continue to practice their digital learning skills in the event that something should change," Baisch said.
"We've had to experience much of that this year, and we want to ensure our students continue to practice those skills," she said.

'Snow day' makeup

Digital learning days are different than the e-learning days that came to be during distance learning this past year in inclement weather. On the academic calendar, e-learning days are weather related, and they replace the "snow days" that many Minnesotans were accustomed to as students.
The District has up to five e-learning days budgeted because of weather-related incidents, Baisch said.
The last day of school is Friday, June 3.

People

Alissa Rennie of St. Joseph has earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Western Governors University, Salt Lake City, Utah.
Express Employment Professionals of St. Cloud received the Circle of Excel-

lence Award for top performance achievements in sales, recruitment and placements at the staffing firm's 38th annual International Leadership Conference. This is the fourth year being recognized as one of the company's top-producing offices. The St.

Cloud Express Employment Professionals franchise began operation in 2005 and serves the administrative, commercial and skilled trade areas with temporary help and direct hire employees in a variety of fields, along with the newly announced specialized recruiting group focused on professional hiring services.
Four St. Joseph students have been named to the fall dean's list at S. John's University. **Alexander Alvord** and **Mitchell Alvord**, sons of Ann and Mike Alvord; **Erik Hennigs**, son of DeAnn and Mark Hennigs and **Ben Lepinski**, son of Lois and Al Lepinski. Students must earn a minimum 3.8 GPA to qualify.

Have achievements to

Graduations? Honor rolls? Military honors?
Business recognition?

We'd love to hear about them and share the news with the community.

Send the details. Photos are nice too.

Submit to news@thenewsleaders.com

For contact purposes only, please include first/last name and phone.

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Reaching Everybody!

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Cultural Connections:

Learning about cultures through film opens discussion

by **Dan Hudson**
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Film is often used in liberal arts education as a tool for teaching about different cultures. A good film can keep us engaged and entertained while enriching our understanding of the world, challenging us to understand how others think and live their lives.

To better absorb the concepts in a film, I encourage you to watch with others and discuss your thoughts. What new things did you learn? How are

the characters alike and different from each other? Why did the characters do what they did? Film can provide for a greater ease of conversation about sensitive issues because the discussion is centered on plots and film characters rather than existing personal views. Rather than critique characters based on your personal beliefs, talk about them from their points of view.

I recently watched “Bend it Like Beckham” (2002) and was taken for a pleasant surprise. This is not another cliched sports movie. This film goes much deeper, exploring cultur-

al differences across religions and generations. The story is told with humor and a certain sweetness that will keep your attention throughout.

Here are some other films you may enjoy exploring. Not all are appropriate for all ages and sensitivities, so you may want to read reviews before viewing. All these films are available at Great River Regional Library unless otherwise noted.

“Bend it Like Beckham” (2002): Two young women, despite their families’ wishes, pursue careers in professional soccer.

“Glory Road” (2006): True story of coach Don Haskins leading Texas Western College to an NCAA national championship.

“Babies” (2010): A visual documentary look at the first year of life of four babies from different parts of the world.

“Crash” (2004): Several characters’ lives intertwine over an intense 36-hour period in Los Angeles.

“Under the Same Moon” (2007): A young Mexican boy travels to the United States in search of his mother.

“Green Book” (2018): True story of a tough bouncer from

New York City who chauffeurs a world-class pianist on a tour in the 1960s American South-east.

“The Last Wave” (1977): An Australian lawyer defends five Aboriginals in a ritualistic murder.

“Growing Up Smith” (2015): A comical look at a 10-year-old East Indian boy growing up in 1970s small town America.

“One Night in Miami” (2020), on Amazon Prime: Sam Cooke, Malcom X, Jim Brown and recent world-boxing champion Mohammad Ali gather to discuss their roles in the Civil Rights Movement.

Blotter

March 1
12:13 p.m. Theft. Cedar Street E. Officer dispatched to an apartment. Person reported he went fishing for the weekend, returned home and noticed several of his remote control cars and equipment gone. He said apartment was locked when he left and when he returned. He also noted his girlfriend moved out three weeks prior, was on the lease and was supposed to contact the landlord to get off the lease and turn in keys. A signed stolen-property report was obtained. Officer spoke with the ex who said she does have some of the property and will return it when money owed her is paid. Both parties were informed this is a civil matter that can go to small-claims court. No further action needed.

March 3
7:14 a.m. Verbal dispute. Cypress Drive. A person reported she could hear a male and female yelling inside an apartment. Upon arrival, officer could hear arguing coming from inside the apartment. When officer made contact, a

man was lying on the kitchen floor crying. Officer poke with each person privately and learned they were arguing about marriage issues. They have been together for 27 years and on and off the last five years. Both advised the dispute had not been physical. The officer did not observe any signs of bodily injury. No further action taken.

3:13 p.m. Accident. 8th Avenue NE/CR 75. Officer was dispatched to a car-and-bicycle crash. No injuries were found on arrival. A bicyclist was traveling westbound on the shoulder of the county road. A motorist was turning onto the country road from 8th Avenue NE and did not see the bicyclist. As the driver entered the county road, she struck the biker. A state accident report was completed. The bicyclist was arrested for a warrant and transported to jail.

March 5
9:15 a.m. Theft. Minnesota Street E. While at Kwik Trip East an officer was approached by a person wanting to report a theft. The person

advised he put a vinyl 4 x 8 foot CDL help-wanted sign up on the east side of the Rode-way Inn property. The next day, the sign was gone. Total value \$125.

March 6
11:15 p.m. Intruder. First Avenue NW. A person called because an unknown college student entered her home via the back door. When he was confronted, he ran off toward College Avenue on Ash Street. Officers checked the area and were not able to locate the suspect. The homeowner advised this is an ongoing issue, and she has talked with the city and colleges about it in the past. No further action required.

March 8
4:38 p.m. Road rage. CR 2/ Minnesota Street W. Officers were dispatched to a road-rage complaint. Vehicle 1 was traveling in front of vehicle 2 southbound on CR 2 from CR 75 when something similar to corn nuts was allegedly thrown out of the vehicle. The nuts then hit and peppered vehicle 2. Vehicle 2 tried to get the other driver’s attention, but they didn’t stop. On CR 2 under I-94 near Frontage Road, the driver of vehicle 2 said vehicle 1 slowed down to turn left, so he passed on the right. He said the other vehicle then hit his vehicle. The driver and passengers in vehicle 1 all stated vehicle 2 drove up behind them errat-

ically and tried to pass them on the left in a no-passing zone but failed. They stated they were going to turn onto Frontage Road with the blinker on but decided not to because of the other driver’s behavior. They stated vehicle 2 passed them on the right and slammed on the brakes. The driver of vehicle 1 said he tried to avoid hitting the other vehicle but struck the rear corner. Those in vehicle 1 said they weren’t eating peanuts and didn’t throw anything out the window. They also said the driver of vehicle 2 was extremely agitated and yelling at them, which made them afraid. Damage estimated to be more than \$1,000.

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Grosz

from front page



Grosz

ferent,” she said. “Even if I go on a call today and tomorrow, they are never the same. You have to think through what you are doing in every situation and find different solutions.”

Grosz said there’s been everything from a pistol whipping incident, to a home invasion, to sex trafficking cases.

When asked about preparation for a career in law enforcement, Grosz said training is different than it was for her. One thing is for sure: don’t believe what you see on television.

“TV has made our job very, very difficult to be honest,” Grosz said, pointing out misperceptions about solving cases.

“Many people believe fingerprints will solve everything, and that solving cases is a 30-minute thing,” she said. “We can send evidence off, and it’s not coming back in an hour. At least daily, I explain that to somebody. It might take 3 to 6 months to get the information we need.”

In general, Grosz said to work hard and gain as much knowledge as possible about criminal procedure, case law and what you can and can’t do as an officer.

Most importantly, she said work on communication skills.

“I often get asked about how often I use my taser, but I use my mouth more. Our mouths are our most useful tool,” she said.

“I’m not a large person. I can hold my own. I don’t want to fight, but I will if I need to,” Grosz said. “To be able to communicate is more important than being able to use force.”

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Manage Emotional Stress

Selling your home can be stressful, especially if you have an emotional connection to a property.

When the process begins to affect your mental well-being, it's critical to take a step back and manage your feelings. Rushing through a transaction to get it over with can lead to negative financial results or regret. Before hiring an expert to list your home, make sure you're emotionally ready, and the decision is right.

If you're hesitant, draft a list of the reasons you plan to sell and the advantages you may acquire by staying. If you find more things you like about living in the property, consider forgetting the idea and re-evaluating it in a few months. However, if you're committed to selling, consider these tips to control your emotions.

YOUR HOME IS A PRODUCT

Regardless of the memories you created within the property, to a potential buyer, it's a home where they will lay their roots. Showcase the house in its best light while avoiding the feelings that may arise. If you painted your walls with bright and vibrant colors, consider repainting them with more neutral tones that speak to a broader audience. It's also an excellent idea to



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hire a professional cleaning service before going to market. They can remove unnecessary clutter, clean the carpets and polish parts of your home that are often forgotten.

INVOLVE YOURSELF IN THE PROCESS

The stress of being left out of the loop during a real

estate transaction can be challenging to manage. Be honest with your real estate agent and explain that you wish to be involved in the process. It's essential to find a balance between remaining active and being intrusive to your agent. While you shouldn't get in the way while they work, it's beneficial to

respond to feedback, keep the home tidy between showings and ask your expert for updates.

TURN TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Sometimes taking a step back from the sale can provide stress relief. Rather than worry yourself about the

transaction, try to find time to connect with friends and family. Discuss your concerns with them about the home sale for a different perspective. Perhaps they have gone through the same emotional struggles that come with selling your property and will provide you with honest advice.

Land

Great for horses. Mostly open with some woods. **(ONE LEFT)** Two 39-acre tracts on 260th Street in Collegeville Twp. \$280,000 each. MLS #5632458

Privacy. 80 acres includes woods, open fields and a part of natural environment Mud Lake. Driveway is ½-mile lane from 260th Street. Wakefield Twp. \$576,000
MLS #5662640



Jon Petters - Broker
320-363-7656
Collegevillebrokerage.com

55+ Patio Homes



The Last Two! Mill Stream Village. 2-br, infloor heat and sunny. Walk to downtown! 111 & 115 Colman Court, St. Joseph. Choices! \$304,000 MLS #5704298

"There are lots of buyers and we need listings!"

Opinion

Our view

Be intentional returning to a new normal

The stories and columns in this edition speak to what the next phase of coming out of a pandemic might look like.

Readers will find school districts planning for a return to normal in the next academic year. Throughout the next few months, educators will likely be discussing how to make up for what's been lost in the past year from educational and extracurricular experiences as well as social and emotional support. Districts received and will get more federal and state money to cover COVID-related expenses to help students. They will have to determine the best ways to invest that money to bring students who may have fallen behind up to standards but also to push ahead top achievers.

One of our columnists encourages all levels of government to learn from what we've experienced and build contingency plans while this is fresh in our minds, so we may adapt quickly and efficiently for whatever comes next.

From the headlines earlier this week, the hospitality, sports and entertainment industries are navigating the latest COVID-related "dial turns" announced by Gov. Tim Walz that went into effect March 15. And businesses are examining what staffing and safety protocols look like as more of them consider a return to business as usual.

In our passionate pursuit of returning to "normal," let's not miss an opportunity to define a "new normal."

For our schools, it could be easy to fall back into the daily lesson plans, assessing state standards and trying to fit everything in each term. We also should focus on the social and emotional engagement that has been stunted for too long for too many and carve out time to connect on a deeper level.

For businesses, now is an ideal time to re-evaluate flexible work conditions that fit. While your workforce may have gone completely remote during the pandemic, does it need to come back fully in the office? Can team members work two days from home each week for better work-life balance?

Closer to home, families had more time to take walks, play board games, plan meals and simply be. While that, too, became overwhelming at times, let's not rush back into the daily grind where we are all too busy to have meaningful time together.

As we return to a new normal, what will you keep from the past year?

Letters policy

Letters to the editor may be sent to news@thenewsleaders.com. Deadline is noon Monday. Please include your full name for publication (and address and phone number for verification only.) Letters must be 350 words or less. We reserve the right to edit for space.

A year of COVID, a year of lessons learned

During a recent Sunday student mass at St. John's University, I was reminded of an important fact. It has now been more than a year since college students were sent home in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic that has swept the world. As we look forward to an eventual end to this crisis, I wanted to reflect on what a year of COVID-19 has done. It has shown us the worst of what can happen, but it also has shown us the best of what people can do in the face of adversity. While I look forward to putting this episode behind us, I know I have certainly learned lessons from it, and I hope our society as a whole does as well.

This year has felt like an eternity. The week that we were sent home, I clearly remember daily activities and events going on as usual. While COVID was on the radar of an avid newswatcher, it was only a passing topic of conversation for most college students. On the night of Wednesday, March 11, there was news that universities were starting to cancel classes and send students home. Then the basketball game my roommate and I sat down to watch that night was postponed. And the next day we were being told we would need to start leaving campus on Friday.

In a whirlwind week, I had gone from having the sophomore college experience to being back at home and taking classes online to finish out the spring semester. It felt like being back

Connor Kockler

Guest Writer



in high school again, having my class schedule, family activities and then doing homework at the same desk where I'd done so for all my classes years ago. Mask wearing, social distancing, virtual meetings, the horrific daily numbers of infected and dead showing up on screens all gradually became the norm for us over time. I made the best of it, interning online during the summer, doing virtual networking and staying productive in online classes. Despite all the complexities of this past year, I feel like it will make me a stronger student and worker in the future because of how we've all had to adapt.

While I have learned my own personal lessons from this, I would expect as a nation we have also learned lessons that can prevent something like this from happening again. After more than 500,000 dead and millions infected, we can no longer treat the threat of pandemics as something that can be ignored or neglected in government preparedness. The rapid spread of the disease across the country despite pleadings by health officials to follow basic safety precautions like wearing masks and distancing

shows just how much pain we could have been saved just by being more thoughtful and careful. Just how fragile our economy is that tens of millions were put out of work, and trillions of dollars in aid needed to be passed just to keep families afloat during this crisis shows we should take steps to create a stronger social safety net.

The efforts of all of the healthcare workers, scientists and government officials who have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to ensure people receive proper treatment, and coordinate the distribution of supplies and vaccines should also be highly celebrated. Despite a rising case count and their advice often unheeded, they have shown up to work every day to keep us safe. Going forward, we should recognize these efforts, especially by signing up for a vaccination when we are eligible, to protect ourselves and everyone around us.

While this has been a tough year, I hope it has shown us a way forward to prevent future pandemics from doing as much damage as COVID-19 has. Overall, we should know now without a doubt that we are all in this together. The actions we take strongly affect the people around us. Moving forward, we should be sure to keep that front of mind.

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

Work begins on our new state budget

The Legislature's top priority for the 2021 session is to set a new state budget for the next two-year cycle before adjourning in late May.

Formal work on this issue is just beginning now that we have received the February economic forecast for our state. That report from Minnesota Management & Budget projects a \$1.6 billion surplus for the 2022-23 biennium, a rather pronounced departure from the \$1.3 billion shortfall projected in December for the same period – representing nearly a \$3 billion reversal.

This turnaround, MMB said is largely linked to federal actions that have emerged since the last full forecast was issued in November. Higher revenue forecast, lower state spending and an increased surplus for the current fiscal year also are contributing factors.

The one consistent message I have received from constituents in response to this budget news is: "Good. Don't raise our taxes."

That said, the governor started the budget-negotiating process earlier this year by proposing a \$1.7-billion tax increase and \$52.4 billion in state spending. His plan would give Minnesota the nation's second-highest business tax and third-highest income tax rates.

The governor now is expected to produce a revised budget plan which

Lisa

Demuth

State Representative



accounts for the new economic data we received. I hope he rethinks his position on raising the taxes of Minnesota workers at a time we are seeking economic recovery. This is especially unnecessary considering the state's \$1.6-billion surplus.

In the meantime, the House and Senate majorities soon will be coming out with their own respective budget proposals. Our focus should be on providing taxpayers with relief and security as we work toward safely reopening our state and revitalizing our post-pandemic economy.

Let's help businesses and families that have been impacted during the pandemic get back on their feet from the financial hardships they've experienced. Tax increases are unnecessary, would be detrimental to regrowing our economy and should be set aside during negotiations.

As we build toward overall budget agreement in late May, more immediate action is needed to spare more than 102,000 businesses throughout Minnesota from owing state taxes on forgivable emergency loans recently

issued by the federal government.

According to the Tax Foundation, Minnesota is the only state in the Upper Midwest that has yet to exempt forgiven Paycheck Protection Plan loan income from state income taxes. It is unconscionable for the state to skim tax dollars off federal PPP loans, offered as lifelines for businesses to keep employees on the payroll as COVID-19 and related state restrictions stifled their operations.

House Republicans are on board with making this change, the DFL chairman on taxes, has expressed support, the governor said he is open to the idea and Senate Republicans conducted a hearing to discuss the issue. It's time to get this done and spare our workers from this added headache.

The budget-setting process will be a lengthy one and I look forward to the work in these atypical times. Information will continue to be received to help shape our decisions. For example, as our children return to school, I look forward to learning whether – and/or to what degree – students have experienced setbacks in learning during the last year so we can respond accordingly.

I welcome thoughts and ideas from constituents as we continue working to achieve agreement on a budget before the end of May.

The best way to reach me is by emailing rep.lisa.demuth@house.mn.

Have an opinion? Share it: news@thenewsleaders.com

Stearns County walk-in services now available for tab renewals

Walk-in services for tab renewals are now available at both Stearns County license centers.

All other license-center services can be done by appointment, drop box, mail, online or phone.

Appointments can be scheduled up to two weeks in advance for marriage licenses,

birth and death certificates, ordination filings, notary filings, property-tax payments, title transfers, driver’s license and identification and disability-parking applications.

Services also are available through the license center drive-through at the Stearns County Service Center. Drive-through hours are extended

at this time, opening at 7 a.m. and closing at 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Due to high demand, customers need to be in line by 3 p.m. to get services.

“Although the doors aren’t fully open, it is still a priority for us to complete these services just as efficiently,” said Stearns County Auditor-Treasurer Randy Schreifels.

Letters to the editor

Thank you students, families, colleagues. Stay in touch.

Brenda Levinski (aka Ms. Brenda) St. Joseph

Life (and work) is about the experience along the way and the people with whom we share a path or a connection.

I started working at Avon Elementary in June of 1999. Marcy Heinen was retiring at the time and leaving a rich history of service and dedication to live up to!

After my recent retirement, I want to say it has been a privilege and a pleasure making some very special connections and memories working in a school for more than 20 years.

Some of my favorites that come instantly to mind: the elementary student who insisted his mother circle the Sam’s Club parking lot, so he could

roll down his window and say hello as I was putting things in the trunk of my car. The therapist who was working with my mom in the hospital and asked, “Aren’t you Ms. Brenda from Avon Elementary?” It turns out she was one of the first students I came to know; as she worked with my mom, it was a pleasure to reconnect and then get a hug as she left. Another student I crossed paths with at a grocery store was a sophomore, but I hadn’t seen him since sixth grade. Luckily I recognized the smile in his eyes immediately — which was a blessing since he was now a tall young man with a beard.

I also remember all the families, teachers, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, custodians, cooks and other administrative assistants that have cared, befriended and helped me be a better worker, person and friend.

I think I’ll let the dust settle for a bit and then do some volunteer work, go fishing with my grandson, driving with my granddaughter and continue making Sunday suppers for my family and then afterward challenging them to our favorite games. I think I’d like to find a part-time position doing proof-reading or transcribing, so I can continue to donate to help others and enjoy the opportunities that make life great.

So thank you very much to the students, families and staff who shared my path at Avon Elementary and Albany Area Schools with such bright connections of love, laughter, hugs and many happy tears.

I’ll miss you! Please say hello when you see me, even if you might have to remind me of your name – remember I’m getting old!

Take care, be kind.

as settled science that Mark Twain warned us about, and it is still going on today.

The oil industry is not dying and not in need of taxpayer subsidization as is so called “green” energy. Tar sands oil is the same type of oil we used to import in large amounts from Venezuela. If we don’t buy Canadian oil, China will. Better we have a stable supply of Canadian oil than to be dependent on hostile nations. How ironic that if mankind would have accidentally made that tar sands mess, we would be expected to clean it up, since that oil naturally seeps into the local rivers.

There is no “climate crisis,” (it’s politics). The average temperature in St. Cloud from 1900 to 1939 was 43.045. The most recent 40 years the average was 42.97. Thankfully our temps are warmer now than in the

Little Ice Age of the 1600s when crop failures were common.

A recent study by independent scientist Dr. Indur Goklany of the Global Warming Policy Foundation found there is no climate emergency. “Hurricanes more intense or frequent – No. Tornadoes increase and become more intense – No. Floods more frequent and more intense – No. Droughts more frequent and intense – No. Area burned by wildfire increasing – No (peaked in mid-19th century). Cereal yields decreasing – No (they tripled since 1961). Food supplies decreasing – No. Land area/beaches shrinking – No (marginal expansion).”

Pipelines are safer than oil trains and new pipelines are safer than old ones so I’m in favor of a new line 3.

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: Saint Cloud School of Music.
2. The stated address of the principal place of business is or will be: 627 Ninth Ave. N., St. Cloud, Minn. 56303.
3. The name and street address of all persons conducting business under the above assumed name including any corporations that may be conducting this business: Quad City School of Music, 627 Ninth Ave. N., St. Cloud, Minn. 56303.

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

Dated: March 23, 2020

Filed: March 23, 2020

/s/ Kaitlin Palermo

Publish: March 19 & April 5, 2021

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: Prime Athletics.
2. The stated address of the principal place of business is or will be: 35125 95th Ave., St. Joseph, MN 56374.
3. The name and street address of all persons conducting business under the above assumed name including any corporations that may be conducting this business: Grant A. Christman, 35125 95th Ave., St. Joseph, MN 56374.

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: March 9, 2021

Filed: March 9, 2021

/s/ Grant Christman

Publish: March 19 & April 5, 2021

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF ST. STEPHEN ADVERTISEMENT OF BIDS: PARKS LAWN MOWING

The City of St. Stephen is now accepting bids for the mowing of its parks for the year 2021. The City will accept bids from today until 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

The following information should be included in the bid: Company name, address, phone number and proof of insurance.

Mowing, trimming and blowing of grass is required at all sites. Mowing will be timed so the length of the grass is maintained at a height of approximately 2-1/2 inches to 5 inches, but under no circumstances will mowing occur more than six (6) times in a calendar month, unless prior authorization is granted by the Mayor or a designated Council member. In addition to mowing, please include pricing for fertilizing the Smoley ball fields along with spraying the fence lines of the ball fields.

The following properties are to be maintained:

Ponds Edge Park: Fifth Avenue SE
Hlebain Park: 504 First St. SE
Parkway Park: 606 First St. NE
Smoley Fields (Upper & Lower): 25 Fifth St. NE
City Hall: 2 Sixth Ave. SE
City Garage: 14th Avenue SE
(This is NOT to be mowed weekly. A monthly/bi-monthly per cut amount can be prepared)

Please provide a per cut amount for each property listed above.

Please submit a bid sheet to: City of St. Stephen, ATTN: CITY CLERK, 2 Sixth Ave. SE, St. Stephen, MN 56375. Please mark your envelope: Lawn Mowing Bid 2021.

Bids will be opened during the April City Council Meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 1, 2021.

/s/ Julie Jacobs, City Clerk

Dated: March 19, 2021

Publish: March 19, 2021

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Beginner Investing Tips

If you’re saving every extra penny that you accumulate, you may be hindering your financial security.

Making substantial investments is a great way to pad your retirement or sometimes become a full-time job. While the risks are real in the investment world, the rewards are greater once you understand the ropes.

Before committing to investing in property, stocks, or new opportunities, you can avoid monetary ruin by speaking with a financial advisor. An expert can guide you through the intricacies of investing and help measure the risks. Check out these other tips from financing experts to get the most value for your dollar.

TERMINOLOGY

To become more accustomed to the vocabulary you should expect as you begin investing, check out these standard terms as defined by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. The more you educate yourself, the more confidence you’ll have in more effectively managing your money.

- **Accrued interest:** interest earned on a security but not yet paid to the investor.
- **Compound Interest:** Interest paid on principal and accumulated interest.
- **Conversion:** a feature some funds offer that allows investors



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tors to switch from one fund class to another automatically.

TIME IS MONEY

While it’s never too late to begin investing, those with time on their side can find more success than someone who starts later. The benefit of compound interest can really

add up over time. For instance, a study by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis shows that a 25-year-old who invests \$5,000 per year by compounding interest at a rate of 8% will accumulate \$787,180 by age 65.

In contrast, a 35-year-old who invests the same amount

will gather \$611,730 in the same time frame under the 8% term.

SPREAD THE WEALTH

Don’t limit yourself to investing in one market. It’s easy to put your faith in an industry that proved to be successful but avoiding other high-paying

niches can inhibit your financial growth. Create a friendly banter with your financial adviser and be honest about your investing vision.

A proven expert can analyze the markets and give you real-time advice on which moves make the most sense and provide a sizable return.

New, limited-time, competitive CD rates have arrived.

36-MONTH CD

0.70% APY*

\$2,500 MINIMUM

48-MONTH CD

0.80% APY*

\$2,500 MINIMUM

60-MONTH CD

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\$2,500 MINIMUM

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*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is effective as of 01/18/2021 and subject to change without notice. Penalty for early withdrawal. Limited time offer. The minimum balance to open an account and obtain the APY is \$2,500.