

SHERIFF

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the support of deputies in the sheriff's department, as well as his fellow officers in the International Falls Police Department, was critical to his victory.

"It was important to have the support of the guys because I'll be working with both groups as sheriff," Hedlund said. "It also helped to have them spread the word to their family and friends, and help drum up support."

Hedlund takes over as sheriff on Jan. 1, but in the meantime, he said he currently doesn't have any plans for the interim period.

"Brian is still the sheriff for the next two months, so I don't want to step on his toes," Hedlund said. "I'm not sure what the transition will be like yet, but I'm looking forward to it."

Thursday, Jespersen said elections can be unpredictable.

"The people have spoken and that's an election," Jespersen said.

Despite the loss, Jespersen said he's thankful and appreciative of the support shown by voters in the election.

"It's been a great 27-year career I have had here," Jespersen said. "I have enjoyed working with everyone."

The unofficial results in the county sheriff race were Hedlund winning with 2,780 votes to Jespersen's 2,519 votes, a margin of 261 votes. The county canvassed their votes Friday, and the State Canvassing Board will meet to canvass the votes Nov. 25, at which point, the results will become official.



Perryn Hedlund



Brian Jespersen

ELECTION

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Charles C. Lepper, who received 421 votes, and Joann Smith, who garnered 107 votes.

Jaksa said she will work to earn the support of each resident and will door-knock areas of her ward to find out what residents are thinking about city government.

"I will particularly reach out to people who have questioned past council decisions," she told The Journal in an email. "I am looking forward to working with the council-elect as a fresh opportunity to put old divisions aside and begin anew on the work of improving our lives as city residents."

Jaksa said she believes her reelection means the majority of voters in the West Ward "wanted their representative to be an independent voice who is looking for solutions to reducing the cost of city services while growing our tax base through economic development and still improving infrastructure."

She said she believes the majority of voters know only growth will permanently reduce costs of city services to an individual resident.

Jaksa said she will complete unfinished work in her next term. She pointed to, among others plans, enforcing the rental licensing and inspection ordinance and adopting an international property maintenance code which will provide the tools to enforce safety, health and blight standards.

She said she will propose creation of a housing and building committee that includes landlords, tenants, homeowners, business owners and city officials "to proactively deal with blight, rehabilitation of buildings, revitalization of neighborhoods and other housing issues."

Jaksa also points to her participation in the Voyage Forward initiative established after job reductions at Boise Paper mill. "It is time to unite around

a good, sturdy plan to turn our economy around," she said. "I am confident that once the citizen stewards of Voyage Forward provide us with their plan for economic development and the community engagement to work the plan and most importantly the long-term commitment to keep working the plan, that we will have the focused energy we need to succeed in growing our economy and achieve unity of purpose."

Center Ward voters elected Harley Droba to be seated in January with 347 votes. Candidate Joe Schwartz received 296 votes. Droba will take the seat vacated by Councilor Gail Rognerud, who did not seek reelection.

Droba said he attributes his win to residents who "truly want change and I showed though my campaign that I was the best option for change in Center Ward. The one thing that will be consistent throughout my term will be hard work, determination and a drive to create business and jobs in the area."

He and Schwartz ran determined campaigns, providing voters with information at their doorsteps, but in the end he said he believes "voters want a business creator at the helm and my materials explained in detail why that is me."

Droba discussed the council makeup. "Councilor-elect (Brian) Briggs has served our city in the past and Councilor Jaksa has been reelected. I am the newest member of a council rounded out by Councilor (Pete) Kalar and Mayor (Bob) Anderson. We as a team may not always agree on issues but I believe we can work with a mutual respect and continual focus of the future of International Falls."

The East Ward seat on the council will be filled by Brian Briggs, who received 437 votes, compared to the 254 votes cast for candidate Leon Ditsch. Briggs will be seated in January when Councilor Paul Eklund, who did not see reelection, leaves the post.

Minnesota House District 3A

District wide, incumbent Rep. David Dill, DFL received 12,071 votes, or 65.5 percent, with Republican newcomer Eric Johnson receiving 6,297, or 34.19 percent.

In Koochiching County, Dill garnered 3,206 votes, or 60.58 percent, with Johnson receiving 2,083 votes, or 39.36 percent.

Johnson said Wednesday he didn't know if he'd do anything differently in the campaign knowing the results.

"We worked our tails off. We spread a good message and touched as many voters as we could in a very large district," Johnson said. "I don't think it much matters how hard you campaign, it comes down to the little letter you have behind your name."

He said Wednesday he hasn't decided whether he would seek office again. "It's too early to tell, but I am not packing up my bags and moving out," he said. "This is my home and will always be my home. I will keep fighting for what's best for International Falls and Koochiching County. Today, I am going to a Voyage Forward meeting and working on putting folks back to work. I doubt if we will see my opponent there."

Dill said he was satisfied with the results of the election and believes his win reflects the feelings of voters about the 12 years he has served in the Legislature.

He said he looks forward to the next two-year term and will be seeking help from constituents on developing solutions to the issues challenging the district.

Handling requirements for disturbance of wetlands is a daunting part any economic development in Koochiching County, he said. And, he said he's always looking to improve the outdoors opportunities, including hunting and fishing, in the district.

The campaign allowed Dill to hear concerns and ideas for improvements in

the district, he said. Among the issues he heard about and will consider involve all-terrain vehicles, bear season, deer baiting, and expiration of tickets to cross the International Bridge. He said he's had a rash of calls in the last two weeks about MnSure and how the federal tax credit works.

Dill said he was impressed with the high voter turnout for the midterm election and attributes some of that to contested races for International Falls City Council and Koochiching County sheriff.

And he said he said he was happy with the results of his race, particularly in International Falls, where he said he won by a 2-1 margin over Johnson.

"It's somewhat recognition of my work and knowledge for what I have been, not doing for them, but doing with them," he said of voters. He urged constituents to keep him abreast of issues impacting the district by calling him at 218-780-2278 or emailing to rep.david.dill@house.mn.

While he said it will be interesting to see the direction the new Republican House leadership takes, it shouldn't pose any issues to Dill getting things done for the district.

"I am very well accepted by the Republican caucus in terms of someone who they can work with," he said. "When the Republicans have control of the House, there is not a whole lot of difference in outcomes for what I can get done for folks."

Governor

Incumbent Gov. Mark Dayton and running mate Tina Smith, DFL, carried Koochiching County with 3,056, or 57.69 percent of the county votes, to the 1,902 Koochiching votes, or 35.91 percent, cast for Republican Jeff Johnson and Bill Kuisle.

Koochiching County voters favored DFL candidates over Republican candidates in races for secretary of state, state auditor, and attorney general.

Federal

In the U.S. House 8th

District, incumbents and DFLers Sen. Al Franken and Rep. Rick Nolan were returned to office.

Franken carried Koochiching County with 3,109 votes, or 58.09 percent, to Republican Mike McFadden's 1,935 votes, or 36.17 percent.

Nolan also carried Koochiching County with 2,779 votes, or 52.01 percent, to newcomer Republican Stewart Mills, who received 2,364 Koochiching votes, or 44.24 percent.

Nolan thanked Mills for the hard-fought campaign he ran.

"We hold very different views on the best path forward, but despite our differences I have great respect for anyone who is willing to step up and fight for what they believe," said Nolan Tuesday night.

Nolan said the race was about "a choice. A choice between the middle class and the rich and powerful. A choice about the right way to rebuild America."

Mills Wednesday recognized opponents Nolan and Ray 'Skip' Sandman. "They're both good men who really care about Minnesota and our country, and it was an honor to run with them," he said. "While we ultimately weren't successful, I think this race brought up a lot of issues that matter to the voters. It is my sincere hope that Congressman Nolan works over the next two years to address the real concerns that many people in our part of Minnesota have brought up over the last year, and that he works to represent every voice in the 8th District."

Franken in a speech Tuesday night recognized the effort campaigns require.

"Whether you're a Democrat or a Republican, everyone who steps up to run for office - or gives their time and energy to help them - experiences a lot of the same ups and downs," he said. "And it's a reminder that, although we might not always agree, we're all in this together - all working as hard as we can to fight for the things we believe in."

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THANK YOU

for your vote on
November 4th!
I'm looking forward to serving another
4 years as County Recorder.

*Blessings to you all,
Pam Rooney*

Paid for by the candidate on her own behalf. 3534 Lindford Rd. Littlefork MN

CONGRATULATIONS!

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH ANNOUNCED AT INDUS

The following students have been named "Students of the Month" at Indus School based on their exemplary behavior and attitudes, academic achievement or special achievement, and uniqueness. Four students are chosen from these groupings on a monthly basis: Grades 10-12, Grades 7-9, Grades 4-6, Grades K-3.

Students recognized in April for March are:

Hattie Ulrich

Hattie Ulrich: Hattie was nominated by 3rd grade teacher Mrs. Talmage. She writes "I nominate Hattie Ulrich for Student of the Month. Hattie is a hard worker whose perseverance pays off. She is never afraid to ask questions, and is very thorough in completing assignments. These characteristics have made her a student ready to tackle anything that comes her way!"

Colyn Peterson

Colyn Peterson: Colyn was nominated by his teacher, Mrs. Talmage, who writes "Colyn is a determined student who never gives up! He likes to contribute to class discussions, and will answer questions even if he's not sure of the answer...he's always willing to put himself out there! He is a thoughtful classmate and is eager to help a peer, his teacher, or anyone else who might need it."

High School Students of the Month are:

Danny Patch

Danny Patch: Danny was nominated by Mr. Feininger. "Through the first month of school, Danny has turned into a real leader in our high school. He is taking his academics more seriously than he has in past years and the evidence is in his current grades as well as his stated goal to consistently make the "B" honor roll. Danny has also excelled on the Cross-Country team, and has taken an active role in team leadership by being one of the hardest workers on the team. Danny leads by example and is growing into quite the young man."

Alexandra Knoff

Alexandra Knoff: Alex was nominated by Mr. VanDamme. "I would like to nominate Alex Knoff as Student of the Month. Alex is my 1A and was the only senior on the volleyball team this year. As a teacher's aide, she is very efficient at getting what I ask of her done and then quietly transitioning to work on projects or homework from other classes or helping in the library. On the volleyball team, Alex was a vocal role model. She regularly goes above and beyond what is asked of her and actively teaches position and skills to her younger teammates."

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