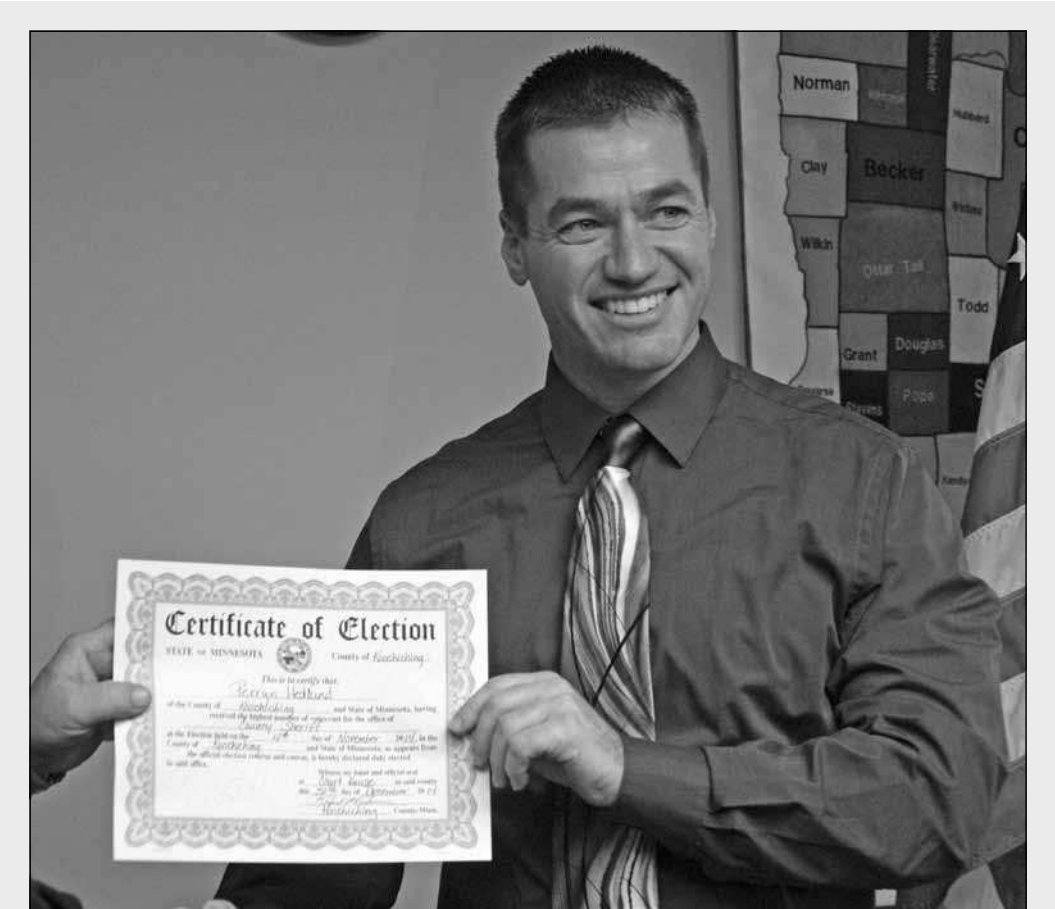


# LOCALNEWS



STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

Koochiching County Sheriff Perryn Hedlund poses with a certificate of election last week. Hedlund defeated former Sheriff Brian Jespersen during the Nov. 4 election.

## New sheriff in town

Perryn Hedlund took over as the new Koochiching County sheriff at 12:01 a.m. Jan. 1. The new sheriff was sworn in before several family members, friends and colleagues Dec. 31.



Koochiching County Auditor/Treasurer Bob Peterson, left, swears in Perryn Hedlund, the county's newly-elected sheriff, Dec. 31.

## NEW YEAR, FAMILIAR FACES



STAFF PHOTO BY SPENSER BICKETT

Koochiching County commissioners, from the left, Rob Ecklund, Kevin Adee and Wade Pavleck are sworn in during Tuesday's county board meeting, the first of 2015. All three members won reelection bids in November's general election.

## This year expected to have better gas prices than 2014

### JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Average retail gasoline prices in Minnesota have fallen 13.8 cents in the past week, averaging \$2.01 per gallon Sunday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 2,856 gas outlets in Minnesota. This compares with the national average that has decreased 7.7 cents in the last week to \$2.28 per gallon, according to gasoline price website MinnesotaGasPrices.com.

Regular gas prices in International Falls averaged \$1.89 this week.

Including the change in gas prices in Minnesota during the past week, prices

Sunday were 122.1 cents per gallon lower compared to the same day one year ago and are 57.6 cents per gallon lower than a month ago. The national average has decreased 52.8 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 112.7 cents per gallon lower than this day one year ago.

"As we've welcomed in the new year, gas prices have stayed at their bargain basement levels in most states, with just a few seeing minor gas tax increases," said Patrick DeHaan, senior petroleum analyst with GasBuddy. "2015 will be a far better year at the pump than what

we saw in 2014, and motorists will fare substantially better, shelling out \$96 billion less this year at the gas pump with motorists in most states seeing far more \$2 gas than \$3 gas."

"And while gasoline consumers have been celebrating, diesel consumers have been slowly joining the party, with diesel prices declining an average 44 cents per gallon in the last month. And while the party is nearing an end for falling gasoline prices, the diesel price decline has much catching up to do. I see diesel prices declining another 35-50 cents a gallon nationally," DeHaan noted.

Guess who's Golden Birthday is on the 8th?  
**Happiest of Birthdays Kale**

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