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St. Joseph Newsleader

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Friday, Feb. 9, 2018
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Town Crier

Hike Hoppers hosts Park Blast in February

Hike Hoppers is hosting a free month-long outdoor scavenger hunt. Park Blast will be held from dawn to dusk through Feb. 28 at all Stearns County Parks including Kraemer Lake, Mississippi River, Quarry, Miller's Landing, Warner Lake, Rockville, Two Rivers and Spring Hill. Participants engage in discovering prize codes while hiking through local parks. For more information or to register, visit hikehoppers.org.

Park, Rec to hold ABC Kinder Olympix

St. Cloud Park and Rec hosts ABC Kinder Olympix, for children 6 and under and their families, from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 17 at Whitney Recreation Center, 1529 Northway Drive, St. Cloud. Explore letters and numbers while being active with your children. Activities include: inflatables, arts and crafts, obstacle course, alphabet games, healthy snacks and much more. For more information, visit ci.stcloud.mn.us or find us on Facebook.

Fare for All set Feb. 12

Fare for All, a budget-stretching program that allows people to save up to 40 percent off fresh fruits, vegetables and frozen meats, will be held from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 12, at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2, St. Joseph. Distribution is once a month. February Hot Buys are Smithfield Pork Riblets and Honeysuckle Ground Turkey. This event is open to everyone. Cash, credit, debit cards and EBT cards are accepted. For more information please visit our website at fareforall.org or call 800-582-4291.

Sartell hockey conducts raffle

The Sartell Youth Hockey Association is now conducting a raffle with a grand prize of \$2,699.99; 100 winners will receive St. Cloud Scheels gift cards for any merchandise in the store. There is a 1 in 20 chance of winning. Tickets may be purchased at both Blue Line Bar & Grill locations and the Firing Line Indoor Range and Gun Shop. For more information, visit sartellhockeyraffle.com.

German exchange student to speak at community center

The Sartell Senior Connection will host Maria Metzmacher, a high school senior foreign exchange student from Germany, at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13 at the at the Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Learn about her experiences as a student at Sartell High School.

INSERT:
Batteries Plus Bulbs

Council asked to declare St. Joseph welcoming, inclusive

by Dave DeMars
news@thenewsleaders.com

About 75 residents and students packed the Feb. 5 St. Joseph City Council meeting to ask the council to pass a resolution declaring St. Joseph “a welcoming and inclusive community.”

Raj Chaphalkar, spokesperson for Cultural Bridges and a self-identified member of the staff of St. John's University outlined the group's purpose saying “St. Joseph is already a welcoming and wonderful place to live.”

“We want everyone who moves into our town for any reason to feel about it the way we do,” Chaphalkar said, who spoke during the public comments portion of the meeting. “A sense of belonging, stability, love and pride that allows us to call St. Joseph our home.”

Chaphalkar said one aspect of the council's responsibility as elected leaders of the city is to set a tone and set forth the values of the city. His address to the council did not men-

tion specifically the white nationalist posters recently posted along the streets of St. Joseph.

“Some people might mistake silence on this point as passive acceptance of sometimes hurtful rhetoric, or they misinterpret silence as a lack of caring for safety,” said Chaphalkar. “Of course we all know that is not the truth.”

Chaphalkar acknowledged the presence of reporters in the audience, but said his group had not called the press, nor was it the group's intention to pressure the city council in any way. He hoped rather the group's action might be interpreted as a desire for conversation about St. Joseph as a welcoming community.

Chaphalkar presented a draft resolution as a way for the city council to affirm the values listed in the resolution. The resolution was endorsed by a dozen local groups including the Church of St. Joseph, Resurrection Lutheran Church, College of St. Benedict, St. John's University, St. Benedict's Monastery, Central



photo by Dave DeMars

An overflow crowd packs the St. Joseph City Council chambers for the Feb. 5 meeting. Many of the attendees are members of a community action group called Cultural Bridges who has asked for a council resolution affirming St. Joseph is a “welcoming community.” The action was in response to the posting of white nationalist signs in St. Joseph several weeks ago.

Minnesota Catholic Worker Organization, Central Minnesota Community Empowerment Organization and others.

Eleven other speakers addressed the council, each one echoing many of the views Chaphalkar outlined. Among them was Margy Hughes, a longtime resident and member of the

St. Joseph Action Group, who added it was always a goal of her group that St. Joseph become a place of destination for shopping and dining, and in order to achieve that goal, it's important St. Joseph be welcoming. She urged the council to adopt the resolution.

Council • page 3

Parent group creates camaraderie in St. Joseph

by Mollie Rushmeyer
news@thenewsleaders.com

A sense of belonging and having confidantes in the sometimes turbulent waters of parenthood is important for many moms and dads. That's why Lisa Wolf of St. Joseph decided to create her own parent group, St. Joseph Parish Family Fun, when she moved to Minnesota from Wisconsin last year.

“I was involved in a parent co-op and moms' groups in Wisconsin, but I didn't have that here,” Wolf said.

Wolf, a licensed marriage and family therapist, said she searched around St. Joseph, but couldn't find what she was looking for. She no-

ticed lots of great work being done with other stages of life, such as seniors, and wondered how she could get families with children together.

In her work as a therapist, she said she frequently asked people, “Where is your support?”

“We need that support in our lives in order to be a healthy person,” Wolf said.

And now that she stays home with her five children — ages 2 months, 2, 5, 7 and 9 — she said she felt she needed support and adult conversation more than ever. She also wanted to provide that to other parents. So she created St. Joseph Parish Family Fun which meets every other Friday for parents

and caregivers of young children. Though the group has met at St. Joseph Parish Heritage Hall, during warmer months, it is not affiliated or sponsored by the church.

The benefits of her group, currently meeting in her home, are its relaxed environment, such as getting together for coffee with friends, with no fees or commitment. Though there are planned topics Wolf presents to the group, it's very much a group-led discussion, she said. So far they've discussed things such as how to communicate with in-laws, moms' birth stories, finances as well as a variety of parenting topics.

“I enjoy talking about parenting, listening to others, building commu-

nity and partaking in life's adventures with those around me,” Wolf said.

She said she recognizes how much support she needs to be a strong and healthy parent, and wanted others to feel like they had a place they could go to form a circle of support while having fun together.

She does want people to be aware her faith is a part of why she started this group, and religion may come up as it pertains to parenting or life in general.

“I also believe parenting can be enhanced by one's beliefs, so integrating the idea this community is open to prayer, or discussing religion

Parents • page 3



contributed photo

Participants are shown at a past St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club ice-fishing contest on Kraemer Lake. The 25th annual ice fishing contest will be held from noon-2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17 on Kraemer Lake, 12857 County Road 51, St. Joseph. The event includes more than \$3,000 in prizes.

25th ice-fishing contest set Feb. 17 at Kraemer Lake

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

For area fishing enthusiasts, it's time to get your jiggle sticks ready for the annual St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club fishing contest.

The 25th annual ice fishing contest will be held from noon-2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17 on Kraemer Lake.

The event includes more than \$3,000 in prizes. Pan-fish and game-fish payouts include \$200

for first place, \$150 for second place and \$100 for third place. Other fish qualify for 20 \$20 cash drawings.

The first 200 children, age 15 and under, with a valid ticket will receive free ice-fishing gear.

Five grand-prize drawings include a free overnight fish-house rental for four people on Upper Red Lake, a CLAM Kenai Pro Thermal fish house, a CLAM Big Foot XL fish house and an HT Polar Fire XT Power

Ice • back page

Obituary

Darlene Ann Bechtold
St. Joseph, MN
Jan. 3, 1940-Feb. 5, 2018



Mass of Christian Burial will be on Saturday, Feb. 10, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in St. Joseph for Darlene Ann Bechtold, 78, of St. Joseph, who died on Monday at St. Cloud Hospital as a result of a traumatic stroke suffered on Sunday. The Rev Jerome Tupa OSB will officiate. Burial will be in the parish cemetery. Friends may call on Friday between 4-8 p.m. and on Saturday after 9 a.m. at St. Joseph Heritage Hall in St. Joseph.

Darlene was very active in her church and school. She loved children, but will always be remembered for her love of her husband and her family.

Darlene was born Jan. 3, 1940, to Peter and Agnes (Zimmer) Kosel. She married Herbert Bechtold on May 7, 1960, at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in St. Joseph. Darlene lived in St. Joseph most of her life where she provided day care services for 28 years for many chil-

dren. Grandma Darlene was a foster grandparent at Kennedy School for 12 years. She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church and senior citizens. Darlene was a member of St. Joseph TOPS for 33 years.

Survivors include her husband Herb, children, Brian Bechtold (Kirsten) Sartell; Bruce Bechtold (Pat) St. Joseph; Bradley Bechtold (Jane) Sauk Rapids; daughter-in-law Nicole Bechtold, Holdingford; grandchildren, Brianna (Al Flannigan), Spencer, Tanner (Kia Grindland), Samuel (Carrie), Mary (Blake Bellefeuille), Ted, Kate, Kelly, Amy Gans (John); great-grandchild Cameron; sister, Karen Schloemer, Baxter; and brother, Kevin Kosel, St. Joseph.

She was preceded in death by her parents, son Brent Bechtold on Aug. 16, 2017, sister and in-laws Kathy Seifert and Al Seifert, and Gerald Schloemer.

Memorials are preferred.

The family would like to thank the employees at “The Club,” St. Joseph Rescue Squad, Gold Cross and the staff at St. Cloud Hospital for the care given to Darlene. Also, the family appreciates her special friends at the St. Joseph Police Department.

Blotter

If any readers have tips concerning crimes, they should call the St. Joseph Police Department at 320-363-8250 or Tri-County Crime Stoppers at 320-255-1301 or access its tip site at www.tricounty-crimestoppers.org. Crime Stoppers offers rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for crimes. This information is submitted by the St. Joseph Police Department.

Jan. 1

12:09 p.m. Stop-sign violation. Fourth Avenue NW and Minnesota Street W. While on routine patrol and approaching the intersection of Second Avenue NW and Minnesota Street W with a four-way stop sign, an officer spotted a vehicle drive through the stop sign. The officer activated his lights and stopped the vehicle. The driver stated she knew the road and knew the officer had pulled her over for failing to stop at the stop sign. She also stated she was distracted by her child in the back seat even though there was another adult in the back seat next to the child. A citation for failure to stop at a stop sign was given.

Jan. 2

1:01 p.m. Driving complaint. CR 75 and CR 134. An officer responded to a driving complaint of a truck swerving all over the road. The officer was able to locate the vehicle and observed his driving conduct and was able to make the stop. The driver stated he had

just had eye injections. The officer identified the driver and verified his proof of insurance and asked the driver to pull onto the off ramp to wait until his eyes cleared up. He agreed.

2:51 p.m. Hit-and-run. 21 Minnesota St. W. Officers responded to a hit-and-run that had occurred several days prior. The complainant stated his vehicle was hit while in the parking lot behind Middy. A report was made for insurance purposes.

Jan. 4

12:20 p.m. Traffic accident. 125 10th Ave. SW. A vehicle struck a fire hydrant. The officer spoke with the driver who stated he came around the corner too fast, slid on the snow-packed road and hit the hydrant.

10:30 p.m. Speed. CR 75 and CR 134. While in the turn lane on CR 75 to go north on Ridgewood Road, an officer spotted a vehicle traveling past him at a high rate of speed. The radar was activated and locked the speed of the suspected vehicle at 73 mph in a 60-mph zone. The officer stopped the vehicle which was slow to pull over. The officer immediately noticed a jar of marijuana on the front passenger floor. The drive was identified by his Minnesota license and stated it was his sister’s car. He also claimed the marijuana was not his. A vehicle search was conducted and no additional items were located. A citation for speed and marijuana in a motor vehicle was issued.

People

Jordan Lindboe of St. Joseph will graduate with an associate’s degree in veterinary technology this summer from Ridgewater College-Willmar.

Haily Schwegel of St. Joseph recently graduated with a diploma as a medical assistant from Ridgewater College-Willmar and Hutchinson.

In Business

Kelly Skalicky, daughter of Stearns Bank CEO Norm Skalicky, was recently promoted to president of the organization. As a lawyer, Skalicky provided legal counsel to Stearns Bank for more than 20 years. She has served as general counsel for the last six years. “I am humbled and honored to accept this new role. It’s a privilege and, frankly, an enormous amount of fun for me to work with my father on a daily basis, and I relish this new opportunity,” Skalicky said in a press release.

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF ST. JOSEPH
MEETING NOTICE

6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018

Purpose: Information and public input session regarding Orderly Annexation Area. Location: St. Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E.

Judy Weyrens

Administrator

Publish: Feb. 9, 2018

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Joyce Barnes**

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Dr. Jerry Wetterling

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CHURCHES

Resurrection Lutheran, ELCA
Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Worship 6:30 p.m.

610 N. CR 2, St. Joseph
320-363-4232 www.rlcstjoe.org

St. Joseph Catholic Church
Masses: Tuesday-Friday 8 a.m.
Saturday 5 p.m.

Sunday 8 & 10 a.m.
St. Joseph • 320-363-7505
www.churchstjoseph.org

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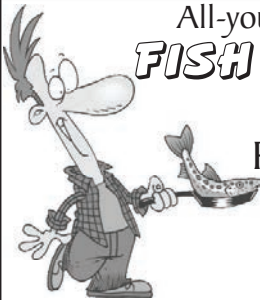
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www.stjoerodandgunclub.org

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We, the editors of this 2018 Area’s Best Business Review offer this suggestion to the people in our area: So, whether or not you need a big grocery shopping trip, get your tire changed or pick-up a prescription, do what smart shoppers do...make WALMART your one-stop shopping headquarters for the best products, the largest selection and the ultimate in everyday bargains!

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Reaching EVERYbody!

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www.thenewsleaders.com

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

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Council

from front page

Joe Grady, a community member of 54 years also spoke in glowing terms of being welcomed by neighbors and business people, though he allowed he was not an old timer in the community because he moved into the community and was not born there.

Bill Durrwachter also was supportive of the resolution but asked it be rewritten to exclude criminal behavior.

“There are too many words that spell out all, A-L-L” Durrwachter said. “Your ideas on race, religion and nationality are all well taken, but this community cannot afford to be a welcoming community to rapists, to prostitutes, to all sorts of scum on this earth. I don’t know how you’ll rewrite it, but I do hope you do.”

Each of the 11 speakers related how they felt warmly about the community, and how St. Joseph had provided a sense of safety, and that was something desirable and worth emphasizing.

The council followed its standing policy of not passing resolutions on items brought before it during the public comments portion of the meeting. But the council did depart from the norm when council member Dale Wick commented the group coming to the council this night had started the conversation within the community. While not offering a resolution, Wick took another path.

“I want to make a motion the St. Joseph City Council recognize the actions of the groups present tonight, and their efforts to continue building a friendly, inclusive and safe community for all who live, work and visit here,” Wick said.

The motion was approved with a 5-0 vote.

Other business

With the conclusion of the public comments, the council next approved the issuance and sale of equipment certificates. Tammy Omdal of Northland Securities told the council the \$265,000 of General-Ob- ligation Equipment Certificates had

been placed with Grand Marais State Bank and carried a 2.5-percent interest rate. The certificates would be redeemed during the coming five years.

City Engineer Randy Sabart provided a quick update on work proceeding on the water treatment plant. Contractors have finished coating the interior of the tanks. Things are progressing on schedule and the work should be done by the end of May.

The council received updates and information in the form of annual reports from the city administration, public works, and the fire and police departments. With few comments, the council approved the reports.

The council also made changes to two ordinances. The first was to improve the public nuisance ordinance for the removal of debris, garbage and junk by the city when the owners of the property fail to do so. The city will take necessary actions, storing the material for 20 days and charging the owners for storage. That change was approved.

The second ordinance change dealt with a fee schedule change for 27 property owners who were sewer-only users and were informed they would be required to connect to city water. Sewer fees are based on the amount of metered water used by a property. Eleven have done so, but others have not or refuse to do so. This ordinance establishes a water service fee of \$24 per month to be charged to the property owners whether they choose to connect or not.

According to City Administrator Judy Weyrens, several have water service in the home, but choose not to use it, and to avoid paying for it. This provides for uniformity and fairness in the sewer charges. Council approved fee changes.

Weyrens also provided the council with a brief discussion of the Orderly Annexation Agreement in preparation for the Feb. 15 open meeting with the public.

Council approved Mayor Rick Schultz’s appointments for the various commissions and committees.

Council also approved Wick as the acting mayor when Schultz may not be available to fulfill those duties.

Parents

from front page

around parenting is also important,” she said. “We do not exclude people based on religion, but people should know a discussion around religion may take place.”

She said one of the most helpful tools for all of the two to five families usually in attendance has been learning parenting styles and techniques simply by watching each other. This has lent itself to a camaraderie among members and, in this safe environment of nonjudgment, helped those struggling with certain

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Dated: Jan. 15, 2018

Filed: Jan. 15, 2018

/s/ Jared Churchill

Publish: Feb. 2 and 9, 2018

parenting areas to come together to find positive solutions.

“We model parenting to each other,” Wolf said. “In a group setting, we can feel safe to suggest parenting tips or work together to figure something out.”

Over time, she has seen the trust naturally build between people when they know each other, know their good intentions and encourage one another to be the best parents possible.

Her goals are to grow the group but let it evolve in the manner the members want it to. Ultimate-

ly, she said, she would love to get across that everyone’s welcome, any caregivers of young children.

“If they’re worried about coming, it feels intimidating and a conversation would help, call me,” she said.

The next meetings are scheduled for Feb. 16, March 2 and March 23 from 9:30-11 a.m. at Wolf’s house where she assures she has toys for all ages and coffee for the adults.

For further information, people can call Wolf at 608-345-1938 or visit the group’s Facebook page under St. Joseph Parish Family Fun.



contributed photo

The St. Joseph Parish Family Fun parenting group brings friendship and fun for its little members like Camille Inglesby (center), 11 months, of Avon and its adult members like Melissa Woods (left) of St. Joseph, who’s holding 9-week-old Ivan Wolf of St. Joseph while standing next to Anna Merkle of Avon.

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3rd SATURDAY

Saturday, Feb. 17

NOON-2:30 P.M. • KRAEMER LAKE

Tickets: \$15 Advanced (Until 6 p.m., Feb. 16)
\$20 At The Lake

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or online at www.stjoerodandgundclub.org

FOR INFORMATION CALL 320-363-8803 or 320-251-2881

ALL STATE LAWS APPLY


PUBLIC NOTICE

Stearns County HRA will accept pre-applications for the 3 BR St. Joseph project-based rental housing waiting list starting Jan. 29, 2018 and until further notice.

Pre-application forms can be picked up at the Stearns County HRA office.

401 West Wind Court
Cold Spring MN

Or call 320-685-7771



EQUAL HOUSING
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St. John the Baptist
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Just west of St. John's University Campus
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Fridays, Feb. 16
& Feb. 23
4-7 p.m.

Fish Fry

Tickets at the door:


Adults: \$12, Children (ages 5-10): \$5
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320-363-2569

Menu: Fried fish, macaroni & cheese,
baked potatoes, beans, coleslaw, bread,
dessert buffet and beverages

Take out available.

Our dining room is handicap accessible.



ASH WEDNESDAY
Worship Services

Wednesday, Feb. 14
5 & 6:30 p.m.

Resurrection Lutheran Church

610 N. Co. Rd. 2 • St. Joseph • 320-363-4232

www.rlcstjoe.com

The must dos for couples saying ‘I do’ in 2018

by Vicki Ikeogu
news@thenewsleaders.com

For anyone planning a wedding, there are a lot of decisions – and money – involved in tying the knot.

In a Feb. 2, 2017 report by on-line wedding resource and marketplace website The Knot, the average American couple dropped \$35,329 on their wedding in 2015 with the majority of the cost coming from the venue (about 46 percent) with the engagement ring and reception entertainment a distant second and third.

That is up 8 percent from the 2015 average wedding cost of \$32,641.

Closer to home, The Knot estimates Minnesota brides and grooms can anticipate spending roughly \$27,000 on their big day. For central Minnesota brides, that cost is slightly less, at \$26,720, according to research company The Wedding Report.

Costs aside – and yes, it is hard to ignore the staggering price tag – 2018 is set to usher in familiar blasts from the past (think 1980s) but with a rustic chic feel.

Local vendors are ready to oblige.

Venues

Location. Location. Location.

Whether the guest list is a few dozen to a few hundred, finding the perfect place to host the reception – and often the ceremony along with it – is critical for couples.

“People are looking for a facility to host the entire day of events,” said Randy Schmitz, owner of St. Joseph’s Rolling Ridge Wedding & Event Center. “They want to show up and not have to leave the property until the day is over.”

A one-stop-shop mentality is what keeps venues such as The Grands at Mulligans in Sartell busy.

“The biggest trend changes we have seen in the last couple of years has been couples moving away from wanting to plan every single detail of their wedding,” said owner Jason Becker. “Venues get one shot to help these couples put on the wedding they deserve, so having a venue with experience means everything.”

And having the flexibility to customize the space to each couple is important.

“People kind of like a little more of a blank slate,” said Jessica Reiter, director of events and catering at the Gorecki Center on the College of St. Benedict campus. “They want to be able to come in and transform the space to make it look the way they want. We do make some recommendations, but they have a vision of what they want and we try

to accommodate it.”

Friday weddings have been growing in popularity. But Saturday weddings, at least for the Gorecki Center, remain king.

So that makes booking a location early a must.

“Booking your venue should be your first priority when it comes to planning a wedding,” Reiter said. “Get your venue and ceremony location secured early.”

The Wedding Report’s average venue, food, beverage and reception rentals cost in central Minnesota: \$10,251.

Catering

The “I dos” are done. Let’s eat.

“There will always be three things people remember about weddings,” Becker said. “The ceremony, the food and the dance.”

For caterers such as Byron Bjorklund, owner of St. Cloud’s Custom Catering by Short Stop, the food is what can really bring out the personality of the couple.

“It’s about the whole presentation,” he said.

Custom Catering Event Planner Tracy Zwilling said being plain is just not an option.

“We want to make sure the food is delicious,” she said. “That it’s not standard. We don’t want to serve plain salads and entrees.”

Unique items such as imported sausages, figs, pickles, jellies, cheeses and crackers have become more common hors d’oeuvres.

“We like to use a lot of edible flowers and unique greens,” Bjorklund said. “Our plates really mimic that fresh-to-table look.”

Bjorklund said most clients opt for a modified buffet – the salad is served family style at the table and



contributed photo

Rolling Ridge Wedding & Event Center in St. Joseph offers couples a variety of indoor and outdoor options for ceremonies.

guests use a buffet line for their meal.

“We take our inspiration (for catering) from the bride and groom,” he said.

Bjorklund recommends booking the caterer early. Tastings should be scheduled about three to six months in advance of the wedding.

The Knot’s average catering cost per person across the nation: \$71. Central Minnesota numbers were not provided.

Cakes

Wedding cakes: They aren’t gone, but it’s definitely not the main option for brides.

Lynn Schurman, owner of Cold Spring Bakery, said couples mix it up when it comes to desserts.

“More people are looking at mini desserts and cheesecakes,” she said. “We’ve done a ton of weddings with doughnuts and doughnut balls, pies and brownies.”

Cake smashing used to be the only real interaction people – OK,

the bride and groom – had with desserts. Today, Schurman said, desserts – both the display and the eating – are taking on a more social flair.

“It used to be you just had the cake sit there until it was plated,” she said. “Now, you have fun things like skewers for doughnuts, a coffee area filled with different flavors to get people up and interacting with each other.”

As for the cake, fondant is being overtaken by buttercream frosting, carrot and red velvet are gaining in popularity and fruit fillings are becoming more mainstream.

“Some are still wanting the vintage designs on their cakes, but many more are looking for a sleek, minimalist(ically)-decorated look,” Schurman said. “Typically that involves one big splash of a decorative element like a flower.”

The Knot’s average wedding cake cost across the nation: \$582. Central Minnesota numbers were not provided.



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Dresses/tuxes

Forget white. Brides in 2018 are wanting some color in their gowns.

Jennifer Morrison, owner of Wedding & Tuxedo Connection in Richmond, said brides are opting for various shades of light gold and champagne for their dresses.

“And we are seeing a lot more intricate details on dresses too,” she said, “detailed embroidery and beadwork – something to capture the uniqueness of the gown.”

Illusion necklines and backs – which involve a sheer panel of fabric, often detailed with lace and/or beadwork that’s attached to the body of the dress – have been popular choices as well.

“And we are starting to see little pops of the ‘80s,” Morrison said. “We are seeing trains with lace inlays and bows.”

The average cost for a bridal dress at Wedding & Tuxedo Connection runs between \$1,200 and \$1,800.

For bridesmaids’ dresses, Morrison has found more and more brides shying away from the “matchy-matchy” days of old.

“Brides are wanting to find dresses for their girls that are complementary and flattering,” she said. “So what’s been popular is the girls will have the same color or hue and then find different styles of dresses.”

And with the guys, navy is clearly the favorite color when it comes to menswear.

“But other colors like burgundy, your teals, your wines and your charcoals are also popular,” Morrison said.

Morrison’s advice to brides in the market for a gown is to order early.

“Ordering takes time,” she said. “On average it can take about six to eight months for a bridal gown and three to four months for bridesmaids’ dresses.”

The Wedding Report’s average bridal gown and dress accessories cost is \$1,411 and tuxedo and tuxedo accessories cost in central Minnesota is \$304.

Hair

You can’t get rid of the 1980s that fast.

St. Cloud-based Mantra Salon and Spa’s Wedding Coordinator Katie Hennen said brides are channeling the super high updos, a flashback to the decade of big hair.

“Brides are looking for a very clean, yet modern take on the ‘80s,” she said.

“We ask brides start working with a stylist at least six months in advance of their wedding,” Hennen said.

The Wedding Report’s average bride beauty and spa – which includes hair, make-up, manicure and pedicure – cost in central Minnesota: \$151.

Invites

Glitter. Sparkle. Pockets for added information.

These are the common requests LeRae Rengel, wedding specialist and owner of St. Cloud’s Rengel Printing Co., said she receives when couples come in searching for wedding invitations.

“Shabby chic is what’s in right now,” Rengel said. “Lots of browns, neutrals and lace.”

Rengel said brides are looking for that added bling, but are often getting that sparkle with paper options instead of embellishments.

“Less is really more when it comes to invitations,” she said.

Rengel said brides and grooms are also spending more on envelopes to help their invitations stand out more in the mailbox.

“People get a lot of junk mail, so you want to have it stand out,” she said.

Rengel recommends couples send out their invitations about eight to 12 weeks in advance of the big day, six to eight weeks early if save-the-dates were sent out.

The Wedding Report’s average printing cost in central Minnesota: \$1,086.

Wedding plans well underway for St. Joseph native Theisen

by Vicki Ikeogu
news@thenewsleaders.com

For St. Joseph native, Ashley Theisen, the past three years have been spent alongside one of her best friends, Britan Eisenbeis.

“I met Britan through a mutual friend,” Theisen, 29, said. “He’s a low-key, casual guy who loves fishing.”

After a few years of dating, Theisen said Eisenbeis popped the question.

“We got engaged on Oct. 28,” she said. “We were carving pumpkins together and he carved out ‘Marry Me’ on a pumpkin. After we were finished, he told me to leave the room so he could assemble it.”

In the months since, Theisen and Eisenbeis, who call Bismarck, N.D. home, have been in the midst of preparing to spend the rest of their lives together.

“We are getting married on Sept. 22, 2018, in Red Lodge, Mont.,” Theisen said. “I always pictured having a mountain backdrop for my wedding.”

Theisen is no stranger to the wedding planning process, having done this once before in central Minnesota.

The wedding plans for her and Eisenbeis have been slowly taking shape.

“My first priority was picking the date according to where we wanted to have it,” she said. “Then it was the photography and then DJ.”

Remotely planning a wedding has kept the University of Mary human resources coordinator busy.

“It’s been a lot of calls and Skype,” she said. “It’s challenging, but that’s the reality of it. Doing this you have to be more organized.”

One of the biggest hiccups in the planning process so far has been working on finding a photographer to fit her needs.

“One of the big things I noticed, especially when it comes to photographers, was they had these huge packages,” Theisen said. “I don’t want the same, typical packages everyone has. And trying to get that message across to them has been difficult.”



contributed photo

St. Joseph native Ashley Theisen and Britan Eisenbeis are in the midst of planning their wedding.

But for the most part, she and Eisenbeis have a solid plan, not to mention a solid budget.

“I had originally wanted my wedding to be very small,” she said. “My fiancé has never been married so we decided we were going to have five (bridesmaids and groomsmen) on each side plus personal attendants.”

Theisen said she has started on the process of finding the perfect dress to say yes to and looking at places such as Pinterest and Etsy to

find ideas for bridesmaids’ dresses and flowers.

She was even throwing around the idea for a food truck instead of hiring a caterer.

Unlike her first wedding, Theisen has opted to take on a more direct approach, ensuring her wedding to Eisenbeis will be what they both want.

“The biggest and hardest thing about planning a wedding is the pressure,” Theisen said. “Everybody wants to know where it is, when it is, what the colors are. We didn’t make plans to do anything for about a month just so we could enjoy being engaged. But hardly anyone let us do that.”

Sticking to their guns has been trying at times. And both have had to give each other reality checks.

“Planning a wedding is stressful,” Theisen said. “And it doesn’t get easier. But don’t sweat the small stuff.”

“The first time around I wanted my mom and my future mother-in-law to be really involved,” she said. “And that got to be really stressful. This time around I’m sticking to just us (Britan and me) making all the decisions.”



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Opinion

Our View

Fall election looms over legislative session

The Minnesota Legislature reconvenes on Feb. 20 for a three-month election-year session.

With a wide-open governor's race and control of the state House of Representatives on the line, the November election will drive the debate.

Kicking off the action, Gov. Mark Dayton proposed a \$1.5-billion bonding bill for more than 218 public-works projects across the state.

Later this month, legislators will be presented with an updated budget and revenue. The last forecast, released in November, showed a deficit of \$188 million for fiscal years 2018-19. Republicans and Democrats pointed out that recent changes to federal tax law (Minnesota bases how much state income tax you pay on your federal tax return) and the recently renewed funding of the Childhood Health Insurance Program will change the estimate expected to be announced as the legislators return to St. Paul.

When the forecast was released in November, DFLers blamed the Republicans for cutting taxes too much and Republicans blamed the Democrats for spending too much. What a surprise.

Republicans are raising a fuss about the troubled rollout of Minnesota's new \$93-million computer system for vehicle titles and registrations, known as MNLARS. It will take \$43 million to fix the program ahead of a summer launch.

Rep. Jeff Howe who represents the St. Joseph area, called the situation an "enormous mess."

"The state workers heading up implementation of MNLARS are seemingly being asked to accomplish something that's outside of their skill set. We would be better off putting this task in the hands of people who have previous experience managing massive IT projects such as this, allowing Minnesota IT to put its focus back on running maintenance and security," Howe wrote in a message to constituents.

The additional money should fix problems with vehicle registrations, a backlog of unprocessed titles and issues with vanity plates.

The governor's public-works plan invests in higher education, fixes state buildings, funds affordable housing and repairs clean-water infrastructure.

The proposal includes \$541 million for University of Minnesota and the Minnesota State campuses. In this area, there's a total of \$3.6 million set aside for St. Cloud State University and St. Cloud Community & Technical College.

Expansion and upgrades at the St. Cloud armory would cost \$4.45 million and repairs at the St. Cloud prison would cost \$16 million.

And there's one more layer to the Capitol chess game – control of the state Senate. The Republicans hold a 34- to 32-seat advantage right now. A Ramsey County District Court judge will decide if Michelle Fischbach can be lieutenant governor and president of the Senate at the same time. And if a DFLer wins a Feb. 12 special election to replace Dan Schoen, a Democrat who resigned after sexual harassment claims, then the Senate would be split 34-33. If the DFL wins the lieutenant governor case in court, the split would be 33-33 pending an election to replace Fischbach.

As you're watching the legislative action in St. Paul this spring, keep an eye on the state House and governor races to really understand what's going on.

St. Joseph • Sartell-St. Stephen

Newsleaders
Reaching EVERYbody!

The ideas expressed in the letters to the editor and of the guest columnists do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Newsleaders*.

Letters to the editor may be sent to news@thenewsleaders.com or P.O. Box 324, St. Joseph, MN 56374. 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.

New schools will be inspiring spaces

With the building of two new public high schools in the area, it's going to be an exciting 18 months for students, parents – and taxpayers.

Never mind the beams and bricks rising in the farm fields of Sartell and St. Cloud. Take a look at the "flythroughs" on the school districts' websites to get a real feel for what's going on.

The two schools look like the campuses of Apple or Google with large windows, lots of light and attention to the surrounding landscapes.

The new schools, according to planners, will be open, flexible, dynamic and interactive. Those words also describe today's high-tech, successful businesses.

Leaders in both school districts talk of interconnected classrooms and "learning neighborhoods."

The new schools don't hold long halls of boxy, identical classrooms.

Sartell's \$89.5-million school is the third high school in the district's 50-

**Mike
Knaak**

Editor



year history. The \$104.5-million St. Cloud Tech replaces a school in downtown St. Cloud that dates to 1917.

I graduated from Tech in 1972. Before enforcing fire codes and remodeling, it was a beautiful building of wood trim, high ceilings and grand open stairways. When I visited last summer, what I saw was sad. School leaders had done their best to create a place for imagination and learning, but the cold, institutional feel was still there.

Both new schools are in wide-open country settings.

Here's what the designers of the new St. Cloud Tech, under construction in southwest St. Cloud, say: "As

students and visitors move through the school, the journey evokes a sense of discovery, exposing students to different hands-on and innovative experiences while always being connected to nature and the outdoors."

The most important "building," though, is building classes and programs to foster collaboration and co-operation that live up to the grand spaces.

Students, teachers and administrators are certainly involved now with those tasks.

We need to keep a close eye on how the new schools will be used, not just what they will look like. Let's hold school leaders accountable.

Even if you don't have school-aged children, we all pay taxes, but more importantly, we'll depend on the young adults educated there to be civic and business leaders.

Those students need to live up to the inspiring designs of the builders and architects.

With Super Bowl over, Vikings spirit lives on

It comes around every year, and now it has come and gone again. The Super Bowl, arguably one of the world's largest sporting events, took place last Sunday between two heavyweight competitors, the New England Patriots and the Philadelphia Eagles. Like last year, it was a race to the finish, with the outcome hanging on a thread to the very end.

Dealing with the loss of their star quarterback Carson Wentz, the Philadelphia Eagles managed to battle their way through the playoffs to reach this point, including a disappointing win over our own Minnesota Vikings. The Patriots breezed through the playoffs comparatively, dispatching the Tennessee Titans and scraping by the Jacksonville Jaguars.

The stage was set for a strong matchup – the two conference leaders, set for a grudge match for the ultimate prize. So the narrative goes anyway. The game was exciting and close, though in my opinion still stretching to justify the astronomical cost of tickets to be there in person. It was bittersweet for us as Minnesota fans, not only to see the team that beat us in the NFC Championship go on to win the whole thing, especially after what we saw about how our fans in "The City of Brotherly Love" were treated. It just seems ironic the big game went down in our very own

**Connor
Kockler**

Guest Writer



U.S. Bank Stadium.

Not that it deterred us from putting on a great show for the nation in Minneapolis. The host committee did an amazing job, and I was really impressed by how smoothly everything went. The weather even decided to give our visitors a proper sub-zero welcome.

Now all the pomp and circumstance is over, it gives us pause to consider next year. Besides our disappointing game against the Eagles a few weeks ago, the Vikings put on one of their most standout seasons since 2009 with Brett Favre. People were engaged and inspired; "Skol chants" became a regular occurrence.

Not to mention one of the most unforgettable plays of all time, the "Minneapolis Miracle" as it has now been immortalized. That one play I believe captured the essence of what Minnesota Vikings fans have felt for a long time. It always seems like the odds are stacked against us, that the luck and elation is on the other side. This year, we got a taste of what the

ultimate win could feel like.

We should remember, though, our future for the next year is bright. Our great run doesn't have to stop here. Our team still has great players and potential, and next year could be the one where it all comes together. The important thing is we continue to support our team, and cheer them on through it all. That is what I admire so much about our state and our fans. The Vikings do well some years, and do poorly in others, but we're still behind them. We rejoice in victories and agonize in defeats, but we do it together, knowing the experience and the companionship are all that matters.

That's what football and really all other sports are about. Putting aside our worries and putting our collective hopes on a group of athletes working to represent us and carrying the dreams and memories of millions with every play. It's an escape from the mundane and a trip into the surreal and the extraordinary. For now our goal of a Super Bowl win might have been dashed, but I know someday, that team celebrating victoriously on the field will be ours. We just don't know yet when that will be.

Connor Kockler is a Sauk Rapids-Rice High School student. He enjoys writing, politics and news, among other interests.

**GOT AN
OPINION?**

The Newsleaders
P.O. Box 324
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Email: news@thenewsleaders.com

Please include your full name for publication (and address and phone number for verification only).

Community Calendar

Is your event listed? Send your information to: Newsleader Calendar, P.O. Box 324, St. Joseph, Minn. 56374; fax it to 320-363-4195; or, e-mail it to news@thenewsleaders.com. Most events are listed at no cost. Those events are typically free or of minimal charge for people to attend. Some events, which have paid advertising in the Newsleaders, are also listed in the calendar and may charge more.

Friday, Feb. 9
Hike Hoppers is hosting a free month-long outdoor scavenger hunt. Park Blast will be from dawn to dusk through Feb. 28 at all Stearns County Parks. Visit hikehoppers.org for more information.

Saturday, Feb. 10
St. Joseph Farmers' Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church 610 CR 2.
Central Minnesota Chapter of the Federation of the Blind of Minnesota, 12:30 p.m., American Legion, 17 Second Ave. N., Waite Park.

Sunday, Feb. 11
Project ASTRIDE's Ninth Annual Breakfast and Silent Auction, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m., \$8 for adults, \$5 for 10 and under and free for 2 and under. Moose Family Center (Moose Lodge) 1300 Third St. N. Waite Park, 320-250-9137.

Monday, Feb. 12
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave. NW, St. Joseph.
St. Joseph Township Board, 8 p.m., St. Joseph Township Hall, 935 College Ave. S.

Tuesday, Feb. 13
St. Joseph Joint Planning Board, 7 p.m., St. Joseph City Hall, 75 Callaway St. E. 320-363-7201. cityofstjoseph.com.
Holistic Moms Network, 7-8:30 p.m., Good Earth Co-op, 2010 Veterans Drive, St. Cloud. 320-252-2489.
National Alliance on Mental Health, 7-8:30 p.m., Calvary Community Church, 1200 Roosevelt Road, St. Cloud. 320-259-7101.

Wednesday, Feb. 14
St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce, 11:30 a.m., St. Joseph

Community Fire Hall, 323 Fourth Ave. NE. stjosephchamber.com.

Thursday, Feb. 15
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave. NW, St. Joseph.

St. Cloud VA goes Red for Women, paint a mosaic in support of heart disease prevention, 6 p.m., St. Cloud VA Medical Center, 4801 Veterans Drive Bldg. 4, Room 129 St. Cloud. Contact Amber Willert at 320-252-1670 ext. 6655 for more information.
Great River Regional Coin Club, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Miller Auto Marine Sports Plaza, 2930 Second St. S., St. Cloud. 320-241-9229.

Friday, Feb. 16
Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict's Whitby Gift Shop grand re-opening, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph. 320-363-7100.
St. Joseph Farmers' Market, 3-6 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church fellowship hall, 610 CR 2.
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Fish Fry Dinner, 4-7 p.m., \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door & \$5 for children ages 5-10. St. John's Parish Center 14241 Fruit Farm Road, St. Joseph. 320-363-2569.

St. Joseph Area Historical Society, open 4-7 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave. NW. stjosephhistoricalmn.org.
Nun Banquet supporting Central MN Habitat for Humanity, hosted by the Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict, 4:30-7 p.m., \$10 Adult, \$8 Students, \$30 family, St. Benedict's Monastery Dinning Room, St. Benedict's Monastery 104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph, 320-363-7142.

St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club Fish Fry Fundraiser, 4:30-8 p.m., \$10.25 for adults, \$ 7.50 for children (6-10), 5 and under are free. American Legion of St. Joseph 101 W. Minnesota St.
St. Cloud Singles Club Dance, 8 p.m.-midnight, American Legion, 17 Second Ave. S., Waite Park. 320-339-4533. stcloudsingles.net.

Saturday, Feb. 17
St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club 25th Annual Ice Fishing Contest, noon-2:30 p.m., \$15 for adults in advance, \$10 for kids 13 and under, Kramer Lake, call 320-363-8803 or 320-251-2881 for more information.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF ST. JOSEPH
RESOLUTION 2018-005
Resolution Authorizing Summary Publication
Ordinance 1007 Garbage and Refuse Ordinance

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, on Feb. 5, 2018, the City Council for the City of St. Joseph amended Ordinance 1007, entitled “GARBAGE AND REFUSE ORDINANCE.” The amendment added nuisance language to Section 1007.08 NUISANCE DECLARED; and added Sections 1007.09 PENALTIES AND ABATEMENT, and 1007.10 STORAGE; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Joseph desires to publish the Ordinance by Summary Publication; and

WHEREAS, the full text of the amended Ordinance is available at the City Offices, 75 Callaway St. E. or on the website, www.cityof-stjoseph.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Feb. 28, 2018 at 1 p.m. at 523 54th Ave., City St. Cloud, County of Stearns, State of Minnesota 56303, the following property will be sold by public auction by the Sheriff of Stearns County:

A 1970 “Skyline” manufactured home, VIN SU1435D, and any contents therein or about the premises. The manufactured home is located within the Riverview Park Manufactured Home Community.

This sale will be held to satisfy a claim upon the above-described property held by RVP, LLC, a Minnesota limited liability company, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes sections 504B and 514. Upon information and belief, this property is owned by John Patrick Grillo.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:

The City Council has reviewed the proposed Summary Publication and finds the summary of the Ordinance clearly informs the public of the intent and effect of the Ordinance.
The City of St. Joseph directs the City Administrator to publish the Ordinance by Summary Publication.
Adopted this 5th day of February, 2018, by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

/s/ Rick Schultz
Mayor

/s/ Judy Weyrens
Administrator

Publish: Feb. 9, 2018

A Writ of Recovery of Premises, issued by the Stearns County District Court on Dec. 13, 2017, in favor of RVP, LLC, against John Patrick Grillo, the then current occupant of the property known as 523 54th Ave. #47, St. Cloud, Minnesota 56303, has been executed by the Stearns County Sheriff on Dec. 26, 2017. The amount of the claim against the above referenced property is \$2,310 computed to the date of sale at the rate of \$30 per day, exclusive of the expenses of said sale and any expenses occurred after this notice.

Dated: Jan. 19, 2018
LAMBERT & ASSOCIATES

/s/ Amanda J. Johnson
333 N. Main Street, Suite 110
Stillwater, MN 55082

Publish: Jan. 26, Feb. 2 and 9, 2018

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Feb. 28, 2018 at 1 p.m. at 523 54th Ave., City St. Cloud, County of Stearns, State of Minnesota 56303, the following property will be sold by public auction by the Sheriff of Stearns County:

A 1971 “Star” manufactured home, VIN GA36M01743, and any contents therein or about the premises. The manufactured home is located within the Riverview Park Manufactured Home Community.

This sale will be held to satisfy a claim upon the above-described property held by RVP, LLC, a Minnesota limited liability company, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes sections 504B and 514. Upon information and belief, this property is owned by John Patrick Grillo. A Writ of Recovery of Premises, issued by the Stearns County District Court on Dec. 13, 2017, in favor of RVP, LLC, against John Patrick Grillo, the then current occupant of the property known as 523 54th Ave. #27, St. Cloud, Minnesota 56303, has been executed by the Stearns County Sheriff on Dec. 26, 2017. The amount of the claim against the above referenced property is \$2,310 computed to the date of sale at the rate of \$30 per day, exclusive of the expenses of said sale and any expenses occurred after this notice.

Dated: Jan. 19, 2018
LAMBERT & ASSOCIATES

/s/ Amanda J. Johnson
333 N. Main Street, Suite 110
Stillwater, MN 55082

Publish: Jan. 26, Feb. 2 and 9, 2018

ADOPTION
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Ice

from front page

Ice Auger.

Refreshments will be available for purchase and there will be a a warming house at the event.

“It’s always a lot of fun and a lot of work,” said Ken Hiemenz, the club’s treasurer. “We get a lot of support from the community and it’s also a good fundraiser for us.”

Last year’s event was canceled because of poor ice conditions, but the 2016 event drew a crowd of about 600 participants.

Fish caught at the event will be weighed and released back into the lake.

Hiemenz, a longtime St. Joseph resident, has been a member of the club for many years and served many of those years as president and other positions on the board of directors. He has also been the firearm-safety instructor for many of those years.

The group was formed after 58 citizens met to form a sportsman’s club in 1954. Three citizens, Cyril Schneider, Frederick J. Reber and Elmer Reber executed articles of incorporation Aug. 12, 1954.

With the support of its members, the Rod and Gun Club has been able to maintain the lake accesses at Kraemer and Watab (Long) Lake and, since

1991, has stocked both lakes with walleyes. Since 1997, the organization helped provide free bird houses in March and since 1998, has sponsored the Boys/Girls Fishing Clinic in June. Prior to 1972, it sponsored fire-arms-safety training that continues today. Since 1984, the group has sponsored up to four children (ages 12 to 15 years old) to the six-day Long Lake Conservation Camp, supports Girls Scouts Camp and supports the Dark House Association with its Big Brothers/Big Sisters Winter Fishing Contest. Since 1993, the club has held its own ice-fishing contest in February and more.

Discounted tickets for the event can be purchased in advance from the Rod and Gun Club, at SuperAmerica, St. Joseph Stoplight Bait and Tackle, the American Legion in St. Joseph and the St. Joseph Liquor Shoppe or pay full price the day of the event on the lake.

If the event is canceled because of weather or ice conditions, it will not be rescheduled. Participants should listen to KASM or WWJO radio stations the morning of the event for more information. Tickets will be refunded upon request.

Proceeds from the event help the club protect area resources.

For more information about the St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club, visit stjoeerodandgun.org. Club applications can also be picked up at Kraemer Lake or Watab Lake (by Pleasant Acres).

Gathering places build community

Note to our readers: This column is part of a new series from a blog recently started by a loosely knit independent group of area business people and residents who love and want to promote the energy and enthusiasm of downtown St. Joseph: The Joe Town Vibe. To find the column online or to read web-exclusive blogs posted every Tuesday, visit joetownvibe.com.

Gathering places are essential to building community in every town across America. Building community promotes trust and makes a city and its citizens more personable, and this can be especially so in a town of less than 10,000 people as it’s essential to have good relationships with your neighbors whom you likely see every day.

The best way to build this trust is to bring people together. Private businesses and religious entities provide places for people to come together in places of worship, restaurants, bars and coffee shops. Local government often provides some gathering places in a city such as parks, community centers, libraries, schools and pools.

All these gathering places serve greatly different purposes but they all bring people together in a setting in which they want to be present. Whether it’s a weekly breakfast with old buddies at the diner, Sunday Mass or Friday happy hour, all gathering places get people interacting with each other. Interacting with new people can help strengthen the community as much as meeting up with old friends. Interaction among neighbors can prevent a lot of

distrust or misunderstandings in the future.

Positive relations with your neighbor may very well be the difference between a face-to-face conversation and a phone call to the police in the time of disagreement. Often, knowing and understanding your neighbors will prevent problems in the future from escalating to ridiculous levels.

Interacting in a social setting may also lead to more trust between residents and city government. Meeting a city council member in a social setting may help you realize how they’re approachable and they are interested in improving your city and the community. Getting to know them better will help you trust the local government more when a new project is introduced, or there’s a reason for change that impacts you. Similarly, interacting with business owners or other community leaders may also be extremely beneficial to you and the community. Relationships with local leaders and business owners may help you down the line.

There are countless ways getting to know your neighbor can help you. St. Joseph has been blessed with numerous gathering places where you can get to know others in the community. Each place can help you to build trust with your fellow community members and community leaders. Interaction is what makes a small town a community. Building trust between community members and with local leaders builds trust in community and makes it a more personable and more enjoyable place to live.

Match the love song, win Valentine’s gift basket

Search for the five ads with pink hearts and match the number on the ad to the corresponding song title below. Write the advertiser’s name next to the letter below. Send completed form to the Newsleaders, P.O. Box 324, St. Joseph, Minn. 56374 or email advertising@thenewsleaders.com. A winner from each town will be drawn from all correctly completed forms to win a Valentine’s gift basket.

Winners will be notified by phone by 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14.

Song titles: A = “All of the Stars” by Ed Sheeran, B = “For Your Eyes Only” by Sheena Easton, C = “Beyond the Sea” by Bobby Darin, D = “You are My Sunshine” by Ray Charles and E = “You Make Me Smile” by Uncle Kracker.

Entry form

Name: _____

Telephone : _____

Town: _____

Age: _____

A = _____

B = _____

C = _____

D = _____

E = _____

FOR RENT

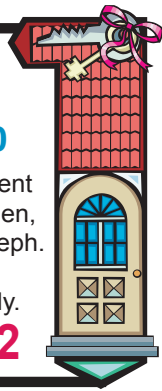
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The monastery’s Whitby Gift Shop will debut its new, **re-imagined** look at our grand re-opening! Stop by to scope out deals at our **bargain table**, purchase **handmade items made by the sisters**, enjoy some **refreshments** and win **door prizes**! The gallery is now home to an **eclectic collection of art** either created by the sisters or selected from the sisters’ heritage collection. Most are available to purchase.

Friday, February 16 | 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

We will also be open Saturday, February 17, from 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

For more information, call (320) 363-7113 or (320) 363-7100.



Regular Hours

Tuesday – Friday: 12 – 4 p.m.

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