

# St. Joseph Newsleader

Friday, Feb. 16, 2018  
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Est. 1989

## Town Crier

### Chamber event Feb. 24 to showcase businesses

Escape the cold at the 13th annual Sartell Community Showcase from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24 at the Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. The family-friendly event features more than 80 vendor booths with children's games, prizes and products for purchase. Explore the new community center with the scavenger hunt. The event is sponsored by PineCone Vision Center and the Sartell Chamber of Commerce. For more information, visit [sartellchamber.com](http://sartellchamber.com).

### Catholic Charities seeks foster grandparents

Catholic Charities Central Minnesota Foster Grandparent Program is seeking volunteers. Adults age 55 and over can receive an hourly tax-free stipend, mileage/travel reimbursement and ongoing training by volunteering 15 hours per week (or more if they wish) assisting children with activities, reinforcing learning, helping with art projects and more. This is a great opportunity if you have time to spare, love to be with children and could use some extra non-taxable income. For more information, call Jennifer at 320-229-4589 or contact by email at [jlieser@ccstcloud.org](mailto:jlieser@ccstcloud.org).

### Newsleader names contest winners

Winners of the Valentine's Day contest gift baskets are Mike Twedt of St. Joseph and Rosemary Beckrich from Sartell. The winning answers were the following: A = "All of the Stars" by Ed Sheeran = China Star; B = "For Your Eyes Only" by Sheena Easton = PineCone Vision Center; C = "Beyond the Sea" by Bobby Darin = Jack Splash Swim School; D = "You are My Sunshine" by Ray Charles = Pediatric Dentistry; and E = "You Make Me Smile" by Uncle Kracker = Welch Dental Care. Thank you to all who participated in this year's contest.

### SCTCC to grant scholarships for high-demand career choices

Minnesota State announced the availability of 400 new scholarships of \$2,500 each for students enrolling in high-demand programs at state colleges, including 14 scholarships that will be dispersed by St. Cloud Technical & Community College. The scholarships will be available fall semester 2018 to new students enrolling at any Minnesota State college for careers in high demand. Scholarship awards are scheduled to be announced March 30. To view the eligibility requirements and application process, prospective students can visit [sctcc.edu/workforce-development-scholarship](http://sctcc.edu/workforce-development-scholarship).

## Kennedy students learn about 'Ralph' the mouse

by Cori Hilsen  
[news@thenewsleaders.com](mailto:news@thenewsleaders.com)

Students at Kennedy Community school are learning some mouse trivia such as the average mouse will breathe 163 times each minute, their tails have scales on them that help them climb, they can make their own vitamin C and more as they participate in the One District, One Book program during February.

Media specialist Holly Nelson said students are reading *Ralph S. Mouse* written by Beverly Cleary. The book shares the adventures of Ralph the mouse who rides a motorcycle.

The St. Cloud school district gave books to the youngest child in each family in grades kindergarten through fifth grade. The book was revealed to students on Feb. 1.

Teachers showed a video Nelson had created to their

classes, revealing the book, and then books were delivered to the classes.

"The program is a great way to have a fun focus on reading during the month of February, which is also I Love to Read month," Nelson said. "The focus on one book makes for a collective response that builds community."

The reading schedule includes Feb. 1-pages 11-20, Feb. 2-pages 20-27, Feb. 5-pages 29-34, Feb. 6-pages 34-39, Feb. 7-pages 40-45, Feb. 8-pages 47-54, Feb. 9-pages 54-64, Feb. 12-pages 65-76, Feb. 13-pages 77-87, Feb. 14-pages 87-91, Feb. 15-pages 93-98, Feb. 16-pages 99-106, Feb. 20-pages 107-121, Feb. 21-pages 123-137, Feb. 22-pages 139-150 and Feb. 23-pages 150-160.

Daily trivia about the book is read to the school during morning announcements and students can submit answers and



contributed photo

**Kennedy Community School kindergarten students (clockwise) Jake Theisen, Kenzlee Woltermann and Ian Bork read at a scene created for the book "Ralph S. Mouse", written by Beverly Cleary. Students and families are reading the book for the One District, One Book program during February.**

earn a chance to win prizes.

Other activities include dressing up like your favorite book character, a classroom door-decorating contest about

a favorite class book, an all-school Drop-Everything-and-Read event and more.

"I love when Ralph makes  
**Ralph • page 2**

## Sheriff candidate Bentrud favors holistic concept

*(Editor's note: Two candidates have announced plans to run for Stearns County sheriff. This week Waite Park Police Chief Dave Bentrud is profiled. Next week Lt. Robert Dickhaus of the Stearns County Sheriff's Office will be profiled.)*

by Dennis Dalman  
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The surest path to effective law enforcement, not to mention crime prevention, is a tightly interconnected, collaborative approach, according to Stearns County sheriff candidate Dave Bentrud.

"In this modern era, there are many sophisticated problems," he said. "That is why we need to be more collaborative, working together in a multi-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary way. We need improvements in the ways we should share information."

As an example, Bentrud noted some people commit crimes in many places – in a whole string of cities or counties – and nobody connects the dots. And



Bentrud

connecting the dots, he said, is not just important to catch the offenders but to try to get them the help they need before their multiple offenses continue.

The kind of connection Bentrud envisions and wants to improve includes record-keeping, how the dispatching system works, sharing of data among departments and other agencies, and technology updates.

The problems of crime and crime prevention often involve mental-health issues, Bentrud emphasized. That is why law enforcement must develop a network with mental-health professionals and other agencies

that could include referrals (or mandated) counseling, medications, medical treatments and so forth, Bentrud said.

"We are often interacting repeatedly with the same people, the same families, and there are often legal roadblocks to the sharing of information," he said. "We have to improve that to open the lines of communication. I plan to contact legislators to work to eliminate some of those roadblocks."

One of the biggest challenges to law enforcement is the increasing prevalence of sex trafficking in Minnesota, as well as

**Bentrud • page 2**



photo by Cori Hilsen

**Sister Jean Juenemann, manager of the Whitby Gift Shop, shows purses available at the gift shop, which are made by women from the Republic of South Sudan who currently live in St. Cloud.**

## Whitby Gift Shop 'reimagined'

by Cori Hilsen  
[news@thenewsleaders.com](mailto:news@thenewsleaders.com)

Shoppers will have a chance to check out new gift ideas at the recently "re-imagined" Whitby Gift Shop which opens Feb. 16.

Although the gift shop has usually closed for inventory during January, it was closed a few more weeks this year to get ready for the "Reimagining of the Art and Heritage Place."

Sister Jean Juenemann is the new manager of the gift shop and welcomes people to check out the many displays of items avail-

able for purchase. For the past five years, Juenemann has assisted Sister Ione Tesh who was the previous manager for 15 years. Tesh recently accepted a new position.

Juenemann currently does not have an assistant working with her.

In the past, the gift shop had artist shows for eight to 10 weeks in the gallery which occupies about one-third of the gift-shop space.

With the reimagining look, the gift shop now features mostly items done by the 15-18 sisters who create art. The gallery will

**Shop • page 3**



# Bentrud

from front page

elsewhere.

There have been more than 2,000 arrests for that crime in recent years in central Minnesota. At least a half dozen of the more violent offenders are now in prison. Sex trafficking is another reason, Bentrud said, that a multi-disciplinary, networking approach must be adopted and approved. That would include safe housing and counseling for victims abused by pimps who use drugs, physical abuse and coercion against girls and women to get them to perform repeated sex acts with multiple paying “customers.”

That kind of multi-dimensional approach is already working. Bentrud said there is an excellent working relationship thanks to Stearns County Sheriff Don Gudmandson, who was appointed last year as interim sheriff to fill in for John Sanner, who retired. A recent killing in Waite Park was recent-

ly solved and the perpetrator arrested quickly in North Dakota because of swift communications among Waite Park and St. Cloud police departments and law enforcement personnel in North Dakota. Bentrud said he is still impressed by how well those almost instant communications happened to make the arrest. That particular incident involved a shooting death of a man in a Waite Park apartment by another man.

Bentrud said he is determined to strengthen all those kinds of connections in a holistic “community policing” concept in which all residents will pitch in to prevent crimes and to help solve them.

## About Bentrud

Dave Bentrud, 59, was born in Glenwood. He enrolled in the University of St. Thomas and later earned a master’s degree in criminal justice from St. Cloud State University.

For 16 years he served as a police officer on the St. Cloud Police Department, 10 of them

as a sergeant. He has served on the Waite Park Police Department for 10 years.

His wife Beth is a para in the literacy program of Rice Elementary School. The family lives near Little Rock Lake in Rice, but Bentrud is in the process of selling the family home in Benton County and relocating to Stearns County during his run for sheriff.

The Bentruds have four children: Lucas, a sophomore at Bethel University; Cassie, who lives in Florida and works for Disney World; Allie, who lives in Bloomington; and Jared, a freshman at Sauk Rapids-Rice High School.

## Achievements

Bentrud said he is very proud of the work he and others have done to fight all forms of human trafficking not just in Waite Park but elsewhere in central Minnesota. A recent state grant will help create a permanent sex-trafficking task force with members from various local departments.

He is also proud the clearance rate for crimes in Waite Park improved by 8 percent since he became police chief.

“We have good initial reports, good investigations and good follow-ups,” he said. “I’m very proud of our team.”

Bentrud sums up modern law-enforcement work this way, emphasizing its holistic approach.

“We are no longer in our individual silos,” he said. “We are all in the same big sandbox, playing together.”

# Judge rules Fischbach can serve dual roles

by Mike Knaak  
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Michelle Fischbach can keep her state Senate seat while serving as lieutenant governor.

A Ramsey County District Court judge on Monday dismissed a lawsuit against Fischbach, a Republican who represents the Sartell and St. Joseph areas in District 13.

The lawsuit challenging the dual roles was premature, the judge wrote, until the Legislature starts on Feb. 20.

The judge dismissed the lawsuit without prejudice, which means a new one could be filed or the ruling could be appealed.

As president of the Senate, Fischbach automatically became lieutenant governor when Gov.

Mark Dayton named former Lt. Gov. Tina Smith to fill Al Franken’s U.S. Senate seat after he resigned.

The Fischbach ruling has political implications because Republicans hold a slim 34-33 seat advantage in the Senate. If the judge had ruled that Fischbach had to give up her Senate seat, a special election would be needed.

Fischbach said she will not accept the lieutenant governor’s salary.



# Ralph

from front page

his nest,” said kindergartner Kenzlee Woltermann about the book.

“As a principal, I love the One District, One Book program because it provides the opportunity for families to read aloud with one another and celebrate the joys of reading and togetherness,” said Principal Laurie Putnam. “Our staff does a terrific job of incorporating activities related to the book into our school. Ms. Nelson and Ms. Ruhr decorate the library each year and we have

trivia contests. We also do door decorating to celebrate I Love to Read month.”

The Local Education and Activities Foundation helped fund the purchase of the books for the event.

Readers can visit <http://st-cloud1district1book.weebly.com> for mouse trivia and other fun facts. To view the reveal video visit: <http://youtu.be/OHwkAdGtvel>.

The One District, One Book program evolved from a program created by the Read to Them non-profit organization promoting family literacy. The organization’s mission is to create a culture of literacy in every home.

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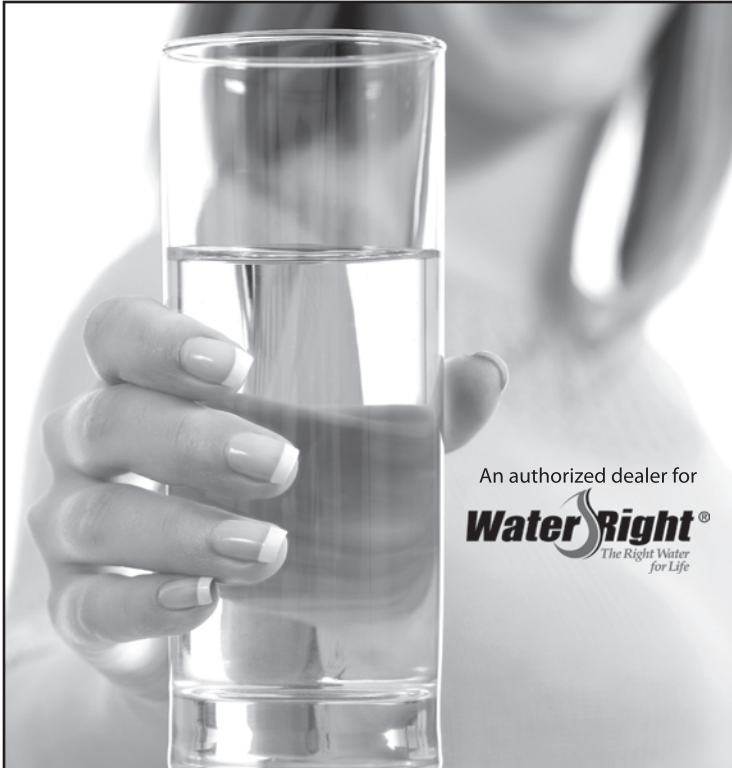
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# Shop

## from front page

feature artwork done by sisters and will later become a permanent photo history of St. Benedict's Monastery.

Juenemann said the gift shop will carry products not normally found in downtown gift shops. Some things the gift shop will carry include jewelry, needlework, knitting, tatting, quilling, paintings, photography, hand-embroidered dish towels, baby items and children's knitted sweaters, a variety of greeting cards, Swedish roll and cracked-wheat bread mixes to create Bennie Bread. Also included are religious articles such as crosses, medals and rosaries for baptisms, Holy Communion, confirmation and other religious occasions.

There is a book nook with books written by sisters and pottery made by Sister Dennis Frandrup, a retired art instructor from the College of St. Benedict.

Several longtime local artists' work including towels by St. Joseph resident Rose Ann Pflueger, scarves made by Avon resident Juliann Rule and greeting cards by St. Cloud resident and former CSB art instructor Sandy Bottmiller are still available at the gift shop.

The gift shop also sells wild-rice products from American Indians of whom the sisters served for many years. Also available at the shop are various articles from developing countries, such as hand bags made by women from the Republic of South Sudan who currently live in St. Cloud.

About 12 sisters make greeting cards which are the best-selling items at the gift shop.

The Reimagining the Art and Heritage Place began in fall of 2016 with artists and interested people from the area and the Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict. This process continued until fall of 2017. Many of the women involved in the process had been involved as part of an advisory group.

Sister Gen Maiers, coordinator of the Art and Heritage Place, said they decided to bring a group of key people together to look ahead to the future in 2016. After 20 years, it seemed appropriate to look

at the needs of the area as well as what fits with their mission. The prioress named a team of sisters to carry out and develop the project. The group concluded the sisters have an important tradition and legacy to share with the public, even though the number of sisters available to work in both the gift shop and museum has decreased.

Maiers said their goal is to live up to both the mission and vision statements established for the Art and Heritage Place in 2000.

The mission statement is "In the Benedictine tradition, we respond to the hungers of the human spirit by fostering, preserving and sharing the art and spirituality of our monastic culture."

The vision statement is "The Art and Heritage Place is recognized as a place for experiencing the richness of our Monastery heritage, art and spirituality. Through exhibits and presentations, the space offers opportunities that are educational and transformational. The Art and Heritage Place provides visitors with an awareness of Benedictine women's contributions to art, history and spirituality by offering exhibits and programs which display creativity, foster reflection and contribute to building a sense of community."

The intent of the Art and Heritage Place space was to invite others to learn about and share in the heritage and legacy of the Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict, who have been in the area more than 160 years.

The Whitby Gift Shop is part of the Art and Heritage Place. The museum is the larger part of the building. The Art and Heritage Place, gift shop and museum, was built in 2000 as part of the sisters' outreach ministry.

The gift shop is being emphasized now because the museum will not open until April. Doing all the necessary research and preparing the exhibits for the museum will take much longer and the sisters did not want the gift shop closed during all of that time.

The Whitby Gift Shop will be open noon-4 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays and 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on Saturdays. It's closed Sunday and Monday.



photo by Cori Hilsgen

**Sister Gen Maiers, coordinator of the Art and Heritage Place, (left) and Sister Jean Juenemann, manager of the Whitby Gift Shop, view greeting cards available for purchase. The cards are the most popular item purchased from the gift shop.**

## Stearns Electric brings a spark of fun to kids' safety education

by Mollie Rushmeyer  
news@thenewsleaders.com

With more than 30,000 electric shock accidents and 2,555 children treated every year for shock injuries because of wall outlets, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, Stearns Electric Association is seeking to educate area children about safety around electricity as well as energy efficiency.

For Theresa Fleege, a fourth-grade teacher at All Saints Academy in St. Joseph, the Stearns Electric presentation on Feb. 8, fit perfectly with the science unit they just completed about electricity.

The day of the presentation, 'electric' excitement buzzed through the air as the fourth-graders prepared to hear from Whitney Ditlevson, communications and marketing specialist, and Mike Siemers, lineman.

Ditlevson covered some basics of electricity by talking about the three types – static (not moving), current (which is either alternating current flowing both ways or direct current, only flowing one way like a battery) and natural electricity like lightning. To compare, a power outlet in a house contains 120 volts, where a lightning bolt contains anywhere from 100 million to 1 billion volts.

One way families can easily cut down on the energy they use in

their homes, Ditlevson said, is by switching to LED lights. For example, if each of the fourth-graders were to put in an LED light that day, Ditlevson said, they wouldn't have to change it again until high school or even later. Incandescent light bulbs were so cheap to make, but so inefficient, they aren't made anymore, though people may still find them in stores because they were manufactured in such abundance.

There are seven fuels that create energy – water, air, wind, solar, nuclear, trash (by burning) and coal. Ditlevson said 46 percent of Stearns Electric energy comes from a coal-fired plant in North Dakota.

When the energy from the coal is turned into electricity that flows into our homes, Siemers said it goes through an electrical wire. Some wires, like the ones flowing through big metropolitan cities, are buried four feet beneath the ground. This can make it tricky to work on them if something goes wrong. He said

we typically see wires connected by poles in our area.

What people, especially children, need to be aware of, Siemers said, is these wires carry 7,200 volts of electricity. It's the transformers, the gray containers on the poles or the big boxes on the ground, that turn the 7,200 volts into the 120 volts in houses. That's why, if a wire has fallen to the ground or a transformer is open or broken, children and adults should stay away and call 911 immediately.

Electricity is a silent killer. You can't see it (until it comes in contact with the ground and makes the spark), smell it or hear it. That's what makes electricity so dangerous, Siemers said, especially to children, and all the more reason to learn about how to be safe around it.

During the demonstration portion, a scale model of power lines, house, ground transformers as well

**Electric• back page**

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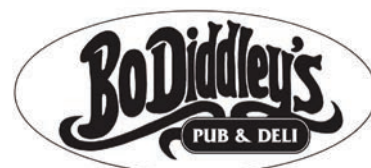
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# ASA celebrates Catholic Schools Week

by Cori Hilsgen  
news@thenewsleaders.com

Students, faculty and staff at All Saints Academy-St. Joseph celebrated Catholic Schools Week Jan. 28-Feb. 3 with a variety of activities.

This year's theme was "Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed."

The week included themed days, fun activities, prayer and a service project.

The week began with a Sunday Mass at the Church of St. Joseph followed by a book fair open house in the music room.

Monday was Wacky Day and gave students and staff a chance to dress in a wacky way. Tuesday was Game Day and students were able to wear sports jerseys, baseball hats, cheerleading outfits or anything they would wear to a sports game. Wednesday was Spirit Day and students wore Catholic Community School shirts. Thursday was Pajama Day, and students were able to wear their pajamas to school. Friday was Flannels and Sparkles Day.

Activities included students writing why they like their school, designing a logo, attending prayer service, playing board games, attending Mass at Cathedral High School and participating in a book exchange.

Students and staff also tied blankets to donate to Pockets of Hope, which gives foster children in central Minnesota new backpacks filled with items they need and items they can call their own. By providing the children items they can call their own, the backpacks offer the children a light of hope for the future. The blankets ASA students tied were for the backpacks.

Students and staff presented ASA's Got Talent Show on Friday with music, skits and many other performances. Teachers performed a skit about synchronized swimming.

The week ended with students participating in the annual school dance and more book fair time.

"The students really enjoyed the week," Principal Karl Terhaar said. "It provided a good break from normal routines in these long winter months. I was really impressed with our students at our talent show. Even the teachers displayed their talent by doing a synchronized swimming skit."

Fourth-grade teacher Theresa Fleege coordinated the week of activities.

"Catholic Schools Week was an opportunity for us to celebrate our faith in everything we do at our school," Fleege said.

ASA students commented about the week.

"It was especially fun doing the talent show at the end of the week," said sixth-grader Kylie Smith.

"The teachers did a wonderful job on their swimming act for the talent show," sixth-grader Tyler Smith said.

"I like playing games with our first-grade buddies, and I liked the dance," sixth-grader Livi Kremer said.

"It was fun," said sixth-grader Mary Clare Colberg. "I liked doing all the activities, but the talent show was the best part by far."

"I love Catholic Schools Week because you get to play with the preschoolers," fourth-grader Cecelia Weldon said.

"My favorite thing we do in Catholic Schools Week is the dance because there is a book fair and I get to be with my friends," said fourth-grader Josie Eastman.

"On spirit day, we went to Mass with 2,000 students from other Catholic Community School schools," said fourth-grader Jacqueline Rademacher. "At the end of Mass, Father was dancing down the aisle."

Terhaar said this year's theme encompasses the core products and values that can be found in Catholic schools across the country.

He said Catholic schools are teaching students to become future servant leaders, faith-filled disciples and enriched citizens in our communities.

Catholic Schools Weeks is a joint project of the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.



contributed photo

ASA students (left to right) Mary Clare Colberg, Emie Templin, Roy Anderson, Spencer Scholz, Isaac Blenker, Quinton Blenker and Tyler Smith work on tying a blanket for Pockets of Hope during Catholic Schools Week. The blankets were put in backpacks for foster children in central Minnesota.



contributed photo

ASA fifth-graders (left to right) Julia Uhlenkamp, Sylvia Bechtold, Maria Glatzel and Kaidance Stephens dressed for Wacky Day during Catholic Schools Week.



contributed photo

ASA fourth-grade teacher Theresa Fleege is shown with Kenzie Harren (left) and Kolton Harren. Fleege coordinated Catholic Schools Week events for the school.



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ASA second-grader Easton Frieler and Principal Karl Terhaar dressed for Wacky Day during Catholic Schools Week.

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# Opinion

## Our View Time to turn talk into productive action

Suspicion, fear, anger, even hate.

When change and challenges confront us, those reactions sometimes follow.

We're again hearing white nationalist and anti-immigrant sentiment across central Minnesota including recent posters on the St. Cloud State University campus and in St. Joseph.

Last week, the St. Joseph City Council backed a motion to build "a friendly, inclusive and safe community for all who live, work and visit here."

How do those sentiments become actions that produce results?

A report from the Pew Research Center found divisions between Republicans and Democrats on fundamental values – including immigration and race – are wider than ever.

Twenty years ago, when people were asked their opinions on political issues, the graphed responses looked like a mountain. That is, most people landed somewhere in the middle. Now, that same graph looks like a valley with tall peaks on both extremes of the political spectrum.

How can we turn that partisan antipathy into trust and cooperation?

We need local leaders to build relationships among people so society functions effectively.

Those leaders don't necessarily need to be elected officials. We can look to community groups, religious leaders or business people to take action. And there are some actions we can take one-on-one to develop new friendships or strengthen existing ones.

The key is to reach out to people you don't know or who don't share your political views. Experts suggest activities organized around food, doing someone a favor, discussions of community issues or working toward a joint goal.

Cultural Bridges, a St. Joseph community group formed to help immigrants feel welcome, suggested a community meal where people share a favorite dish, a forum where participants can talk about immigration, education and housing, and tutoring or mentoring new residents.

Community forums must be based on respect – respect for others' opinions but also respect for facts. For example, state statistics show while Minnesota has fewer immigrants proportionally than many other parts of the country, foreign-born residents are an increasingly important part of the state economy. Since 2010, more than half of the state's labor-force growth has come from foreign-born workers who are providing a stream of fresh workers at a time when baby boomers are exiting the labor force in large numbers.

As individuals, we can ask some questions too: When was the last time you shared a meal with a person of a different race or ethnicity? When was the last time you attended a church of a different faith? How many of your social media friends hold a different political view? Have you worked on a community project in the last year? Do you vote in every election? When was the last time you attended a meeting of your local city council or town board?

To be truly welcoming and inclusive, we need to act, not just talk.

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.

## How will 2018 be remembered?

**Mike  
Knaak**

*Editor*



for re-election.

The year proved to be the deadliest in the Vietnam war with 16,899 Americans killed including 322 from Minnesota and six from Stearns County.

Sen. Robert Kennedy entered the presidential race and McCarthy faded.

Then Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who had increasingly spoken out against the war and poverty, was murdered in Memphis.

Kennedy looked like he was on the way to the Democratic nomination before he too was assassinated after winning the California primary.

Another Minnesotan, former senator and Johnson's vice presi-

dent, Hubert Humphrey narrowly lost the election to Nixon who had seeded his campaign with the same racist code words we hear today. Humphrey's nomination in Chicago was perhaps fatally damaged when the Chicago cops violently tried to control anti-war protesters.

1968 was an important year in my personal story too. My family moved to St. Cloud in January and I attended North Junior High School. My interest in the news started from watching those historic events. I decided I wanted a career in journalism.

Perhaps my most lasting memory of 1968 happened on Christmas. The astronauts of Apollo 8 circled the moon on Christmas Eve and beamed the video back to Earth as they read from the Bible.

A year of death, strife, conflict and fear ended with the hope of exploration and discovery.

## Yes, Virginia, we do turn into our parents

**Dennis  
Dalman**

*Editor*



It's often said we turn into our parents. Thus, in a kind of sweet revenge, they get the last word, the last laugh.

Time and again, I hear myself "channeling" my parents' words and phrases:

"Where does the time go?"

"Oh sure, you might know!"

"If it isn't one thing, it's another!"

"What is this world coming to?"

My parents were forever voicing such laments in the "Dalman" style. That is, they would pronounce each word in a slow woe-begone drawl, with an exclamation point after almost every word, with the phrase followed by a world-weary sigh or, in dad's case, one or two curse words:

"WHAT! is. this. World! COMING! to?!" (long exhalation of breath, %\*##@#!).

We kids would make fun of them, calling them pessimists – Mama Gloom and Papa Doom.

I can still hear them say, when something went wrong, "You! Just! CAN'T! WIN!"

And now, I hear myself, too, often saying those same words, in the same way, along with all the others.

"It's! always! something!"

"You. Just. NEVER! Know!"

"Six 'o' this, half dozen of another!"

"What NEXT?!"

Actually, my parents were not always down in the dumps. In

fact, they were mostly happy, often laughing, with a wild sense of humor, making wisecracks, playing practical jokes, having fun, loving life.

But when trouble came – watch out! – it barged in with baggage, like a dreaded uncle. Dad was a St. Cloud auto mechanic and a musician and played in old-time bands. He didn't make a lot of money. Mom was an elementary-school teacher who quit teaching shortly after meeting dad. She was a stay-at-home mom for most of her life.

Like many other parents in our working-class southside neighborhood, dad and mom had to pinch pennies, struggle to pay bills and use improvisatory genius to fix broken things in the house since we couldn't afford repair bills. One day, dad was trying to fix something to do with our living room's kerosene stove. All of a sudden the stovepipe had some kind of seizure, belching a gush of pitch-black soot into the living room and right onto dad's face. He looked just like Louis Armstrong. Without the trumpet.

"What! NEXT?!" he said, sputtering, followed by a cascade of curses.

"Look at the floor, the walls!" mom exclaimed.

"Look at me!" dad shouted at her. "What about me?!"

We kids all burst out laughing, although it took dad awhile to see any humor in the soot-black situation. When he did, finally, he laughed harder than the rest of us.

Those were the kinds of mini-disasters that so often happened in our house: pipes freezing, windows breaking, no hot water, hand-me-down appliances on the blink.

"NOW what?" I can still hear mom say when her old Maytag wringer wash machine would act up. "If it isn't one thing, (sigh) it's another! Always something."

Mom was forever telling us kids to stop and think. Every time we did something naughty or stupid, which was quite often, she would say sharply, wagging a finger, "Alright, you kids, just stop and think!"

And, of course, we little hellions did not stop, we did not think.

Not a day goes by but what I don't hear my parents as if they're in the room next to me as I'm channeling them.

"What's this world coming to?!"

I've been saying that a lot lately as this world – at least on some days – seems to be going to hell in a handbasket.

And if my parents were still among us, all of us – all of the Dalmans – would be saying in a chorus of woe: "What NEXT?! WHAT. is. This. World. COMING To?!"

## GOT AN OPINION?

Email: [news@thenewsleaders.com](mailto:news@thenewsleaders.com)

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

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## 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.tri-countycrimestoppers.org](http://www.tri-countycrimestoppers.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. 6

3:45 a.m. Medical. 828 Morningside Loop. An officer was dispatched to a medical at the above residence. Upon arrival the officer observed a 4-year-old boy having a seizure. Gold Cross Ambulance arrived and transported the boy to the hospital.

10:54 p.m. Traffic stop. Elm Street E. and CR 133. While

traveling east on CR 75, and officer observed a vehicle in front of him in the turn lane waiting at a red arrow to go north on CR 133. The officer observed the vehicle waiting for a short time and then driving through the red arrow. The officer stopped the suspected vehicle and identified the driver who said he knew why the officer stopped him. He said he was being stupid. A citation was issued and explained.

### Jan. 7

1:15 p.m. Medical. 601 Birch St. W. An officer was dispatched to a medical at the above address for a woman who was on new medication and confused. When talking with the woman, the officer noted she was very agitated with his presence. Rescue arrived and took over care. She was then transported to St. Cloud Hospital by Gold Cross.

### Jan. 8

2:06 p.m. 304 College Ave. N. While in the carwash at Holiday, the automatic wash struck the front of the officer's squad car after cycling a few times. The staff was notified and no damage was recorded on the car.

### Three businesses cited for selling liquor to minors

Three St. Joseph businesses agreed to pay \$500 fines for selling liquor to people under 21. The St. Joseph City Council approved the agreement at its Feb. 5 meeting after the businesses acknowledged the violations and agreed to pay the fines. The police department conducted compliance checks on Dec. 4, 2017. The three businesses are Bello Cucino, Sliced Pizza & Grill and American Burger Bar.

## People

Jessica Warzecka, a St. Joseph student, has been named to the first semester dean's list at Concordia College, Moorhead. To qualify, students must carry a minimum of 12 semester credits and have a grade point average of at least a 3.7 on a 4.0 scale.

Katie Schleper, a senior from St. Joseph majoring in biology, has been named to the high honor list at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Students qualify for the high honor list by achieving a 4.0 grade-point average.

**Sixteen students** from St. Joseph have achieved academic honors at St. Cloud Technical & Com-

munity College.

Students who earned president's list honors achieved a grade-point average of 4.0. They are the following: Sommer Davidson,

**Logan Douvier, Elena Drake, Alexander Legatt, Mitchell Lowell and Bruce Walkley.**

Students named to the dean's list, with a grade-point average of 3.5 to 3.9 are the following: **Niles Corrieri, Luke Dahlgren, Benjamin Emerson, Madalyn Fowler, Jordan Johnson, Mikayla Kotsmith, Amanda Meehl, Abigail Notsch, Samantha Salscheider and Tianna Swanson-Wente.**

## 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](mailto: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. 16

**Whitby Gift Shop grand re-opening**, sponsored by the Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict, 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.

**Fish Fry**, sponsored by St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 4-7 p.m.,

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](http://stjosephhistoricalmn.org).

**Nun Banquet** supporting Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity, hosted by the Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict, 4:30-7 p.m., dining room, St. Benedict's Monastery 104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph, 320-363-7142.

**Fish Fry**, sponsored by the St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club, 4:30-8 p.m., 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](http://stcloudsingles.net).

### Saturday, Feb. 17

**25th annual Ice Fishing Contest**, sponsored by the St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club, noon-2:30 p.m., Kramer Lake. 320-363-8803 or 320-251-2881.

### Monday, Feb. 19

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

**City Council**, 6 p.m., council chambers, St. Joseph City Hall, 75 Callaway St. E. 363-7201.. [cityofstjoseph.com](http://cityofstjoseph.com).

**St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club**, 7 p.m., American Legion, 101 W. Minnesota St., St. Joseph.

### Tuesday, Feb. 20

**St. Cloud Area Genealogists meeting**, 7 p.m., Stearns History Museum, 235-33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. [stearns-museum.org](http://stearns-museum.org).

### Wednesday, Feb. 21

**St. Joseph Economic Development Authority**, 5 p.m., St. Joseph City Hall, 75 Callaway St. E. 320-363-7201. [cityofstjoseph.com](http://cityofstjoseph.com).

**Conversation with a Cardiologist**, featuring cardiologist Dr. Benjamin Johnson, 6-7 p.m., Windfeldt Room at the CantraCare Health Plaza, 1900 CentraCare Circle, St. Cloud, 320-251-2700 ext. 71391.

### Thursday, Feb. 22

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

**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.

**St. Cloud school board**, 7 p.m., City Council Chambers, 400 S. Second St., St. Cloud.

### Friday, Feb. 23

**Fish Fry**, sponsored by St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 4-7 p.m., St. John's Parish Center 14241 Fruit Farm Road, St. Joseph. 320-363-2569.

### Saturday, Feb. 24

**Craft/Vendor Sale** hosted by Epic Events, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., St. Cloud Eagles Club 730-41st Ave. N., St. Cloud.

### Sunday, Feb. 25

**Joe Town Table**, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., American Legion of St. Joseph, 101 W. Minnesota St., every fourth Sunday of the month. [centralmncw@gmail.com](mailto:centralmncw@gmail.com).

**A Choral Community** presented by Youth Choral of Central Minnesta, 7 p.m., Church of St. Boniface 501 Main St., Cold Spring.

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# The importance of landscaping

*Note to our readers: This column is part of a 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 please visit joetownvibe.com.*



by John Stevens

Intern SJU '18

It's human nature to be pleased by aesthetics whether it be in your own backyard or in a neighborhood park. The way something looks has a greater impact on our emotions than we may think. This is demonstrated by the way you may react to a piece of artwork. Viewing a painting, sculpture or film causes you to have an emotional reaction. Landscaping may have a more subliminal impact on your emotions, but it still impacts the way you feel. Whether it be in your front yard, in front of a business or in the downtown area, landscaping affects your emotions and consequently it influences your actions.

Landscaping is important in your neighborhood and beyond. The front yard of your house is an extremely special area. It's where your private property meets the public eye. As a result, what goes on in the front lawn becomes important as it casts a perception of you and has an impact on the emotions of others. As a result, the look and feel of your neighbor's lawn also becomes important to you. Not many people want to live in a neighborhood which has chaotic unmanicured front yards. Whether its subliminal or not, driving to work and seeing someone's less than desirable front yard impacts your emotions. Seeing a poorly kept yard may not negatively impact your mood but seeing a well-kept lawn with flowers

and nice landscaping certainly could improve your day!

Aesthetics are not only important in neighborhoods, but also throughout the city. The landscaping choices a business makes are essential to driving the emotion of the customer. Creating a nice environment may make the customer feel more at ease when visiting a store. The more comfortable they feel the more likely they are going to be to spend more time at the store. On the contrary, a store that does not care for its own property may send a negative message to customers. Landscaping is of utmost importance when it comes to influencing the way customers view your business before even coming in the door.

In the same sense, landscaping is key to the success of any downtown area. Using bushes, shrubs, planters and trees can all create an environment that makes people comfortable and brings them joy. The success of a downtown is dependent on keeping people in the area. Having an environment that is welcoming and is aesthetically pleasing can go a long way to keeping people downtown and bringing them back. A downtown that is barren sends a negative message to the visitors. Improving the landscaping of a downtown has a tremendous positive impact on all the businesses. Instead of having "one and done" visitors, people will walk around and visit shops and businesses they did not initially intend to visit.

The landscaping throughout a city or town has a tremendous impact on the vibe of the town. A town with areas that look nice and are well kept entices people to visit. Landscaping can have a direct impact on the number of people coming downtown and interacting with each other. Bringing more people to a downtown gives the area more energy and keeps the vibe positive.



photo by Mollie Rushmeyer

During an electricity safety and energy-efficiency presentation given by Stearns Electric Association, lineman Mike Siemers (left), shows St. Joseph All Saints Academy student Kolton Harren (right), 10, of Holdingford the safety gear required of lineman to climb the utility poles and fix or install electrical wires.

## Electric

from page 3

as a bus and people were used to show what happens if a person or thing gets too close to electricity. The class had a big reaction to the small charge 'zap' each pretend person or thing received, with lots of gasps. Fleege said she hoped it would help the kids take this seriously, and give them a healthy appreciation for the power and potential danger electricity holds.

Siemers showed the class the heavy safety equipment he has to wear as a lineman in order to work on the electrical poles, even letting fourth-grader Kolton Harren, 10, of Holdingford demonstrate the gear. Luckily for Harren, Siemers didn't pack on all of the tools that normally go with

it, making the whole ensemble weigh around 75 pounds.

Both Ditlevson and Siemers are doing these presentations for their first time this year and both said it has been a joy to go out to talk with the kids. They'll visit the 38 schools in their company district by the end of February.

"I have young children at home too," Siemers said. "This is such dangerous stuff. I want the kids to be safe."

Ditlevson said, "We do this to educate the students who will hopefully go back and educate their families on how to be safe."

And what was the consensus from the All Saints Academy fourth-graders about the presentation? The resounding, "Whoa!" and audience engagement throughout, especially during the electric shock demonstration, spoke for itself.

## a choral community

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This organization is funded, in part, by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Central MN Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

## FOR RENT

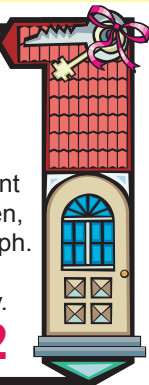
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