

St. Joseph Newsleader

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Town Crier

For more information and additional criers, visit thenewsleaders.com.

Sartell Winter Market set March 3, April 7

Welcome spring with great items for the grill. The Sartell Farmers' Market will be held from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, March 3 and April 7 inside Sartell City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road. Some items available this month include the following: meat, eggs, popcorn, treats, breads and much more. Learn about what is new for the 2018 summer season.

Applications due April 1 for S-STEM scholarship

St. Cloud State University and St. Cloud Technical & Community College are accepting applications for the National Science Foundation S-STEM scholarship for incoming Pell-Eligible students interested in studying in science, technology, engineering or technology fields. Students who are planning to attend these schools can apply for the ACCESS S-STEM scholarship of up to \$9,000 per year.

Earth Day Run seeks volunteers

The CentraCare Earth Day Run, April 20-21, consists of a 5k, 1k, 1/2-marathon race, and a health and fitness expo. Volunteers will be needed Thursday-Saturday, April 19-21. The Earth Day Run has more than 5,000 runners and 10,000 spectators and community visitors.

Volunteer with animals

With more than 100 animals in their care at any given time, the Tri-County Humane Society needs volunteers. Opportunities range from working hands-on with animals to fostering them in the comfort of your own home. They also need assistance with building/grounds maintenance, clerical duties and fundraising events.

Food donations needed

Local food shelves are in need of food to help meet the basic needs of families and individuals during the cold winter months. Drop off donations during business hours. Contact the food shelves at: Catholic Charities Emergency Services, 320-229-4560; C.R.O.S.S. Center of Benton County, 320-968-7012; and The Salvation Army, 320-252-4552

Event to help victims of sex trafficking

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

A memorial fundraiser dubbed Denim to Diamonds will raise money for Terebinth Refuge, an organization that is helping victims of sex trafficking in central Minnesota.

The fundraiser will take place starting at 5 p.m. Saturday, March 10 at Grands at Mulligans' event center in Sartell.

The event will include a chicken dinner, a special children's meal, silent auction and live music by Justin & Jason Ploof of The Throwbacks.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.WWBDinc.org.

This will be the fifth annual memorial fundraiser of an organization named What Would Bri Do? It was named for BriAnna Kruzel, an 18-year-old Sartell woman who died at home of natural causes Sept. 28, 2013. Her parents, Tami

and Randy Kruzel, along with family and friends, decided to start an annual fundraiser in BriAnna's honor because she was an avid volunteer in so many causes, including her favorite – Big Brothers Big Sisters. What Would Bri Do has raised \$32,000 for various organizations and individuals in recent years.

This year, the Kruzels decided to raise funds for Terebinth Refuge and the needs for its transitional-living house, which will open April 2 in Waite Park.

"BriAnna had a learning disability," said her mother, Tami. "I really feel she would have been vulnerable to some kind of a social media pitch to befriend some guy who would do her harm. That's because BriAnna loved and cared about everybody. And sex traffickers often use social media to trick young girls and women. For those reasons, we decided to



contributed photo

Ever since her tragic, untimely, sudden death, BriAnna Kruzel (left) has inspired her mother, Tami, (right) and many others who organize a fundraiser every year in honor of her and her volunteerism and good deeds. The latest one will raise funds for Terebinth Refuge for its work with victims of sex-trafficking.

do this fundraiser for Terebinth Refuge."

Kruzel said there are disturbing headlines in local papers frequently about the horrors of sex trafficking. She and other

members of What Would Bri Do said they are all determined to help Terebinth Refuge and the abused women it works with.

Victims • page 2

Beware of tax refund cyber-crooks

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

As tax season gets busier, cyber-criminals get busier, too, working their identity-theft scams to get people's tax-refund money.



Klein

Local law enforcement is warning people to be alert to the latest tax scam. The first sign something crooked is happening is when surprised taxpayers notice a tax-refund amount in their bank balances, usually one they didn't even file for yet. The crooks try to file the erroneous tax filing well before their victims do. And that is why in the coming weeks, people should be on their guard.

Other than the surprise tax return in the bank from the U.S. Treasury Department, a sure giveaway a scam is afoot is the Internal Revenue Service never ever calls people on the telephone. If anyone gets a call supposedly from the IRS or a collection agency for the IRS, they should know at once it's a scam.

"We get calls about IRS

scams every once in awhile," said St. Joseph Police Chief Joel Klein.

The best thing to do is call the police as soon as residents get calls supposedly from the IRS, Klein said, adding the IRS never makes such phone calls.

It's called the Erroneous Tax Refund Scam, and it's one of the most devious, sophisticated rip-offs yet devised.

In 2017, according to the IRS, there were nearly 600,000 tax returns issued because of one form or another of identity theft. That was a decrease of about 200,000 from the year before, but the IRS cautions people that cyber-criminals are constantly changing their devious methods and always devising new scams to pull on the unsuspecting victims.

According to the Internal Revenue Service, the highly sophisticated and devious scheme began last summer. That is when cyber-criminals, posing as potential tax clients, began using phishing emails sent to professional tax preparers. That was the first step in obtaining personal information about the tax professional's legitimate clients.

They then use that information to file fake tax returns, using the direct-de-

posit information they have stolen. With no certain way to detect a scam going on, the IRS then auto-deposits the return in the legitimate client's bank.

Scam variation 1: The client then receives a call that he or she has been identified as participating in a tax-fraud scheme and that the money they received must be returned immediately to avoid prosecution. If the client is fooled and follows the scammer's directions, that returned refund money will

be sent right into the hands of the crooks.

Scam variation 2: The crook, in a phone call, poses as a debt-collection person acting on behalf of the IRS. He says the refund was deposited by mistake by the IRS and that it must be sent to the debt-collection agency. Again, if the victim follows directions, the crooks collect the money.

Scam variation 3: A robo-call claiming to represent the IRS threatens the person

Crooks • page 7

Count illustrates current face of homelessness

by Vicki Ikeogu
news@thenewsleaders.com

It is a necessary, but difficult part of the job for AG Hout.

As program manager and continuum of care coordinator for the Central Minnesota Housing Partnership, Hout and her team spend one day every year tracking down and compiling information on those without a home.

Known as the point-in-time count, trained staff

spend one day, during the last 10 days of January, tracking down and logging various characteristics about those experiencing homelessness.

This year, that date was Jan. 24.

"We do the point-in-time count for several reasons,"

Homeless • page 3



Hout

In Business

Stearns Bank dontes large sum to Wounded Warriors Family Support

Stearns Bank donated \$108,680 to Wounded Warriors Family Support to buy vehicles for Native American veterans living on remote reservations.

Stearns Bank generated the large contribution by donating all loan packaging fees and documentation fees collected from

Gaslight Creative takes home 13 advertising awards

Gaslight Creative, an advertising agency in St. Cloud, took home 13 awards at the 2018 American Advertising Awards Show on Saturday, Feb. 17. The annual awards competition was hosted by the American Advertising Federation of Central Minnesota and celebrates excellence in advertising.

Gaslight’s entries included work created for local and re-

borrowers during the week leading up to Veterans Day last November.

The mission of Wounded Warriors Family Support is to help families of those who have been injured, wounded or killed during combat operations.

gional clients Explorium Brewpub, Rice Cos., Reach-up Head Start and United Way of Central Minnesota.

Among the 13 awards, Gaslight Creative received the People’s Choice award for their work for United Way of Central Minnesota.

Gaslight’s 10-member team is led by co-founders Kelly Zaske and Jodie Pundsack.

Victims

from front page

Kruzel said she feels a sense of optimism that lots can be done to combat sex trafficking and to help its victims. Her optimism derives from all of the people and agencies she’s met who are working so hard to do something about it: law enforcement, education, social services and others who care deeply.

“There are people coming to the Denim to Diamonds fundraiser from the Twin Cities and as far away as Iowa,” she said. “That’s how much people care. We are super-excited about it.”

After her daughter died, collapsing in her bedroom, Tami Kruzel in the throes of her grief, found herself asking all the time, “What would BriAnna do if she were still here?” And the answer Tami “heard” was to do something to help make people’s lives better. And that is why she and others started “What Would Bri Do?”

She calls the group her “floatie,” something that keeps her “afloat” day after day.

“If I didn’t have the WWBD organization, I would just drown,” she said. “It gets me out of bed every morning. Other people grieve the death of a child in their own ways. This is my way of grieving and dealing with the loss of my daughter.”

Needs

There are many needs asso-



contributed photo

As part of I-Love-to-Read month, the fourth-graders at All Saints Academy take turns reading a favorite book to the first-graders. Fourth-grader Aquiliana Wolf (center, back) reads one of her favorite picture books, to the enjoyment of the first-graders.

People

Five St. Joseph college students have been named to the fall semester dean’s list at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. To qualify, students must attain a minimum 3.66 grade-point av-

erage.

The students are: **Leanna Chlan, Cameron MacKinney, Michael Maleska, Mitchell Shimak** and **Alex Theisen**.

ciated with Terebinth Refuge and its new six-bed capacity for victims of sex trafficking. The organization hopes to expand its services and capacity with the help of many other inter-connecting agencies, including law enforcement.

The needs include a social enterprise through which the women can work on developing working skills, finding jobs so the women can help support the transitional-housing costs, a child-care class to assist with parenting classes, onsite day-care, cooking classes, physical-care classes, a holistic well-

ness program, a security system and arts-and-crafts supplies.

Ways to help

People and/or businesses can donate items, such as gift certificates, for the March 10 Denim to Diamonds silent auction. If a donated item needs to be picked up, send an email to info@WWBDinc.org or call Tami Kruzel at 320-492-4691. A donation can be mailed to WWBD Inc., 334 Pine Ridge Road, Sartell, Minn. 56377. Write the check to WWBD Inc. Donations are tax-deductible.

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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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Homeless

from front page

Hout said. “One, it is required by HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development). And we in the state of Minnesota choose to do it every year because it gives us a snapshot of where we are at with our homeless numbers.”

While the results of the 2018 point-in-time count will not be made available until later this spring, Hout said past point-in-time counts tell the story of who exactly is experiencing homelessness within central Minnesota.

“About four or five years ago, at least in central Minnesota we had a large amount of homeless vets,” she said. “And because of the plethora of funding that has been infused to house homeless vets, we have noticed the number has gone down drastically.”

Across Minnesota, Hout said the amount of resources and funding specifically targeted toward veterans experiencing homelessness has dropped down to what Hout described as “functional zero.”

“It doesn’t mean there aren’t any homeless vets,” Hout said. “What it does mean is if a veteran becomes homeless and wants assistance, a homeless vet can get assistance right away.”

And while that’s been seen as a victory for CMHP and other organizations who work with populations experiencing homelessness, the new face of homelessness has been get-

ting younger.

“There has been a shift from the number of homeless families to a large increase in the number of homeless youth,” Hout said.

She said the influx in the number of youth experiencing homelessness can be attributed to a number of reasons, including an unstable home environment.

“We have noticed many of them do come from the foster-care system,” she said.

Limited resources currently exist for youth experiencing homelessness. For those under the age of 18, Hout said many will have their cases referred to child welfare services. Others will be able to seek refuge at programs like the Catholic Charities Supportive Housing for Youth Program. Still others, she finds, will end up sleeping in their cars (if they have one) or couch surfing with friends – which is referred to as doubling up.

“What we are finding (among all populations experiencing homelessness), not everyone in the state of Minnesota counts doubled up or does a survey of those doubled up,” she said. “We do in central Minnesota, because we are finding, especially in the rural areas and even around St. Cloud, you are more apt to throw somebody on your couch than let them freeze outside. Unfortunately, they don’t count as homeless under HUD. But we still need to know those numbers. And the majority of the people we find around here are doubled up.”

For youth especially, homelessness can lead to other, more dangerous paths.

“Another thing that happens to our youth is they are a prime target for traffickers,” Hout said, “which is a big issue for this area.”

Understanding the trends and makeup of the current population experiencing homelessness, she said, is important in helping to determine funding opportunities and priorities to help those experiencing homelessness.

“There’s very little additional funding,” Hout said. “What you have to do is then analyze the services you do have and maybe move some services around. An example being you would maybe take a program not as needed for those who are chronically homeless and remove the funding from that program and add a program for youth.”

But what Hout said she believes will help develop a longer-term solution to the growing number of homelessness particularly in Stearns, Benton, Sherburne and Wright counties, is to build more affordable housing.

“The cost of rental units (has been a challenge),” she said. “There is no affordable housing. There is nowhere to put people. And there is a perception we don’t need any.”

Hout said stereotypes of people experiencing homelessness have also not helped to draw attention to the issue.

“There’s still that old, old adage of pulling yourself up by the bootstraps and they think of all of the homeless people as derelict hobos from

the 1950s,” she said. “Not realizing, not wanting to realize the face of homelessness has changed. Other regions are building. Other counties are building. We are not.”

And until then, Hout said she fears future point-in-time count numbers will continue to be more of the same.

“We do have people living in the streets, we do have people living in unheated garages. We have people living in fish houses, in tents, under bridges. Yes, we do. In cars. Staying up all night in a restaurant if they are lucky. Yes, that’s everywhere.”

News
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PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF ST. JOSEPH

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

PLANNED-UNIT DEVELOPMENT AND PRELIMINARY PLAT

The St. Joseph Planning Commission will hold public hearings in the St. Joseph City Hall, 75 Callaway St. E. at 6 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on Monday, March 12, 2018 to hear all persons present upon the proposed planned-unit development (PUD) and preliminary plat of Southview Heights as submitted by, KJ Development of

St. Joseph, LLC., owner and applicant; for property located at 213 20th Ave. SE, St. Joseph, Minnesota. The purpose of the requests are to facilitate the development of a mixed-residential development.

Judy Weyrens
Administrator

Publish: March 2, 2018

PUBLIC NOTICE

CERTIFICATE

OF ASSUMED NAME

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Pursuant to Chapter 333, Minnesota Statutes, the undersigned, who is or will be conducting or transacting a commercial business in the State of Minnesota under an assumed name, hereby certifies:

1. The assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted is: Junkie Apparel Company.

2. The stated address of the principal place of business is or will be: 822 Fourth St. N., Sartell, Minnesota 56377.

3. The name and street address of all persons conducting business

under the above assumed name including any corporations that may be conducting this business: Travis Eugene Elder, 822 Fourth St. N., Sartell, Minnesota 56377.

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

Dated: Feb. 1, 2018

Filed: Feb. 1, 2018

/s/ Travis E. Elder

Publish: March 2 and 9, 2018

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. 17

8:49 a.m. Traffic stop. CR 75 and 20th Avenue SE. While driving south on College Avenue N., an officer spotted a vehicle coming around the corner traveling at what

appeared to be faster than the posted 30-mph speed limit. The officer captured the suspected vehicle’s speed at 45 mph. The driver was the registered owner of the vehicle but her license had been revoked. She admitted to it and did not have proof of insurance. She was cited for driving with a revoked license and no insurance with a verbal warning for speed.

11:19 a.m. City ordinance violation. 1414 Minnesota St. E. An officer observed the snow had not been removed as required by city ordinance. The snow had stopped two days prior. A warning tag was placed on the door of the house.

3:13 p.m. Distracted driving. CR 75 and CR 133. While driving west

on CR 75 near Ridgewood Road, an officer saw a woman holding up her phone and looking at it while driving. The vehicle was stopped and the driver said she was using Pandora. A citation for distracted driving was issued.

Jan. 19

5:14 a.m. Expired registration. CR 75 and Second Avenue NW. An officer spotted a vehicle that had expired plates at the red light on College Avenue. A computer check confirmed the plates expired in February 2017. When the officer pulled over the vehicle, the driver said it was a company vehicle. A citation was issued for expired registration.

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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 WARMART your one-stop shopping headquarters for the best products, the largest selection and the ultimate in everyday bargains!

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INVESTING WITH A PLAN

James Kramer III Recognized as a Top Financial Advisor by LPL Financial

James Kramer III, an independent LPL Financial Advisor at Kramer Financial in St. Cloud, was recently recognized for his inclusion in the LPL Patriot's Club. This premier award is presented to less than 8% of the firm's approximately 15,000 advisors nationwide.

"On behalf of LPL, I congratulate James," said Andy Kalbaugh, LPL managing director and divisional president, National Sales and Consulting. "James has demonstrated tremendous value to his clients with the service he provides to help them pursue their financial goals. We thank James for the contributions he makes to his clients, his commitment to offering his clients independent financial advice and his ongoing relationship with support of LPL. We wish him continued success."



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Avery guiding hunters to the birds

by Cori Hilsen

news@thenewsleaders.com

Many hunters like to escape from their occupations to go hunting. Fifteen-year-old Sartell resident Brian Avery, owner of Northern Waterfowl Outfitters, has found a way to create a career from his passion.

Avery and his professional hunting staff guide waterfowl day hunts for ducks and geese. They mainly hunt around central Minnesota. Occasionally, they also hunt in southern Minnesota.

The idea of being a hunting guide came to Avery when he and his friends were hunting one morning and his friend, Shane Miller, asked him if he had ever thought about being a guide. The hunters discussed the idea the rest of the day and the rest of the hunting season.

Avery began researching about how to be a hunting guide and how to start a business. He discussed the idea with his parents, Nancy and Brett Avery, who thought it was a good idea. Avery and his brother, Ken, 16, who prefers fishing but is also an avid hunter, discussed the idea extensively. Both have dreamed of guiding since they were very young.

Nancy, who Avery says has always encouraged him to follow his passions and pursue his dreams, helped him register his business with the state of Minnesota. She also helped get his email address and domain name for his future website.

Avery is home-schooled and is able to adjust his schedule

to work with his business. This allows him to hunt during the week.

The family is turning his business development into one of his home-school electives. Currently, Avery is working on his comprehensive business plan.

Avery attended two weeks of intensive waterfowl training offered by the Minnesota Waterfowl Association, as well as four other week-long trainings on upland bird and waterfowl hunting. He holds Minnesota Department of Natural Resources safety certifications in firearm, advanced firearm, bow hunting, all-terrain vehicle, boating and snowmobile.

Besides Avery, Northern Waterfowl Outfitters' professional staff includes Miller, 16, from Cambridge; Logan Cordell, 18, from Clear Lake; Tyson Erdmann, 17, from Big Lake; and Raleigh Krecklau, 17, from Monticello.

Avery's professional hunting staff, who are also the hunters who encouraged him to start his business, helped get the business going. All bring a different set of skills to the business. Cordell has great communication skills. Erdmann is the goose caller and photographer. Krecklau handles the goose decoy spreads or placement of the decoys. Miller is also a good caller and an amazing scout who knows where to find the birds.

"Everything is more fun with friends," Avery said. "We all have a great work ethic, a passion for the outdoors and have a ton of fun hunting together, making it a great group to hunt with."

Having staff from around the region gives the business a better grasp on where birds are located and the hunting patterns that will work well with those flocks.

"We usually all hunt together," Avery said. "We are just able to scout more locations by living farther apart."

Avery's Northern Waterfowl Outfitters service includes watching the migration patterns, where the birds are, securing locations for hunts and obtaining permission to hunt on private property, setting up decoy spreads and calling in the waterfowl to help ensure successful hunts for clients.

Migratory birds will usually use the same routes each season. It's important to watch the factors that affect their migration to help ensure the business can set up at the most successful locations.

Avery said hiring an outfitter is the perfect way to hunt if your schedule doesn't allow you time to scout fields, set out decoys, or contact land owners. He and his staff will take all of the labor-intensive work out of the hunting experience so clients can enjoy the hunt without the work.

"Anyone who wants to get into hunting, this is probably the best way to see if you enjoy it," Avery said. "A great crew to hunt with, funny and definitely great guys."

He added hunting with an outfitter is also a great way to experience water-fowl hunting for the first time to see if you enjoy it before investing in the equipment needed for successful hunts.

"We are a great group of



contributed photo

Fifteen-year-old Sartell resident Brian Avery, owner of Northern Waterfowl Outfitters, has found a way to create a career from his passion. He and his professional hunting staff guide waterfowl day hunts for ducks and geese around central Minnesota and sometimes southern Minnesota.

outdoor enthusiasts and love helping people enjoy successful hunts," Avery said. "We love what we do and we want to share that love and appreciation for the outdoors with others."

Avery said he and his professional staff have encountered great land owners in the St. Joseph, Sartell, St. Stephen and Sauk Rapids areas who allow them to use their private land for hunting.

Northern Waterfowl Outfitters offers hunting experiences from September through December, which are the Department of Natural Resources regulated hunting seasons. All hunters need proper licenses and required waterfowl/migratory bird stamps before they hunt.

For additional information, contact Avery by phone at 320-200-4435 or by email at brian@northernwaterfowl.com.



contributed photo

Brian Avery's business, Northern Waterfowl Outfitters, brought down these birds during a hunt by Clear Lake.



contributed photo

During one of their most memorable hunts last season, Brian Avery's business, Northern Waterfowl Outfitters, brought down these birds during a hunt in an alfalfa field by Foley. There were about 100 geese in the field. The hunters could shoot five geese during the early season and they brought down 15 birds.

The importance of walkability

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

During the past several weeks, in our web exclusive blogs on joetownvibe.com, we have discussed the importance of the sidewalk in a downtown. In addition, we discussed the importance, and even necessity, of various components of a good downtown sidewalk master plan including trees, lighting, benches, shrubs and plants. After much discussion on why the sidewalk is important to a downtown's success, it's essential now to explain how to get people to come downtown. This week, with the use of Jane Jacob's urban theory, we will be discussing how "walkability" influences the success of a downtown.

"Walkability" refers to how easy it is to get around an area by walking; the higher the score, the more accessible and favorable an area likely is. It's essential the area between a downtown and its surrounding neighborhoods is walkable, just as much as the downtown itself. The walkability of a town and a downtown directly impacts the accessibility of the area, which directly impacts the diversity of visitors. A downtown core only accessible by car drastically reduces the number of people visiting and reduces the diversity of those individuals. Diversity in age, physical abilities, interests and economic status are all important to a downtown's success.

Walkability is not only essential to a downtown because of the audience it attracts, but also because of the safety it provides. As more and more people walk around on the sidewalks, the city becomes safer and safer. Jacobs, the legendary urban theorist, preached the importance of having eyes on the street, which builds trust within a community and decreases isolation. The more people who are around, the less likely it is someone will try something illegal or sketchy. St. Joseph is by no means a dangerous city but continuing to have eyes on the street can keep it safe.

Jacobs discussed how sidewalks lead to more contact amongst neighbors. Creating more contact and engagement on the sidewalks of a downtown builds community and trust within a town. If a downtown is not walkable, this essential engagement between community members would be lost, and with it, the complete experience

of visiting downtown would suffer. In addition to a dampened experience,

lack of walkability prevents trust within a community. Trust is built through repeated engagement, and with lacking contact on the sidewalk, trust can be severely diminished.

So how does St. Joseph stack up? St. Joseph is a relatively accessible town. St. Joseph scored 67 out of 100 on walkscore.com's walkability index. From the center of St. Joseph, you can walk to almost all the houses in the surrounding neighborhoods within 30 minutes. To improve St. Joseph's walkability score, more accessible and safer routes to various locations around town like Coborn's are needed. Currently, crossing CR 75 to get to Coborn's and other places is a safety hazard and could be improved by adding over or underpasses. This would increase walkability in St. Joseph and would encourage more people to walk around town.

St. Joseph benefits from being a small town where many people recognize and know one another. Trust is already high in these types of towns but is made higher in St. Joseph by the walkability of the city. The small and relatively condensed nature of St. Joseph and its downtown makes it accessible for more people. The walkability of downtown is adding to the contact between neighbors and is building trust while remaining one of the safest cities in Minnesota.

To further explore the walkability of St. Joseph, visit www.walkscore.com/score/25-college-ave-n-saint-joseph-mn-56374 and use the Travel Time Map near the bottom of the page.

To learn more about Jane Jacob's theory on urban planning read "The Death and Life of Great American Cities."

Man arrested after vehicle crashes through building

A vehicle crashed through the side of CMS Auto Body early Saturday.

A St. Cloud man was arrested early Saturday, Feb. 24, after he drove his vehicle through a building at 109 Cedar St. E. in St. Joseph.

The driver, identified by St. Joseph police as Jason Wiener, 53, fled the scene after the crash at CMS Auto Body.

Officers found Wiener a short time after the 2:30 a.m. incident a few blocks from the scene. He was arrested and could be charged with fifth-degree controlled substance and fourth-degree DWI.

The building sustained substantial damage, according to the police department. There were no serious injuries.



photo by St. Joseph police

A vehicle crashed through the side of CMS Auto Body early Saturday.

Catholic Charities names social concerns director

Kateri

Mancini has been named director of social concerns for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Cloud.

Mancini will engage faith communities with Catholic Charities' mission.

She previously worked as the coordinator of mission education at the St. Cloud Diocesan Mission Office.

Within the community, she dedicates her time to Christ Church Newman Center and serves on the Peace and Social Justice Committee.

"I look forward to the opportunity to help the community of central Minnesota put their faith into action while living out Catholic Charities' mission," Mancini said in a press release.



Mancini

The Department of Social Concerns promotes Catholic social teaching, which Catholic Charities is founded on. The staff encourages the Catholic community at large to consider what it means to live the Gospel message of love, according to its mission statement.

Mancini received her master's degree in theology and

pastoral ministry from St. John's University. She received her bachelor's in organizational communications and religions from Concordia College, Moorhead.

"We are extremely blessed to have Kateri join our leadership team," said Steve Pareja, executive director of Catholic Charities, in a press release. "Her devoted faith, outstanding abilities and past experiences will have a great impact on both our organization and the community."

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Opinion

Staying out of jail is easy: don't lie

Our View

There's a gun debate closer to home

Two weeks ago, the agenda for this legislative session looked pretty routine. After a summer of court battles, Gov. Mark Dayton said he was ready to sign a bill funding the Legislature.

Work to adjust Minnesota's tax code to the new federal tax rates began even before the Legislation convened on Feb. 20.

The Republicans are angry about the extra money needed to fix a new vehicle-registration system.

And Dayton's \$1.5-billion bonding bill will face opposition from Republicans.

That was the scene before Feb. 14 when a disturbed man with a semi-automatic weapon killed 17 people in Parkland, Florida. Now gun-safety and firearms issues are at the top of the agenda.

Five pieces of legislation have been filed and there will probably be more. Three measures that increase restrictions have been proposed by Democrats while two, including a "stand-your-ground" bill, have been introduced by Republicans.

Rep. Brian Johnson, a Republican from the Cambridge area, chairs the House public-safety committee, and he has said he will be a strong Second Amendment advocate. These bills will need to pass through his committee.

The stand-your-ground bill, HF 238, expands situations where it's legal to take another person's life. The measure would allow lethal force to stop a variety of felonies, whether a person is in their home or not.

A bill called "permit-less carry" by its critics eliminates the need for a gun permit on public property entirely in most cases, except for people who cannot legally carry guns, such as felons. The bill is HF 188.

Rep. John Considine, DFL-Mankato, introduced a bill, HF 2781, that would make "bump stocks" illegal.

Sen. Ron Latz, a DFLer from St. Louis Park, has introduced two bills. SF 1261 calls for universal background checks on all gun sales, including online.

Latz has also proposed SF 1262 that would allow law enforcement and family members to petition a court to prohibit a person from possessing firearms if they pose "a significant danger of bodily injury to self or to other persons by possessing a firearm."

When legislators returned to the Capitol, they were met by an unexpectedly large crowd for a gun-control rally of more than 200 people.

But you don't have to travel to St. Paul to make your voice heard. Here's how to contact our local legislators.

Rep. Jeff Howe represents the St. Joseph area. Email him at rep.jeff.howe@house.mn or call his office at 652-296-4373.

Rep. Tim O'Driscoll represents the Sartell area. Email him at rep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn or call him at 651-296-7808.

Contact Sen. Michelle Fischbach by email at sen.michelle.fischbach@senate.mn or call her at 651-296-2084.

The Republicans control the House and Senate, so it's important to share your views with our legislators, who are all Republicans.

While gun safety and Second-Amendment debates dominate the national discussion, remember to take part in the discussion closer to home.

Don't lie to the cops. Talk about stating the obvious. But it's a lesson apparently not widely learned.

The current special counsel's investigation into Russian meddling in 2016 tripped up some supposedly very smart people who didn't learn that lesson.

Trump campaign associates Michael Flynn, George Papadopoulos and Richard Gates lied to the FBI and ended up pleading not guilty to that crime and several others.

I have a much cleaner criminal record. My only brush with the law came on a sunny Sunday afternoon in 1975 when I made an illegal left turn in downtown St. Cloud. When the police officer asked me if I saw the "No Left Turn" sign, I told the truth. I told him I saw it. He let me go with a warning. Lesson learned.

I've reported on cops and crime for more than 40 years and I've learned a few things about law enforcement. Sometimes in the course of reporting, journalists and officers butt heads. But they share one trait...they don't like to be lied to.

Hearing what they know to be a lie, a cop or a journalist just digs

Mike
Knaak
Editor



in deeper to get at the truth.

Next to lying, stupidity takes a close second on the list that lands you in jail.

Indictments filed last week on Gates reveals his effort to tamper with financial documents was hampered by how to convert Word and Excel files to pdfs. Not exactly rocket science.

If you're a regular reader of the police blotters that appear weekly on these pages, you've probably noticed St. Joseph and Sartell officers run across lying and stupidity all the time.

Some recent examples include the following:

- A woman was stopped for driving 52 mph in a 30-mph zone in downtown St. Joseph. Besides the speeding ticket the driver couldn't provide proof of insurance.

- In Sartell, a driver blew through a red light. He was stopped and he

Massacre survivors speak truth to power

The survivors of the butchery at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, are speaking truth to power – loudly, clearly.

These young people are so intelligent, articulate, passionate and determined.

Don't you wish more legislators were? Thanks to these students' energetic, keen-eyed truths, there just might someday be effective gun laws enacted.

Let us praise and value these students' idealism. That is exactly what is lacking in many jaded adults who've been cowed so long by the gun lobby and its legislative minions.

Here is how a typical jaded adult thinks these days, at least those who succumb to gun-lobby propaganda: Yes, the shootings are horrible, but there's always been mass killings.

Banning any kind of gun won't stop them. Killers will steal them if they can't buy them. They'll use knives or bombs.

Besides, guns don't kill people.

Now, listen to these young people who saw or heard the murders:

David Hogg, 17: "This is something we can't let keep happening. Because if we do and we get used to it, it's going to happen again. This is a time for our country to take a look in the mirror and realize there is a serious issue here."

Emma Gonzalez, 17: "We are up here standing together because if all our government and president can do is send thoughts and prayers, then it's time for victims to be the change we need to see."

After Parkland, so many leg-

Dennis
Dalman
Reporter



islators, as they always do like lemmings, reacted this way: "Let's not jump to conclusions," parroted Speaker of the House Paul Ryan.

These always distract by saying, "Let's find the facts first, then let's have a conversation."

Well, folks, the facts are these: A teenager legally purchased an AR-15 assault rifle. He used it to slaughter 17 people.

Slugs smashed and shredded the flesh and organs of the victims, in one case severing the spine of a 14-year-old girl running down a hallway for her life.

Lockstep opponents of any sort of gun restrictions are making a lot of noise the FBI dropped the ball after it was notified of this deranged teenager being an imminent threat.

They note at least one deputy did not enter the school to confront the shooter. Such lamentable facts do not obscure the underlying central fact: a teenager armed with an AR-15 mowed down 17 people in a school.

The student survivors – visionary leaders – are pointing out accurately there are many interlocking components to help stop mass killings: stringent background checks, the closing of loopholes in gun purchases online and at gun shows, more attention to mental illness issues, a thorough review of the prescription drugs children are receiving, a strengthened entry se-

told the officer he didn't see the light even though four vehicles in front of him passed through the intersection with a green light.

- Small violations can lead to more trouble. An officer stopped a vehicle for no license-plate light. Turns out the driver didn't have a license...only an instructional permit.

The officer checked the driver's history and found multiple instructional-permit violations within the last two years.

One of my favorite recent violations occurred in Sartell when a routine license-plate check revealed the driver was suspended. The officer saw a small baggie that turned out to hold meth. Lesson...if you're going to carry drugs, make sure your license is up to date.

And perhaps my favorite:

A Sartell officer stopped a driver for going 73 mph in a 60-mph zone. The officer immediately noticed a jar of marijuana on the front driver's seat. The driver told the officer the car and the pot belonged to his sister.

Maybe the third rule of the how-not-to-be-arrested list should be don't blame your sister.

curity at schools and other public places, the banning of bump-stocks and most importantly, a total ban of military-style assault rifles for civilian use.

Lest we forget, the AR-15 has been used by rampaging adults, too.

Such rifles should not be protected by the Second Amendment because they are designed for one thing – killing people rapidly.

A cloud of disgrace hangs over Congress because of its stubborn refusal to do anything about school shootings.

It didn't even have the moral courage to act after 20 sweet, innocent first-graders were blown apart by slugs from an assault rifle five years ago.

Legislators keep hoping the latest horror will be forgotten once again in a fog of national amnesia. But, as always, another massacre happens and another. And another.

Lawmakers' mantra of "Let's have a conversation" is a code phrase for "Let's keep doing nothing." That is what these students mean when they say they are tired of "thoughts and prayers."

They don't need sentiments; they demand action; they seek meaningful gun-law changes; they want to feel safe in their schools.

These "kids" are inspiring people throughout the nation, changing minds, compelling us to realize the Second Amendment, like the First and the others, is not absolute.

The gun lobby and its legislative puppets are under fire, on the defensive, as well they should be.

Let's join the students' struggle; let's listen to them; let's heed their warnings and their truths.

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.

Crooks

from front page

will be arrested on a warrant if the refund money is not returned immediately. Once again, if the money is sent, it goes to the crooks, not the IRS.

“We want people to call us (the police),” Klein said. “That’s because we can become aware of the scam and notify others about it. In most cases, we cannot solve the scam, but we can warn others, and we can assure the people who received the calls they are not about to get arrested (as the scammers sometimes claim).”

Klein also advises potential scam victims that if they happen to get a number from the caller to write it down and report that number to the police.

Klein’s advice on how to handle scams holds true for all scamming attempts, not just the IRS variety.

The best way to avoid any scams, Klein added, is to be very skeptical when anybody on the phone or in person asks for any personal information, such as bank-

ing-account numbers. That information should never be divulged in such situations, Klein advised.

What to do

Unfortunately, it’s quite a hassle to deal with these erroneous refunds because cyber-crooks are so sophisticated, so complicated, that they can tie a person up in knots.

Here are the steps for what to do as recommended by the IRS and local law enforcement:

- Do not spend any IRS refund money in your bank account unless you are positive it’s the amount you yourself actually filed for. Instead, inform your bank immediately, and the bank can return the erroneous refund, noting it was the result of a criminal scam.
- If you have been scammed, obtain a Form 14039 (Identity Theft Affidavit) or have your tax professional obtain one for you when you do your tax forms. This will allow IRS officials to know you were the victim of a scam so your bonafide tax filing will be accepted and a genuine refund sent to you.

- In addition, as soon as you learn of the erroneous tax refund, call one of the following numbers to report it immediately: For individual filers, call the IRS at 800-829-1040; for business filers, call 800-829-4933.
- In some cases, cyber-crooks might scam the IRS into having your refund delivered in your mailbox. They hope you cash the check and leave the money in the bank so they can then rip it off. Call the IRS at one of the above numbers and find out which IRS regional office to send the check with a letter that you have been scammed.
- If you realize you have cashed an erroneous check, send a personal check or money order to your regional IRS office, being sure to write on the memo line of the check “Payment of Erroneous Refund” and tax year for which the refund was issued.

For more detailed information about this particular form of IRS tax-identify scam, go to www.irs.gov, then go to “Tax Topic Number 161 – Returning an Erroneous Refund.”

CSB, SJU receive \$600,000 grant

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

The College of St. Benedict and St. John’s University recently received a \$600,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support initiatives focused on inclusive pedagogy and community building.

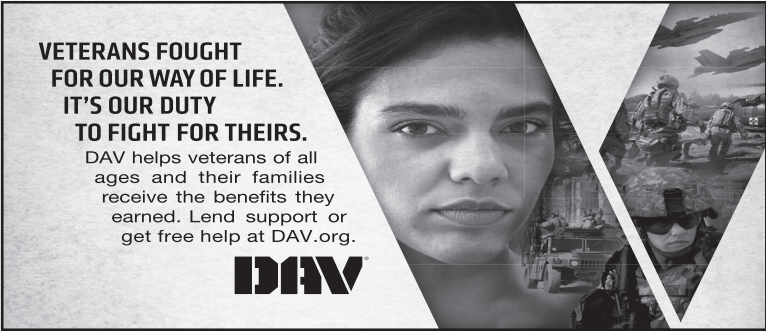
The goal for “Becoming Community” is to teach and enable CSB and SJU faculty, staff and students to become agents of change by preparing them to dismantle oppression rather than simply learning about oppression.

“At the College of St. Benedict and St. John’s University, we remain steadfast in our mission to ensure every student we serve,

and every person who works here, is fully included in defining our community: to have a voice, to be treated with respect; to be valued; to be transformed as they transform us,” said Mary Dana Hinton, CSB president, in a press release.

The program has several goals including the following:

- move beyond awareness to become an inclusive community;
- dismantle programs that support exclusion;
- recruit, hire and support under-represented faculty;
- create an equitable future for the region; and
- share what’s learned with others in higher education.



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, March 2
St. Joseph Area Historical Society, open 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave. NW. [\[toricalmn.org\]\(http://toricalmn.org\).
Book Sale, hosted by Friends of the Little Falls Carnegie Library, noon-6 p.m., hardcover books \\$1, paperbacks 50 cents, 108 Third St. NE., Little Falls, 320-632-6222.](http://stjosephhis-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Saturday, March 3
Book Sale, hosted by Friends of the Little Falls Carnegie Library, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., \$2 per bag, 108 Third St. NE., Little Falls, 320-632-6222.

Monday, March 5
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave. NW, St. Joseph.

St. Joseph City Council, 6 p.m., council chambers, St. Joseph City Hall, 75 Callaway St. E. 320-363-7201. cityofstjoseph.com.

Tuesday, March 6
St. Joseph Lions Club meeting, 7:30 p.m., Millstream Park Pavilion 101 Fifth Ave. NW., St Joseph. Contact Joanne Bechtold 320-363-4483 for more information.

Thursday, March 8
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. Joseph Senior Citizens, 1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Community Fire Hall, 323 Fourth Ave. NE.
All Saints Academy Open House, 4:30-7 p.m., 32 Minnesota St. W., 320-363-7505 ext. 150, asastjoseph@allsaintsmn.org.
St. Cloud Area Mothers of Multiples, 7 p.m., VFW Granite Post 428, 9-18th Ave. N., St. Cloud.
.
Saturday, March 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, March 11
Mid Minnesota Coin Expo, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., Tuscan Center (Midtown Square Mall), 3333 Division St. W., St. Cloud. 320-260-1971.
Organ Concert with organist Lola Wolf., 2:30 p.m. Sacred Heart Chapel, St. Benedict’s Monastery, 104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph.

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contributed photo
The color green predominated during last year's Pot 'o' Gold 1k and 5k Run event. This is a photo of the kids' run. The 2018 Pot 'o' Gold will take place on St. Patrick's Day (Saturday, March 17) at Pine Meadow Elementary School in Sartell.

Pot 'o' Gold 5k run set for St. Pat's Day

by **Dennis Dalman**
news@thenewsleader.com

There will be lots of people sporting leprechaun-green jogging gear when the third annual Pot 'o' Gold 5k run takes place on St. Patrick's Day, Saturday, March 17, at Pine

Meadow Elementary School in Sartell. The event, billed as affordable, healthy family fun, is one of the four annual events in the Bernick's Family Fitness Series in partnership with the St. Cloud YMCA. This year, Pot 'o' Gold's main sponsor is Country

Financial of Sartell. Participants can register on the morning of the event. The 1k kids' run will begin at 8:30 a.m. At about 8:45 a.m., the 5k run will start, as well as a two-mile walk. There will be face painting for children and snacks and refreshments for one and all.

"This is an incredible event," race coordinator Evin Haukos said. "It's a way for families to be happy and get healthy at an activity they can afford." The Pot 'o' Gold costs \$10 per family, \$5 per individual. "We're not out to make money; we're happy if we just break even," Haukos added. "Pot 'o' Gold is a lot of fun because to many it's like an annual reunion when family and friends see one another, and a lot of them come from out of town."

The Bernick's Family Fitness Series, hosted by the YMCA, has been very successful, Haukos noted. Last year, in only its second year, participation increased by 35 percent. There were close to 7,000 participants for the entire four-part series. The other events in the lineup for this year are the Move 'n' Groove 5k run in St. Cloud; the Rock Your Soul Trail Run in Quarry Park; and the Wishbone 5k run at the YMCA on Thanksgiving Day morning. The latter even attracted 4,000 runners last year. Haukos, who lives in St. Cloud, has always loved organizing races. His mother, Chris Haukos, started the well-known annual Earth Day Race at St. Cloud State University in 2000. "I was only 11 years old at that time," Haukos remem-

bered. "And that day I handed out water to the runners. In the Bernick's events, we have about 150 volunteers handing out water."

Rules

The Pot 'o' Gold race will take place even if the weather that day happens to be inclement. It is for walkers, joggers and race-runners only. Parents are welcome to accompany their children during the kids' race, and participants for that race can be children up to the age of 12. Child strollers are allowed at the event, and although pets on leashes can attend, they are discouraged because of safety reasons. To register for the Pot 'o' Gold, visit its website at scymca.org

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Polar is a 4 year old neutered Alaskan Husky mix on the hunt for a feline-free home. Prior to coming to the shelter, Polar competed in multiple races as a sled dog and was used to an outdoor lifestyle. Polar gets along well with other dogs and isn't shy about showing his appreciation for humans. This active and sociable pup would be best suited in a home with a fenced yard with a family that has the energy to keep up with him.

"Helping one animal won't change the world ... but it will change the world for that one animal!"

12-Dogs 7-Puppies 26-Cats 13-Kittens
5-Guinea Pigs 4-Rabbits 3-Mice Total = 71

Tri-County Humane Society
735 8th St. NE • PO Box 701
St. Cloud, MN 56302
320-252-0896
www.tricountyhumaneociety.org

Hours: Monday-Thursday Noon-6 p.m., Friday Noon-8 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. & Sunday Noon-5 p.m.

YES, EVEN IF YOU SEE MORE COWS THAN COPS, YOU CAN STILL GET A TICKET.