

St. Joseph Newsleader

Friday, March 16, 2018
Volume 30, Issue 11
Est. 1989

Town Crier
For additional criers, visit the-
newsleaders.com and click on Criers.

Birdhouse-building project set March 18
A youth birdhouse-building project is scheduled from 11a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, March, 18, at St. Stephen City Hall, 2 Sixth Ave. SE. The project is sponsored by the St. Stephen Sportsmen's Club and the City of St. Stephen.

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

Turkey hunt set for people with a physical disability
A turkey hunt for people with a physical disability will be held between April 18 and May 31 at Rockville and Spring Hill county parks. Applications are now being accepted. Deadline to apply is March 24. Hunters will be selected via random drawing. Each hunter will have an experienced hunting assistant with them in the field. Shotgun only. Applications are available on the Stearns County Parks website or at the Parks office: 1802 CR 137, Waite Park. Applications should be returned to: Ron Welle, 28791-325th Ave., Melrose, Minn. 56352.

Run a food drive
March is FoodShare Month in Minnesota where donations are matched during the month. Area families are using local food shelves more than ever before. Consider leveraging the match by running a food drive within your work place, church or service club and donate to your local food shelf. Catholic Charities Emergency Services 320-229-4560; C.R.O.S.S. Center of Benton County 320-968-7012; The Salvation Army 320-252-4552.

Visit, play cards or color
Mother of Mercy Senior Living in Albany needs volunteers to visit, play cards or color with the residents. They can make the volunteering opportunity to fit your needs as well as theirs. Contact Kristi, Mother of Mercy Senior Living, at 320-845-2195.

March a good time for food-shelf donations

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Although the St. Joseph Community Food Shelf does not benefit from March Food Share Month, this month is still a good time to make food or cash donations.

That is because food supplies typically decrease a bit after the Christmas season, and the food shelf could use some extra help in March.

Ann Scherer is president of the St. Joseph Community Food Shelf's nine-member board, and she also serves as the service's coordinator.

"We are a self-sufficient food shelf," she said. "We are not tied into any government programs so we don't get that doubling or tripling of food when people donate during March. We get our food through the grace of the St. Joseph community."

Those who contribute gener-

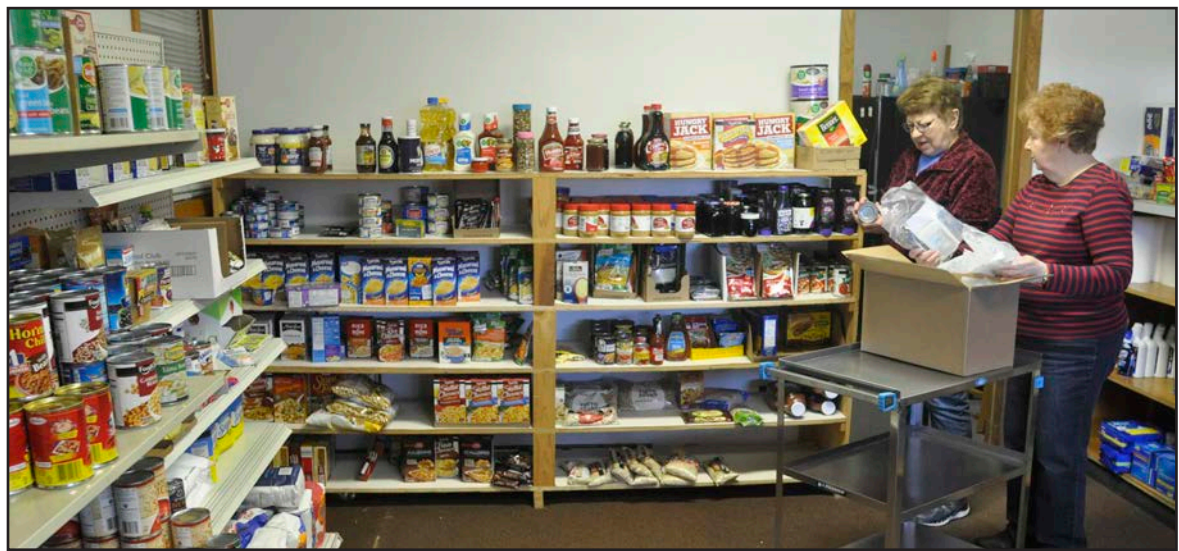


photo by Mike Knaak
Volunteers Virginia Meier and Joyce Oldeen stock the shelves at the St. Joseph Community Food Shelf on Monday, March 12.

ously, Scherer noted, are individuals, businesses, churches, the St. Joseph Coborn's store, the Skalicky Foundation's Community Challenge (matching grant program) through Stearns Bank and Sentry Bank.

There are collection boxes in

the two banks, at Coborn's and at Resurrection Lutheran Church and St. Joseph Catholic Church. Residents leave non-perishable food items in those boxes, and the contents are then given to the St. Joseph Community Food Shelf. All of the food collected

at the St. Joseph Coborn's store goes only to the St. Joseph Food Shelf, and Coborn's also gives food (in addition to the donation-box contents) to the local food shelf three times a week.

"Coborn's has been very

Food • page 2

Soyka announces candidacy for sheriff job

(Three men have announced plans to run for Stearns County sheriff. Waite Park Police Chief Dave Benrud was profiled in the Feb. 16 edition and Stearns County Lt. Robert Dickhaus was profiled in the Feb. 23 edition. Both stories are available at thenewsleaders.com.)

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Sgt. Steve Soyka, a Stearns County Sheriff's Department deputy, has announced his intention to seek the sheriff position in the Nov. 8 election, a decision that forces a primary election Aug. 14.

The primary election will determine which two of the three candidates will face off in the Nov. 8 general election.



Soyka

Soyka announced his candidacy March 3. He's the current team commander for the Stearns-Benton SWAT unit and former commander of the Central Minnesota Violent Offender Task Force. He's also a sergeant serving in the Stearns County Sheriff Patrol Division.

"(As sheriff), I will be much more community-oriented,"

Soyka said. "I want to bring the sheriff's office to the public. I want to talk to a lot of people, meet people, have coffee with people."

Born and raised in Stearns County, Soyka graduated from St. Cloud Cathedral High School and from St. Cloud State University where he earned a degree in criminal justice.

He's been a law-enforcement employee for 27 years and served in a wide variety of duties, as well as volunteer work. For five of those years, he worked for the Benton County Sheriff's Department.

"Since I was 15 years old, I've wanted to be the Stearns County

Sheriff," he said. "Now, after 27 years of protecting the people of Minnesota, I'm ready for the next step. I'm running for Stearns County Sheriff."

Soyka is keen on four major goals - improving the safety of children, reducing drug abuse, getting violent criminals off the streets and the fight against sex-trafficking.

That, he said, cannot be accomplished without help from all county residents or without a mutual trust between law enforcement and the public.

Soyka also said public safety is dependent upon good, transparent communication between

Soyka • page 7



photo by Mike Knaak
The dining area and kitchen will serve a hot meal every night. Pathways 4 Youth board members Bill Maney (left) and Tim Wensman said the space will be a place to form relationships.

Center aims to end youth homelessness

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

A community problem that advocates say is largely hidden will soon get a highly visible solution.

Pathways 4 Youth, a resource center founded by central Minnesota's Rotary clubs, plans an open house from 4-7 p.m. Tuesday, March 20.

The center, 203 Cooper Ave. N., Suite 206, St. Cloud, will open for clients the week of

March 26.

While not a shelter, the center will offer help for homeless youth ages 16-23 to get them on a path to educational and career success.

St. Cloud Rotary Club took on what Pathways board president Tim Wensman called a "signature project."

"What if we could say there are no more homeless youth?" Wensman said.

Part of inspiration for Path-

Youth • page 3

Suicide suspected in woman’s death

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

A woman found dead near a walking trail at St. John’s University died as a result of a suicide, according to the Stearns County sheriff’s office.

Walkers on the trail reported finding the body of a 31-year-old woman about 4:30 p.m. March 9.

The woman was not a member of the St. John’s student body or staff and is not affiliat-

ed with the university, according to the sheriff’s office.

“We can assure you there is no threat to the safety and well-being of any St. John’s/St.Bens’ students, staff, visitors or community members,” the sheriff’s office said in a news release.

The investigation is continuing. The sheriff’s office is working with the Ramsey County medical examiner to officially determine the cause and manner of death.

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Fare For All celebrates fifth year in St. Joseph

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Fare For All, a local non-profit food program created to make frozen meat and fresh fruits and vegetables more affordable and accessible to families celebrated the start of its fifth year in St. Joseph.

“The St. Joseph site is the largest attended site in our 30-year history” said Scott Weatherhead, Fare-For-All program manager. “Since March 2014 they have served (more than) 12,500 households representing in excess of 40,000 food packages. The site’s popularity has helped start new sites in St. Cloud, Little Falls, with satellite sites in Albany, Holdingford, Melrose and Paynesville.”

“We have some exciting events coming in the next few months,” said volunteer Jim Parsons. “In March a \$30 Brunch Box featured a 5-pound Farmland boneless ham, bacon, pork sausages, hash

browns, tri-color pepper mix, frozen blueberries and strawberries, shredded cheddar cheese and a package of Rhodes cinnamon rolls. This will be a wonderful Easter/Spring holiday box. In April, the Shoe Bus will return so everyone has an opportunity to buy new and gently used shoes for adults and kids for \$2-\$5 a pair, with all sales going to help buy food for food shelves.”

Fare For All sells packages of fresh produce and frozen meat at 38 locations throughout the year in Minnesota. With prices ranging from \$10 to \$30 per package, buyers can save up to 40 percent on their food purchases. The program has no income requirements.

The St. Joseph program is held at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2 in St. Joseph. For additional dates and a map of Fare For All locations, go to www.fareforall.org. Call 763-450-3880 or 800-582-4291 with questions.

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Dated: March 5, 2018

Filed: March 5, 2018

/s/ Christine R. Panek

Publish: March 9 and 16, 2018

Help Wanted

The City of Sartell is accepting applications for a temporary position of Administrative Clerk. This position is expected to start in May 2018 and run through September 2018.

Starting wage is \$15.50/hour. City application and addendum are required.

Applications and other information available at www.sartellmn.com.

Applications are due by April 5, 2018.

Food

from front page

good to us,” Scherer said.

The St. Joseph Community Food Shelf has been operating continuously for at least 20 years, Scherer noted. Before that, the city’s Catholic Church operated a food program. And the church and its parishioners, she added, still help hugely, as well as Resurrection Lutheran Church.

“They and others have been so good to us,” Scherer said.

Currently, an average of about 70 to 80 families need food from the St. Joseph food shelf each month, Scherer noted.

That’s up by about five families a month from the year before, and last year it was about by that number from the year before, she said.

The food shelf now serves 113 families annually, although some do not need food every month.

The St. Joseph food shelf, which is made possible by its 40 volunteers, is in the old city hall building, 25 First Ave. SE. It distributes food from 1-3 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays, though it will open if there is an emergency request.

“It is 100-percent volunteer,” Scherer said. “Without the volunteers, with such support from the community, we could not do it.”

Recurrent needs of the food shelf, Scherer noted, include the following: pancake mix and pancake syrup, jellies and jams, laundry soap, personal-care items such as shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste and other types of personal-hygiene products.

Those who want to make donations to the food shelf can do so by putting non-perishable food items in the collection boxes listed above. Or they can bring a check to the food shelf during its open hours. Those who want to send a contribution via check should make the check out to St. Joseph Community Food Shelf and send it to St. Joseph Community Food Shelf, P.O. Box 384, St. Joseph, Minn. 56374.

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Published each Friday by Von Meyer Publishing Inc.

Publisher/Owner Janelle Von Pinnon	Editor Mike Knaak	Operations Assistant Rachel Mohs
Social Relations & Design Patric Lewandowski	Assignment Editor Carolyn Bertsch	Delivery John Herring

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Youth

from front page

ways came from board vice president Bill Maney during a mission trip to Guatemala. He heard a homeless person talk about his experiences.

“I said ‘we’ve got to do something,’” Maney said.

The Rotary members approached the project as a start-up business by first visiting facilities in Duluth, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Elk River and Anoka.

The St. Cloud center is a replication of the Hope 4 Youth program in Anoka. As a part of the partnership, Hope 4 Youth provided programming and hired and trained the staff, according to Hope 4 Youth executive director Lisa Jacobson.

“We helped them pick a location and helped them design what each room needs to be,” Jacobson said.

Next the team gathered data by asking “Where did you sleep the night of Jan. 26, 2017.”

The research revealed 99 homeless youth ages 16-24 and an estimated 25-30 couch hoppers.

The youth were living in emergency shelters as well as temporary housing. But most were couch hopping – temporarily staying with friends or relatives – or staying in cars, portable toilets, tents and lean-tos.

The group found homeless young people from across central Minnesota including St. Joseph, Sartell, St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, Waite Park, Kimball, Foley, Rice and Little Falls.

“Youth are a hidden problem,” Wensman said. “They are in every community. If you see a kid walking around with two backpacks, there is something going on.”

The research also found:

- 200 school-age homeless children in the St. Cloud school district;
- Within 24-48 hours of becoming homeless, youth are approached to take part in sex trafficking;
- St. Cloud has the second most sex-trafficked youth of all Minnesota cities.
- One in four homeless young people end up being homeless adults with a lifelong cost to society of \$613,000.

Wensman said the key to the project’s successful launch has been its partnerships. In addition to St. Cloud Rotary, the Great River Rotary of Sartell and Sauk Rapids, Granite Rotary and Rotaract joined the effort with a total of more than 220 members.

The Rotarians also reached out to Stearns County Social Services, Catholic Charities and Youth for Christ.

Rotary members presented the plan to the community and were greeted with enthusiastic support. The effort raised \$300,000 cash plus in-kind contributions from businesses and individuals. Volunteers spent thousands of hours since December remodeling the 3,600-square-foot space that once housed the Anderson Trucking offices.

“This is an essential investment in the community,” Wensman said.

The result is a center that will offer a wide range of services for youth when it’s open from 2-7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

“We want youth to know they are valued, trusted and we’ll work with them to rebuild their lives,” said board member John Bodette.

Services will include a nightly hot meal that will provide a chance to develop relationships and connect with mentors. Other services include a food pantry, showers, laundry, computers, clothes for job interviews, lockers and mailboxes.

Youth will be served by a full-time program coordinator and part-time volunteer coordinator.

Medical professionals will be available to help with health problems. Catholic Charities

will have one full-time case worker on-site. Field outreach workers from Catholic Charities and Stearns County Social Services will have office space at the center.

The staff will be assisted by five or six volunteers each day.

The center is prepared to serve 25-35 people a day.

Pathways aims to help homeless youth with adult social skills such as how to balance a checkbook and prepare and dress for a job interview.

“Pathways uses our connections to help with education and jobs,” Bodette said. “We want them to get career jobs and help them on the track for training and placement. We’ll use our connections in the business community to get them jobs.”

Wensman expects the center will need about \$135,000 per year to keep going. The fundraising plan includes donations from individuals, businesses and grants, and maybe helping youth develop a business that will bring in some money.

“If we get even one person on the path to education and a career job, the savings in public expenses will more than cover our expenses for the project,” Wensman said.

Pathways offers one-time and long-term volunteer opportunities. For more information go to www.pathways4youthmn.org or contact Katlyn to volunteer at 320-316-1637. To donate, contact Callie at 320-316-1635.

“I look at all the opportunities my family has had for education,” Maney said. “I look at these kids and it’s time to give back so they have the same opportunities for education and career jobs.”

Blotter

March 3

8:34 p.m. Car alarm. Jasmine Lane. Officers responded to a report of a car alarm going off. Officers found a car with flashing lights but the alarm had stopped. Officers contacted the owner who said he was having battery issues and he would return home and take care of it.

March 5

3:25 p.m. Sign blown down. Cypress Drive and Old Hwy. 52. Public works notified police of a sign down. Officers found a street sign and a yield sign. The officer did not see any tracks leading to the downed sign and attributed it to the strong wind.

March 6

11:07 a.m. Stop sign down. College Avenue N. and Ash Street E. An officer found a stop sign down. A semi-tractor trailer tipped the sign.



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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!



contributed photos

Above left: Kristi and Peter Spaniol have been celebrating St. Patrick's Day together since the day they met. Their family includes their children pictured (front row, left to right) Kelli and Kristi, (middle) Jake, Ben and Peter (back) Wil (holding their dog Ringo), daughter-in-law Alissa and Tom. **Above right:** St.



Joseph residents Kristi and Peter Spaniol, who are both part Irish, met on St. Patrick's Day 1984. Each year, they celebrate the holiday together by drinking one green beer as they did the first night they met, as well as a green breakfast and a traditional dinner of corn beef and cabbage.

Celebrating the 'luck of the Irish'

by Cori Hilsgen

news@thenewsleaders.com

On St. Patrick's Day, celebrated March 17, many people like to claim their Irish heritage so they can participate in the many "wearing of the green" and "luck of the Irish" ceremonies.

These festivities include everything from meals of corn beef and cabbage, green beer and more.

and Peter Spaniol are part Irish and consider themselves fortunate to have met each other. Peter is one-half Irish. His mother was an O'Malley and was a full Irish descendent. Kristi is one-fourth Irish. Her mother was a Burns and was one-half Irish.

The Spaniols met on St. Patrick's Day 1984 at O'Hara's Brothers Pub in St. Cloud.

Kristi's sister Amy invited Kristi and Peter's brother Matt invited Peter to go out

for green beer to celebrate the holiday. Once they arrived at the pub, Amy and Matt saw each other and visited. A common friend of theirs, Paul Daniel, was also at the table with the Spaniol brothers. Daniel introduced Kristi and Peter and the two visited for about 10 minutes that day.

Kristi went home and woke her mom up to tell her she had just met the man she was going to marry. Peter and Kristi went on their first date two weeks later.

Three months after meeting, the two became engaged and soon got married on Oct. 19, 1984.

"Each St. Patrick's Day is a special day with the wonderful memory of meeting my spouse," Kristi said.

"Every day is St. Patrick's Day with my spouse," Peter said.

Each year on St. Patrick's Day, since the two met, they

celebrate the holiday by drinking one green beer as they did that first night. They also make a green breakfast of green pancakes, green milk and green eggs. For evening dinner they traditionally cook corned beef and cabbage.

Kristi and Peter, who have lived in Pleasant Acres for 23 years, have five children who include Ben, Tom and daughter-in-law Alissa, Wil, Jake, Kelli and a Shih Tzu dog named Ringo.

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New county tax in effect

by Dennis Dalman

news@thenewsleaders.com

Since Jan. 1, some people have noticed they are paying a slighter higher sales tax when doing business with or in Stearns County.

The tax, one-fourth of a cent, is called the "transit sales and use tax." The tax is expected to bring in about \$4.6 million per year or a total of about \$23 million in a five-year period, Stearns County Engineer Jodi Teich said.

Approved by the Stearns County Board of Commissioners last July, the tax is administered via the Minnesota Department of Revenue.

The tax funds will be used to pay for 15 road projects in the county during the next five years, after which time the tax is expected to expire.

The fourth-cent tax is in addition to the 6.875 percent sales tax, bringing the current tax to 7.125 percent.

Teich said the tax will allow the county to move up other road projects on the work schedule, ones that won't have to be done using that particular tax revenue.

She said the tax will also generate revenue from the many people who live outside Stearns County but who visit the county often on one form of business or another.

The county board was re-

luctant to impose a county transit-and-use tax, but most of its members felt they had no choice because of the long-delayed road and bridge projects on their five-year construction schedule.

One of the projects, a resurfacing of Highway 75 (Division Street) from I-94 to Parkwood 18 will start in June. Another project, slated for 2020, is the resurfacing of CR 133 between St. Joseph and Sartell.

Other projects involve adding turn lanes, resurfacing, fixing drainage problems and installing safety features. Several of the projects are in the western part of Stearns County, and others are near the cities of Holdingford, Fairhaven, Kimball, Cold Spring and Melrose.

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Shobes return from ‘exciting’ Olympic games

by Dennis Dalman

news@thenewsleaders.com

It was a proud family moment when Carl Shobe and his grandfather showed up together at the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Carl, 12, is a student at Kennedy Community School in St. Joseph. His grandfather on his mother's side is Gene Sandvig, 87, of Minneapolis, who was a competitor as a speed skater for the United States three times in the worldwide Winter Olympics – in 1952, 1956 and 1960.

Carl and his grandfather flew to South Korea in February to see some of the competitions and to be with Carl's parents, Dr. Joel and Susan Shobe, and also because Sandvig was invited to attend by the Korean Olympics Committee.

Dr. Shobe is an orthopedic surgeon (spine specialist) for St. Cloud Orthopedics in Sartell's Medical Campus. It was a very happy family time, marred a bit by the fact Shobes' daughter, Ilsa, could not be with them. She was too busy with her engineering and pre-med studies at the University of Minnesota. Mother Susan also studied engineering.

What brought the Shobes to the Olympics? It was two forms of expertise that dovetailed together. Joel is a medical expert, and Susan is a speed-skating referee. Both were chosen by the International Skating Union, of which both are members, to serve at the 2018 Winter Olympics.

Joel worked at the short-track speed-skating competitions; Susan worked as a championship referee for the long-track speed-skating events.

Joel had served before, at the Vancouver Winter Olympics in 2010. He is one of eight doctors in the world who works, through the ISU, at world-class competitions. Each of the doctors takes turns and serves when the union chooses them. Joel's duty is to supervise and care for the short-track athletes and to coordinate testing to assure all participants are free of doping drugs.

The Shobes were happy to be chosen to serve this year at the same Olympics event. Susan, who has been a member of the ISU for more than 20 years, is one of the ISU's 25 championship referees worldwide. This was the first year the ISU had chosen her to referee at an Olympic event.

Speed-skating and skiing are practically a genetic legacy for the Minnesota-born Sandvig family. Father Gene has been to every Winter Olympics since 1952, the first of the three in which he competed. When Susan was a girl she would accompany her father to many of the games, where he served



contributed photo

Dr. Joel and Susan Shobe of rural St. Joseph, who worked at the Winter Olympics in South Korea, stand before the iconic interconnected rings that symbolize the Olympics. Also in the photo is the Shobes' son, Carl and his grandfather Gene Sandvig of Minneapolis. Sandvig, the father of Susan Shobe, competed as a speed skater in three Winter Olympics games (1952, 1956, 1960). He was invited to South Korea by special invitation from the Olympics Committee.

as a coach or referee. Gene's wife, Carolyn, 81, has had a lifelong love of downhill skiing. Ilsa is also a speed skater and will soon compete in the World University Games.

Susan's cousin, Amy Peterson, who was also coached in speed skating by Sandvig, was one of the flag bearers in the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, during its opening ceremony four years ago.

And what about Dr. Joel? Does he skate?

"Well, he's learning," said his wife. "He will try just about anything."

"Mom couldn't go to the Olympics last month," Susan said. "She had to stay home, but she will go to the Figure-Skating Championships in Milan, Italy, at the end of March."

Skating has become such a big part of the Shobes' lives it's a wonder how they find the time.

Shortly after their return from South Korea, Susan flew to Salt Lake City, Utah, to referee a Junior Speed-Skating World Championship. Last week, Joel flew to Montreal, Canada, to assist at a short-track speed-skating event. After that it's off to Milan for the figure-skating competition, the one Susan's mother will attend.

"The Olympics in South Korea was a great experience," Susan said. "It was very excit-

ing, and I was so happy to be chosen by the ISU to help out."

Joel agreed.

"It was a great experience," he said. "It was such a big event with all the people, all the security, and it was sometimes difficult logistically to get from one place to another. The competitions were fabulous, very exciting. And it was great to be part of it and to help the athletes."

Fortunately, no catastrophic injuries resulted. In one incident, a man was cut by a skate during training. In another, a woman fell and sprained her ankle badly. As far as incidents of doping, there were none discovered among the skaters, Shobe noted.

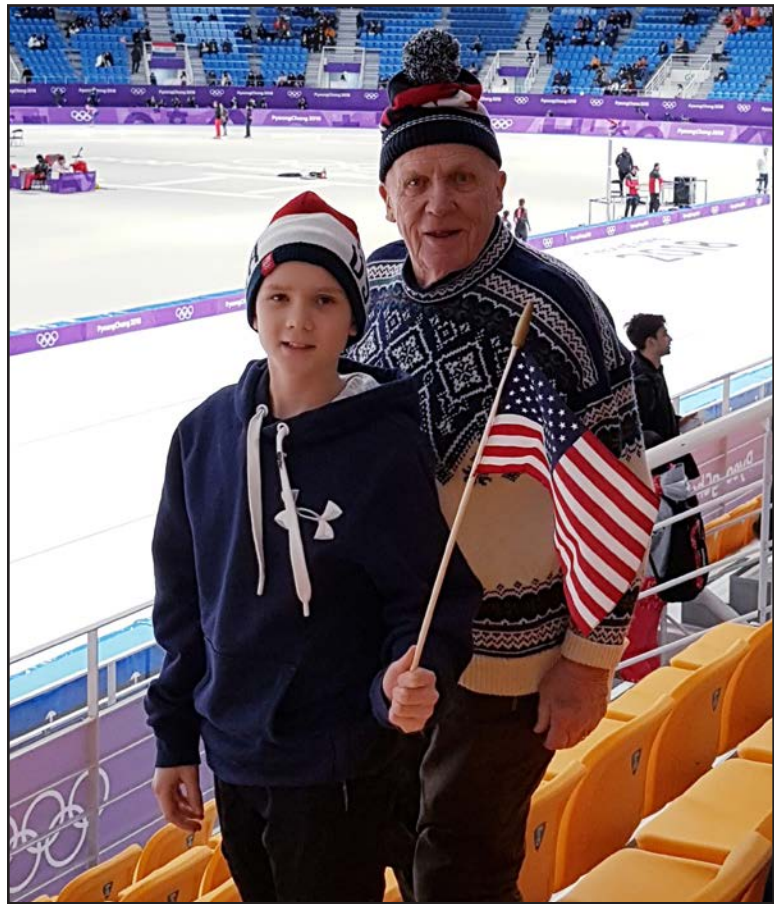
The sport

There are two categories of speed skating in the Olympics – short-track skating and long-track skating.

The long-track competition involves two skaters racing in laps against one another in a timed event on a 400-meter-long oval track.

Short-racing involves four to six skaters doing laps around a shorter oval about the size of a hockey rink. Whoever crosses the finish line first wins.

The distances vary by category from 500 meters up to 5,000-meter relays for men and 3,000-meter relays for women.



contributed photo

Multiple Winter Olympics speed-skating competitor and Olympics coach Gene Sandvig of Minneapolis stands with his grandson, Carl Shobe, next to a speed-skating rink at the Winter Olympics in South Korea. Carl is a student at Kennedy Community School in St. Joseph. His parents, Dr. Joel and Susan Shobe, worked at the Olympics – he as a medical advisor, she as a referee.

One of the speed-skating medalists in South Korea was an American – Pennsylvania born-and-raised John-Henry Krueger, 22, who earned silver in the 1,000-meter men's short-track

race.

An American team (Heather Bergsma, Brittany Bowe, Mia Manganello and Carlijn Schoutens) won a bronze medal for the Team Pursuit category.

Our View

Food shelves need your help all year long

Assigning a month to a cause or concern serves to bring attention and focus engagement.

That's the case this month with hunger and food shelves.

The Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign helps stock almost 300 food shelves statewide. In 2017, more than \$8 million and 4.7-million pounds of food were donated.

FoodShare gathers a pool of incentive funds donated by huge companies, such as Target, General Mills and Land O Lakes. Those incentive funds are then distributed to member food shelves throughout the state depending on how much food those local food shelves take in during the month of March. The more food donated, the more incentive funds received from FoodShare.

This year's campaign runs until April 8.

Donations typically fall after Christmas and March is a good time to focus on restocking the shelves.

In cental Minnesota, the Salvation Army and Catholic Charities food shelves take part in the March campaign. The St. Joseph Community Food Shelf does not benefit from the campaign but it's still a good time to make a cash or food donation. St. Joseph's food shelf serves 70 to 80 families a month.

Across the state, Minnesotans made more than 3 million visits to food shelves in 2017. The number of visits hasn't changed much in the last five years, but according to Hunger Solutions, the number of seniors visiting food shelves is up more than 27 percent from five years ago. Seniors on fixed incomes are finding it increasingly difficult to afford food. The rise of mobile food shelves makes it easier for seniors with transportation challenges to use the services.

The need for you to contribute is great.

One in 10 Minnesotans does not have enough food for a healthy active life. Almost 14 percent of children have food needs.

Food shelves serving the area include:

Salvation Army, 400 Highway 10 S. in St. Cloud

Catholic Charities, 157 Roosevelt Road in St. Cloud

St. Joseph Community Food Shelf, 25 First Ave. SE.

You can help in many ways.

Cash donations are always welcome. According to Minnesota Food Share, cash donations made to Minnesota FoodShare or directly to your local food shelf make the greatest impact, allowing food shelves to buy according to their communities' needs and stretching your \$1 into more than \$4 worth of food-shelf items.

Nonperishable food items can be left at community collection boxes.

According to Ann Scherer at the St. Joseph food shelf, items constantly needed are pancake mix and pancake syrup, jellies and jams, laundry soap, personal-care items such as shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste and other types of personal-hygiene products.

You can always volunteer your time at the food shelves. It's a great way to meet your neighbors and help your community.

And remember, when March is over, the need continues. Your help is needed every month of the year.

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.

Opinion

Hockey is the real March Madness

“How’s your bracket coming?”

That question could be heard in every office and sports bar this past week as March Madness, also known as the NCAA Men’s Division 1 Basketball Tournament, kicked in.

After selection Sunday, college basketball fans studied the odds and bracketology predictions to pick the final winner in the 68-team tournament.

But here in the State of Hockey, March Madness should be about pucks and sticks, not dunks and threes.


The Gophers’ last appearance in the national basketball tournament was in 1997. Bill Clinton was president, the Dow closed the year at 7,908, gas cost \$1.22...and you could still shop at Woolworth’s.

Hockey’s doing a little better. Consider the facts in the State of Hockey.

St. Cloud State University’s men’s hockey team has been ranked No. 1 among the country’s 60 Division I hockey programs for most of the season. They captured the Penrose Cup by winning the National Collegiate Hockey Conference. No matter what happens at the NCHC tournament this weekend in St. Paul, the Huskies are headed to the NCAA tournament for the eighth time in 10 years, including one Frozen Four appearance. You can watch the Frozen Four starting April 5 at the Xcel

Mike Knaak

Editor



Energy Center in St. Paul.

Minnesota has five Division I men’s teams – SCSU, Minnesota, Minnesota Duluth, Minnesota State-Mankato and Bemidji. Four were rated in the Top 20 this season.

Women’s college hockey is doing pretty well too. The University of Minnesota women were national champs in 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2016. When the Gophers weren’t winning, the Bulldogs were, bringing the national title home to Duluth in 2008 and 2010.

And then there’s the Wild. The team continues to set records for the number of sellouts. Last season, all 41 regular-season home games were sellouts with 34 contests topping 19,000 in attendance.

The past two weekends, the state girls’ and boys’ hockey tournaments filled the X and Ridder Arena with the boy’s attendance rivaling the Wild crowds.

If you couldn’t attend a game in person last weekend, you could easily burn out the batteries in your remote control flipping from the Wild

Hagerman banishes news from his life

Should Erik Hagerman be envied or pitied?

I, for one, cannot decide.

Hagerman, 53, lives on a pig farm near Athens in southeastern Ohio. He made a bundle in the corporate world and, like a retro hippy, decided to “drop out” of the rat race three years ago. Now he is a kind of latter-day Henry David Thoreau, seeking solace and wisdom in his woodsy niche.

I learned about Hagerman in a wonderful feature story, “The Man Who Knew Too Little,” written by Sam Dolnick in the March 10 *New York Times*.


Hagerman not only dropped out from the rat race, he dropped out from all contact with anything going on in the world. He was so shaken and disgusted by the election of Donald Trump, he decided to become a kind of head-in-sand ostrich. He intended to tune out the news for just a few days, but now it’s been more than a year. He knows nothing about White House chaos or Robert Mueller or Stormy Daniels. He is oblivious to the Me Too movement, mass shootings, hurricanes, fires and other disasters.

Hagerman’s determined disengagement from the world of news is “draconian and complete,” as he told Dolnick. “It’s not like I wanted to just steer away from Trump or shift the conversation,” he said. “It was like I was a vampire and any photon of Trump would turn me to dust.”

When I read that, I burst out

Dennis Dalman

Reporter



laughing because I could so relate to Hagerman’s attitude. Since Trump was elected I, too, have felt like banishing at least TV, if not newspapers and magazines. Just the sight and sound of that sneering, pouting, blustering charlatan, that Narcissist-in-Chief, has me lunging for the mute button and more often lately, the off button. On busy days when I keep the TV off, I feel so much better.

And it’s not just Trump. It’s an overload of everything: too many witless commercials, too many catastrophes man-made and otherwise, too many killings, too many scandals, too many noisy arguments from talking heads, too much cruelty to children and animals, too much trivial nonsense, too much of this, too much of that. Too much of everything.

But, alas, the “news junkie” in me keeps going back for more. My morbid curiosity about this floundering world is at least buoyed up by slender threads of hope, but those threads are getting slenderer the longer this president stays in power. This country, this world, in my opinion, would be infinitely better without big bad bully Trump at the helm, with someone like Hillary

to the high school tournament to the Huskies.

And there’s more.

In January, the St. Cloud area hosted Hockey Day Minnesota. The St. Cloud Youth Hockey Association rounded up more than 250 volunteers for the weekend. Organizers estimated more than 20,000 people attended events on Saturday, Jan. 20, including high school and college games on the rink adjacent to Lake George. The next day, about 1,500 youth hockey players competed in rinks on the lake.

Fans of any sports won’t find a more thrilling contest than the Olympic Gold Medal game won by the USA women’s hockey team in an emotional rematch of the 2014 championship. The Americans beat Canada 3-2 in an overtime shootout. Seven team members were Minnesotans.

A few years ago, a *Sports Illustrated* writer referred to the National Hockey League as a “niche sport” without much nationwide appeal. That dismissive comment doesn’t explain sold-out arenas far from the frozen north, including the league’s newest expansion team, the division-leading Las Vegas Gold Knights.

So, sports fans, don’t be distracted by the brackets and betting pools. Keep your eyes on the real March Madness here in the State of Hockey.

Clinton or John Kasich guiding the ship of state. Well, as they say, wish in one hand, dream in the other.

Almost like a choreographer, Hagerman has worked out a soft-shoe strategy for his no-news life. Friends and relatives keep any mention of any news from him. During conversations, they’ve learned to do a verbal tango around what’s in the news. In the morning, Hagerman drives into Athens for coffee and sits at the café, scrupulously avoiding any newspapers that may be hanging around. He admits he sometimes gets bored. Watching the weather all the time, he said, wears a little thin.

But then one day he discovered what he calls “The Lake.” It’s a 45-acre long-abandoned coal-mine property he bought near Athens. With the help of an ecologist friend, he is restoring those ravaged but beautiful woods, living in them, enjoying that lake and that land the way Thoreau famously loved Walden’s Pond. Hagerman will give the land to the public when he dies.

And that is the way Hagerman the newsless man decided to leave his mark on this world – to nurture a patch of nature back to health and give it to the people. Should we envy him? Pity him? Hard to say. But one thing’s for sure: In his extreme way, Hagerman is living his life in a way all of us wish for from time to time – a longing to free our stuffed minds and heavy hearts from – as poet William Wordsworth put it – a “world that is too much with us.”

GOT AN
OPINION?

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

The Newsleaders

P.O. Box 324

St. Joseph, MN 56374

Email: news@thenewsleaders.com

Soyka

from front page

the Stearns County Sheriff’s Of- fice and all other law-enforce- ment agencies in central Minne- sota and beyond. Communica- tion and collaboration is vital, he said, not just among law-en- forcement but other agencies and with the residents of the county.

Soyka said law enforcement work has changed dramatically in the past 27 years since he first started his career. The brutal realities of new kinds of crimes have caused new focus for sher- iff and police departments, such as the dangers of terrorism, the widespread increase in sex traf- ficking and the prevalence of drug use, including opiod abuse. Those problems require constant communication among law en- forcement, other agencies and contact with the public, he said. Soyka received the presti-

gious Stearns County Life-Sav- ing Medal and was also awarded the Minnesota Fraternal Order of Police Grand Lodge Life-Saving Award.

He’s a longtime member and current vice president of the Fra- ternal Order of Police, Granite Lodge 17. One of his favorite ac- tivities is as a volunteer for the Stearns County Sheriff’s Explor- er Program, which helps teach youth about law enforcement.

Soyka’s hobbies include golf, working on old cars, boating and spending time at his cabin in the Brainerd area. After living in St. Cloud for years, Soyka built a house just south of St. Stephen last year. He’s a member of the St. Stephen Catholic Church.

Soyka has two step-children who are his girlfriend Natalie’s children, Megan and Nolan, now in their 20s, and he has one step-grandchild, 2-year-old Abe, who is Megan’s son.

Soyka’s website is- votesoykasheriff.com.

How you can improve St. Joseph

Note to our readers: This column is part of a series from a blog recently started by a loosely knit indepen- dent 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 on- line or to read web-exclusive blogs posted every Tuesday please visit joetownvibe.com.



by John Stevens
Intern SJU ‘18

Leaving the state of a commu- nity entirely up to elected officials is a mistake often made in com- munities. If you see a problem or have an idea, don’t just keep it to yourself; reach out and try to get that problem solved or that project started. Local governments have long struggled to find ways to connect with the community. Most city council meetings have only a

few visitors, and St. Joseph is no different.

Almost every small town across America struggles with this prob- lem. The solution to this problem is easier than it may appear. In large cities and metropolitan ar- eas city governments will create community outreach programs and systems to get the feedback of the community members. In a small town the solution is simpler, and the responsibility falls on you, the active community member.

If you want to make a differ- ence in your community, you need to start by being involved in the community. If you don’t reach out, there is no way for those elected to serve the community to know about your needs and wants. If you

think there needs to be a crosswalk on an intersec- tion near your house, then let your city council know.

People often offer up the excuse “nothing ever gets done,” and that’s the reason they don’t go to city council meetings. Taking this approach is at times understand- able but is also misplaced. Local government is entirely in place to improve the community and main- tain the services it provides. The budget of a local government can at times prevent projects from being completed quickly, but losing faith is a huge mistake.

Continuing to be involved in your local community is the best way of speeding up the process, or at least getting the projects started. Continuing to voice support is the best way of letting the city know of your interest for a project. St. Joseph is successful and continuing that success starts with improved community engagement.

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 16
St. Joseph Farmers’ Market, 3-6 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church fellowship hall, 610 CR 2.
St. Joseph Area Historical Soci- ety, 4-7 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave NW. stjosephhistoricalmn.org.
St. Joseph Joes Fish Fry, 5-8 p.m., Sal’s Bar 109 W. Minnesota St, St Joseph.
St. Cloud Singles Club Dance, 8 p.m.-midnight, American Legion, 17

Second Ave. S., Waite Park. 320-339-4533. stcloudsingles.net.

Saturday, March 17
St. Patrick’s Day Craft/Vendor Sale, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Cloud Eagles Club 730-41st Ave. N., St. Cloud.
Kids Used Clothing and Equip- ment Sale hosted by St. Cloud Area Mothers of Multiples, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., free admission, Discovery Commmu- nity Elementry School, 700 Seventh St. S., Waite Park,. For more informa- tion call 320-224-8778 or email amy. seeba@gamil.com.

Sunday, March 18
Monday, March 19
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave. NW, St. Joseph.

Build Your Own Bird House, sponsored by the St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club, 4-6:30 p.m., Free, Ameri-

can Legion 101 W Minnesota St., St. Joseph..

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

St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club, 7 p.m., American Legion, 101 W Minne- sota St., St. Joseph.

Tuesday, March 20
Marchfest 2018 festival concert, featuring area high school students, 5 p.m., Ritsche Auditorium, St. Cloud State University, 702 First Ave. S., St Cloud.

St. Cloud Area Genealogists meeting, 7 p.m., Stearns History Mu- seum, 235-33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. stearns-museum.org.

St. Joseph Lions Club meeting, 7:30 p.m., Millstream Park Pavilion 101 Fifth Ave. NW., St Joseph. Con- tact Joanne Bechtold 320-363-4483

for more information.

Wednesday, March 21
St. Joseph Economic Develop- ment Authority, 5 p.m., St. Joseph City Hall, 75 Callaway St. E. 320-363-7201. cityofstjoseph.com.

St. Joseph Park Board Open House, 6 p.m. discuss ideas for types of amenities to be included in the new East Park, Government Center, 75 Cal- laway St. E, 320-363-7201.

Thursday, March 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. Sec- ond St., St. Cloud.

Friday, March 23
All Saints Academy Fish Fry, 4-7:30 p.m., Heritage Hall and School Cafeteria, 32 W. Minnesota St., St. Joesph.

Saturday, March 24
Move the Mall Walk for Volun- teerism, hosted by Catholic Charities, 8-10 a.m., Crossroads Center 4101 Di- vision St. W., St Cloud, 320-229-4589.

Easter Egg Hunt, hosted by Grace United Methodist Church, 10 a.m.-noon, 2615 Clearwater Road, St. Cloud. 320-252-2153 or email mygracechurch@gmail.com.

Sunday, March 25
Joe Town Table, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., St. Joseph Legion, every fourth Sunday of the month. centralmncw@gmail.com.

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Jerome Salzer benefit set for March 25 at LaPlayette Bar

by Cori Hilsген
news@thenewsleaders.com

The Mark Zimmer Foundation is hosting a benefit to help cover medical expenses for St. Joseph Township resident Jerome Salzer, who was diagnosed with terminal liver cancer in December.

The benefit will be from 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, March 25, at LaPlayette Bar, 19 College Ave. N., St Joseph, Minn. 56374. The event is open to all ages and includes a spaghetti dinner provided by Kay’s Kitchen. Many donations and prizes will also be raffled.

Jerome, 65, originally thought he might have ulcers when he began coughing up blood in the middle of December. Various medical tests soon revealed he had a spot on his liver and he was later diagnosed with terminal liver cancer.

Jerome has been hospitalized several times and was placed on hospice in February. His kidneys are slowly failing.

After many years of waking up at 3 a.m. to rush to get farm chores done, Jerome is now spending his days at home on his farm with his wife, Jean, and other family and friends.

Jerome has been dairy farming for 39 years. His parents, Francis and Lucille, bought the farm in 1958. He and his brother, Don, formed a partnership and bought the farm from their parents in 1970. After some years, Don left the farm and two years ago their youngest son, Terry, and Jerome formed

a partnership to farm together.

Jerome, Jean and Terry, recently sold their 130 milking cows on March 7. Two brothers, Derek and Ryan Schmitz, who milked for the Salzers several years ago will rent their barn to milk cows in and will also rent some of their land. Interestingly, the brothers bought some of the Salzer cows and had them returned to the barn for milking the day they were sold.

The family will continue to raise steers and do custom farm work.

The Salzer family wants to especially thank all the people who have been so kind to them during Jerome’s illness. These include all the people who helped with milking, chores and other responsibilities when they were at medical appointments and in the hospital. One friend of Terry’s has been helping cover farm chores for several months.

These also include the 12 people who helped get the cattle moved out of their barn, loaded for selling and helped clean the barn.

Jean said they have been overwhelmed with people’s help, generosity and the many acts of kindness they have shown to their family, such as bringing meals and other treats to their home.

“We don’t know what we would have done without all the help,” Jean said.

She said Jerome said he never realized how many friends they had.

Throughout the years, the



contributed photo

The Mark Zimmer Foundation is hosting a benefit for St. Joseph Township resident Jerome Salzer (left) shown with his wife, Jean, who was diagnosed with terminal liver cancer in December. The benefit will be from 11:30 a.m.- 6 p.m. Sunday, March 25 at LaPlayette Bar. Salzer has served on the St. Joseph Township Board for 30 years.

family has actively contributed to the area. For many years, the Salzer family hosted Kennedy Elementary School kindergarten field trips and distributed ice cream treats donated by Cold Spring Co-op.

Jerome has served on the St. Joseph Township Board for 30 years. Jean said he really fought hard for residents and tried to help get things done that they requested.

The family has also helped set up concession stands at the July 4 Church of St. Joseph parish festival and Jerome served as an usher at the

church.

Jerome and Jean have been married for 40 years. Both attended All Saints Academy-St. Joseph and North Junior High School in St. Cloud. Jerome graduated from Technical High School and Jean graduated from Apollo High School in St. Cloud.

Their family includes sons and daughters-in-law Jeff and Laura, David and Jenny, and Terry and Jenna, as well as grandsons Tyler, Kole, Jack and Carson, and granddaughters Sofia and Macy.

Jean said the farm has been

a good place to raise their children and teach responsibility.

“We see that in our grandchildren,” she said. “Their parents have passed that sense of responsibility to them. If they are given a task to do they get it done before they go and play.”

Cash donations for the benefit may be sent to Mark Zimmer Foundation Inc., Attn: Jerome Salzer Benefit, P.O. Box 12, St. Joseph, Minn. 56374.

For additional information about the benefit, call La Playette at 320-363-7747.

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