

St. Joseph Newsleader

Friday, March 23, 2018
Volume 30, Issue 12
Est. 1989

Town Crier
For additional criers, visit thenewsleaders.com and click on Criers.

Apply online for Dollars for Scholars

The 2018 Dollars for Scholars scholarship applications are available online at StJosephArea.DollarsForScholars.org. Once there, click on the “Students and Parents” tab, then follow the instructions to register. If you need assistance, call 320-363-7721 and speak with Doug Danielson at Sentry Bank. The application deadline is Monday, April 9.

CentraCare needs transport, escort volunteers

CentraCare Health is looking for volunteers to complete errands and deliver flowers, mail and packages to patients at St. Cloud Hospital. Volunteers enhance a positive patient care environment and help provide a superior patient experience. For more information, visit thenewsleaders.com and click on March 23 Criers.

Mentor as a family

A Big Family involves an entire family meeting with a Little at Big Brothers Big Sisters. This is an opportunity for a family to volunteer together. The family provides friendship, emotional support and hope to the young person with whom they are matched. The family will meet with their Little three to four times a month for 12 months. For more information, visit thenewsleaders.com and click on March 23 Criers.

Caring adults needed for children

Hands Across the World provides the first learning opportunity to newly arrived immigrants who do not have language or living skills necessary to thrive in our community. They are seeking caring adults who are willing to watch babies and toddlers while mothers are in class. Must be age 18 and older. For more information, visit thenewsleaders.com and click on March 23 Criers.

INSERTS:
Bentrud for Sheriff
Country Manor
Senior Housing

St. John’s Prep presents ‘Les Miserables’

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

The St. John’s Prep School Theater Department presents “Les Miserables” this weekend at the Paramount Center for the Arts, 913 St. Germain St., St. Cloud.

Showtimes are 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

The cast includes 42 student actors, 22 musicians and a 12-person technical crew.



photo by Mike Knaak

Mitchell Brown plays the role of Javert and Caitlin Skahen plays Cosette in the St. John’s Prep production of “Les Miserables.” Both students are from St. Joseph.

Craft beverage reform act helps local businesses

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

Local breweries such as The Bad Habit Brewing Co. are enjoying some of the benefits of the passage of recent H.R. 1 Tax Cuts Jobs Act.

Included with the passage of the act, which became effective Jan. 1, was the Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act, which helps lower the federal excise tax for breweries, wineries and distilled-spirits producers.

Under this bill, the federal excise tax on beer is reduced to \$3.50 per barrel (from \$7 per barrel) on the first 60,000 barrels for domestic brewers who produce less than 2 mil-

lion barrels a year, and \$16 per barrel (from \$18 per barrel) on the first 6 million barrels for all other brewers and all beer importers.

Aaron Rieland, owner of Bad Habit Brewing Co. in downtown St. Joseph, said they are well below the 60,000 barrels. In 2017 they produced 400 gallons of beer in St Joseph at Bad Habit.

The business will see an annual tax savings in 2018 of about \$1,400 per year.

Rieland said they will be able to take that savings and reinvest it back into Bad Habit and the St Joseph community.

Bad Habit Brewing Co. opened Oct. 31, 2015. The
Craft • page 5



contributed photo

Aaron Klocker, one of the owners of Milk and Honey Ciders in St. Joseph, sorts apples before they are washed and milled.

Schmitz family, others to host Imagination Library dinners

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Because Randy and Nancy Schmitz and their children love to read, they leaped at the chance to host an Imagination Library dinner.

The Schmitzes, who live in rural St. Joseph, own and operate the Rolling Ridge Wedding and Events Center in St. Joseph.

At their home, they will host a main-course dinner. It will be a surprise dinner for 14 diners based on the theme “From Farm

to Fork.”

“It’s our first time doing this,” Randy said. “I’m a little nervous, but we love to entertain so it will be a lot of fun.”

Randy’s nervousness is only a slight case because he has so much confidence in the chef who will prepare the dinner – Kayla Strom of Custom Catering by Short Stop, the company that caters so many dinners for the Schmitzes’ wedding and events center.

The couple has three children – Lily, 11; Sylvie, 8; and Wylie,

6. All three children enjoyed receiving Imagination Library books when they were under the age of 5. And they still love to read.

“Now, the girls are reading chapter books,” Randy noted.

Progressive dinner

The Schmitzes are one of many homeowners who will host dinners for the annual Imagination Library Progressive Dinner.

Sponsored by United Way of Central Minnesota, the dinners (two separate events) will take place on two days, April 14 and

April 21. The annual event raises funds for Imagination Library so more children can receive books in the mail, free, every month. The program is so popular there is a waiting list until more funds become available.

Participants in the Imagination Library Progressive Dinner start the evening at one of three reception homes – in Sartell, St. Cloud and – new on the rounds this year – St. Joseph. At the reception homes, after a social hour, participants will receive envelopes

Library • back page

Joe Town Vibe: History of the St. Joseph Farmers’ Market

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

The St. Joseph Farmers’ Market was one of the first farmers’ markets in central Minnesota. Unlike other markets started in the area, St. Joseph’s market was started by a group of community members, instead

of farmers. That distinction is still evident today as the market’s board consists of three community members and six farmers. This structure has been passed on to many other farmers’ markets throughout the area.

Nearly 20 years ago, the first farmers’ market in St. Joseph was launched on a Friday afternoon. Initially, the market was set up on the often-hot asphalt parking lot of what was then the Del-Win Ballroom, just off CR 75 on Second Street SE. After several years it was moved closer to town at its current location at Resurrection Lutheran Church on CR 2, with the Fri-



day afternoon timing remaining constant. More recently, the farmers’ market started hosting occasional indoor markets during the winter months.

While Resurrection Lutheran Church has been a gracious host of the event these past several years, the board has been considering moving the event’s location. The board’s main consideration in moving the market is how to best serve the entire community while continuing to build profits for farmers. Mov-

ing the market may make the event more accessible and bring in a larger crowd, but studies have shown location changes to farmers’ markets also cause some regular visitors to stop coming.

This has been a debate within the board for years, with some members arguing for a move, and others arguing for the market to stay in place as it’s already quite successful. Through the debate, several locations have been presented as possibilities for the market: Minnesota Street between College Avenue and First Avenue NW, Ash Street between College Avenue and First Avenue NW, First Avenue between Min-

nesota Street and Birch Street, and in the southeast parking lot on the Corner of Minnesota Street and College Avenue.

All the proposed locations have their fair share of benefits and problems. Ultimately, the board has elected to not move the market for the time being. However, they are strongly considering a move by 2020 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the market. Next week, I will be addressing various reasons why the market should move to the downtown area. Stay tuned!

Special thanks to Pia Lopez and Kate Ritger, who are two of the community members on the farmers’ market board.

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.tricountycrimestoppers.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.

March 18

5:01 p.m. Warrant. Cypress Drive. Officers conducted a warrant attempt at 332 Cypress Drive after a report a man had a gross-misdemeanor warrant. Officers knocked on the apartment door several times with no answer.

March 12

6 p.m. Driving after revocation vio-

lation. Jade Road. An officer observed a vehicle traveling on Jade Road with expired registration. Plate and records showed February 2017 registration. The vehicle was stopped and the driver identified. The driver said he just bought the vehicle. He also told the officer he didn’t have a valid license. The driver received a citation for driving after revocation. A passenger with a valid license drove the vehicle away.

March 13

5:52 p.m. Speed. CR 4 and CR 2. An officer responded to a report of a speeding truck pulling a car trailer coming into St. Joseph on CR 2. The vehicle was stopped. The driver said he was going to an auction that started at 6 p.m. He also told the officer a person was tailgating him. The complaint was explained and the driver

was allowed to leave.

March 15

12:37 a.m. Driving-after-revo-cation violation. CR 133 and 320th Street. An officer spotted a vehicle traveling east on CR 133 near 19th Avenue NE that swerved over the center line. The vehicle was stopped and the vehicle was identified. The drive said he was adjusting his radio. His driving status was revoked and he was cited for driving after revocation.

5:17 a.m. Alarm. CR 75 W. An officer was dispatched to an alarm at Subway. Upon arrival, the officer spotted a food truck in lot unloading. Driver said he was unable to turn off the alarm. Dispatch was advised to inform the officer if key holder had any questions.

People

Two St. Joseph students have been named to the fall semester dean’s list at St. John’s University.

Jacob Hennigs, son of Deann and Mark Hennigs, is a senior music education major. **Ethan No-**

vacinski, son of Cheryl and Grant Novacinski, is a junior biology and pre-physician’s assistant major.

To be included on the dean’s list, a student must have a minimum grade-point average of 3.80.

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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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SJP students ‘walking up’ after nationwide walkout

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

St. John’s Prep students are ‘walking up’ after participating in a nationwide #NeverAgain movement walkout event to honor the victims of the Parkland school shooting in Florida.

Students nationwide, including St. John’s Prep students, participated March 14 in a walkout a month after the killing of 17 students and staff at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

Teens nationwide are asking for gun reform after the violent shooting. Many are angry at lawmakers for lack of gun-reform laws and are requesting background checks and bans on assault weapons.

The event, organized by St. John’s Prep students, was not a school-sponsored event and students were required to make up any work they missed in class.

School principal, Pam McCarthy, said when she sent out a notice to parents prior to the walkout, a parent challenged students to “walk up” and McCarthy accepted the challenge.

She challenged students to walk up to people they don’t

normally interact with. McCarthy asked students to speak with them, sit with them at lunch, hang out with them in the halls and after school.

McCarthy said she has noticed students being even kinder toward each other than normal.

“I am hopeful this behavior continues well past this week/challenge,” she said.

She said the idea behind the “walk up” challenge is when people feel known and cared for, they are less likely to violate the area and are more likely to spread the love.

During the walkout event, St. John’s Prep students and others stood in silence while a student read the names of the 17 people who were shot last month. Students later gathered for prayer.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill March 14 to increase federal funding for school safety. The bill provides money for training school officials to coordinate with local law enforcement to identify warning signs and respond to mental-health crisis, and money for school security including metal detectors and locks.

Ask a Trooper

How law enforcement communicates with the deaf

Q: How and what does law enforcement do when they come across someone who is deaf or has hearing disabilities?

A: This is a good question and as a state trooper I have come across situations dealing with this on traffic stops, motorist assists and crashes.

Minnesota’s deaf and hard-of-hearing community recently helped create a two-way communication card. They provided significant input in the card’s creation, identifying symbols that would be most helpful to them in communicating. The Departments of Public Safety and Human Services collaborated to produce the finished product.

A deaf or hard-of-hearing person can keep the two-sided, laminated card in their car and bring it out to show to law enforcement when necessary. The card features a set of icons the person can

point to suggesting the best way to communicate (such as writing or lip-reading) and another set to indicate what help they need. Hospital? Tow truck? Directions? They’re all there on the card.

The law enforcement officer can also use it to communicate by pointing to the icon indicating what information they need, such as a driver’s license or insurance card. If the officer has pulled over the deaf or hard-of-hearing person, they can point to icons such as the speed limit sign or traffic light on the back of the card to explain why. There’s also a section to help explain what happens next, with icons for things like warnings and tickets.

Along with the icons are helpful tips for communicating, such as, “Maintain eye contact with me while speaking” and “Shining a flashlight in my face will make it hard for me to understand

you.” The card ends with a list of things a deaf or hard-of-hearing person might need if arrested or brought in for questions, like assistive technology for phone calls and a sign-language interpreter.

So although traffic stops and flat tires still happen, this communication card can make the interaction safer, easier and more productive for law enforcement and deaf and hard-of-hearing people alike.

A portion of state statutes was used with permission from the Office of the Revisor of Statutes. If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Trp. Jesse Grabow – Minnesota State Patrol at 1000 Hwy. 10 W., Detroit Lakes, Minn. 56501-2205. (You can follow him on Twitter @MSP-PIO_NW or reach him at, jesse.grabow@state.mn.us).

Obituary

Donald F. Billadeau, 83

St. Joseph

Jan. 17, 1935 – March 17, 2018

Donald F. Billadeau, 83, of St. Cloud, formerly of St. Joseph, died Saturday, March 17, 2018 at St. Benedict’s Senior Community, St. Cloud.



A Memorial Mass celebrating his life was March 27 at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, St. Joseph. Interment was in the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery, Little Falls. Funeral arrangements were made by

Benson Funeral Home, St. Cloud.

Don was born Jan. 17, 1935 in Crookston, Minn. to Donald and Evelyn (Beaudry) Billadeau. He served his country in the U.S. Army from 1957-1959. He married Joan Meyer on July 30, 1973 in St. Joseph. He worked for Western Electric as an installer for 24 years out of its St. Cloud office. He then moved to Mesa, Ariz. and worked for Chambers Electronics. Billadeau was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, St. Joseph, the Knights of Columbus and was a former Grand Knight. He was also a member of the Communication Workers of America and the Telephone Pioneers of America. He was a loving

husband, a great cook and a man that was well liked by all.

Survivors include his sister, Joyce Billadeau of White Bear Lake; sisters-in-law; Marilyn (Francis) Court of St. Joseph; Rosemary Meyer of St. Joseph; Lois (Bruce) Berry of Minneapolis; Eileen Zurnieden of Otsego; Mary (Keith) Dombrovski of Paynesville; brothers-in-law; George (Kathy) Meyer of Angora, Minn.; James (Maura) Meyer of Rogers; Gerald (Judy) Meyer of St. Joseph; and many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and wife Joan on Aug. 30, 2009.



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ASA annual fish fry March 23

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

If you haven't yet had a chance to attend one of the area's Friday fish fry events, All Saints Academy-St. Joseph is hosting its annual fish fry from 4-7:30 p.m. Friday, March 23.

"The Fish Fry is a fundraiser, but more importantly, it is a community builder," said Karl Terhaar, school principal. "Providing a delicious meal for numerous customers only can be done when everyone works together as a community."

Terhaar said last year's volunteers served more than 2,200 meals at the event which has been taking place for more than 30 years.

About 110 volunteers work at the fish fry. These include current parents and students from both the St. Joseph and St. Cloud campuses,

confirmation students and alumni. Volunteer duties include frying fish, collecting tickets, busing and waiting on tables and refilling beverages.

The annual fish fry menu will include deep-fried fish, potato salad, carrot sticks, baked beans, bread and butter, and milk or coffee.

In the past, All Saints Academy-St. Joseph school cook Mary Kay Pelkey has ordered more than 1,200 pounds of Alaskan pollock, 665 pounds of potato salad, 100 packages of bread, 90 cans of beans and 1,500 cartons of milk for the event.

Seating for attendees will be available at the Church of St. Joseph Heritage Hall and All Saints Academy school cafeteria and lower level. Take-out meals will also be available at Heritage Hall.

Sartell March for Our Lives planned for Saturday

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

A march is planned in Sartell for Saturday, March 24, as part of the national March for Our Lives movement.

The Sartell march will start at 10 a.m. at Sartell City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N., and end at First United Methodist Church.

Sartell resident Angie Trulson organized the event.

"I heard some people were going to the march in the metro area. I realized there was no Sibling March in central Minnesota and I felt there was a gap," said Trulson, who is

the program coordinator at St. Cloud's Whitney Senior Center.

"It's a personal issue for me," she said. "Less than a year ago my brother was murdered by a disgruntled employee with a gun. That made me passionate about the issue."

The march is one of hundreds happening around the country planned by students and survivors of gun violence. The national day of action will focus on calling for lawmakers to make students' lives and safety a priority and to pass common-sense gun-safety legislation.

The movement started in response to the Feb. 14 high-school shooting in Parkland,

Fla., where 17 died.

"This is not an anti-gun protest, it's an end-gun-violence peace rally," Trulson aid.

"My desire in organizing this event is to promote not just gun safety in school but everywhere," she said. "There's strength and healing power by gathering together with other people who have been touched by gun violence or by anyone wondering if they are going to be safe at work, a movie theater or at school. We're promoting peace and safe public spaces for all."

Event registration is at inyurl.com/MFOLsartell.

Join us for Holy Week Worship!

Palm Sunday

March 25 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.
Breakfast served from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

March 29 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday

March 30 6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday

April 1 7, 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.
Continental breakfast served from 8-9:30 a.m.

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Celebrate Easter Triduum

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper
March 29, 7:30 p.m.
Food shelf donations are encouraged

Good Friday Service
March 30, 2:30 p.m.

EASTER VIGIL AND EASTER SUNDAY

Service of Light and Liturgy of the Word
Saturday, March 31, 8 p.m.

Night Watches continue through the night.

Liturgy of Baptism and Eucharist
Sunday, April 1, 6 a.m.

Easter Monday Eucharist, April 2, 11:30 a.m.



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Craft

from front page

business served an estimated 50,000 customers in the tap-room in 2017.

Their Hangup Blonde Ale is its top-selling beer as well as Dark Addiction Chocolate Milk Stout. The business has recently introduced Hazy India Pale Ales and a Milkshake India Pale Ale. India Pale Ale is a hoppy beer style in the Pale Ale category.

“Both of these series have been selling very well and have received very good feedback,” Rieland said.

Last year the Bad Habit Brewing Co. introduced cowl-

ers, which are 25-ounce cans of beer sold off-sale only. Rieland said they also started their Artisan Oak Barrel program and will be featuring barrel-aged beers often throughout the year.

Milk and Honey Ciders has been in business for about six years, but owners Peter Gillitzer, Aaron Klocker and Adam Theis opened the CR 51, St. Joseph location in August last year.

Gillitzer said Milk and Honey Ciders tax classification falls under wine and cider. They already had a small producer credit, so their per gallon federal excise tax did not change at all. However, on the state level, which he said was not related to the Craft Bev-

erage Modernization and Tax Reform Act, wine producers were normalized with the beer producers excise tax credit. Starting Jan. 1, the business will save around \$300-\$400 per month.

Milk and Honey serves about 250,000 glasses of beverages per year between retail and wholesale business.

Gillitzer said their best-selling beverage is their first and flagship, Heirloom.

“This is a good bridge to drier, more complex heritage cider from the cloyingly sweet ciders available from national brands,” he said.

Milk and Honey Ciders offers tours and tastings year-round at its rural St. Joseph cidery.



contributed photo
The exterior of the Milk and Honey Ciders, CR 51, St. Joseph.




contributed photo
Owner Aaron Klocker presses trays filled with apple pomace at Milk and Honey Ciders in St. Joseph.



contributed photo
Bad Habit Brewing Co. owner Aaron Rieland (right) and his wife Karen enjoy a beverage at their business. In the background are the business’s fermenters, where the beer produces alcohol.

Bounce on in to these businesses and register to win a plush bunny.



One entry per visit please. Deadline for registering is 5 p.m. Thursday, March 29. Winners will be notified before Easter and announced in the April 6 edition.

Drop this registration at participating businesses

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Opinion

Our View

Government operates best in sunshine, not darkness

Every March, journalists celebrate Sunshine Week.

It's not about a Florida vacation but more importantly about the public's right to know about what our government is doing in our name.

Government works best for all of us when it operates in sunshine, not darkness.

Journalists constantly challenge government officials for access to documents and meetings. But this effort is not about special access for journalists. All citizens have the same rights to examine the details of how government works, attend meetings and read documents.

The Minnesota Legislature is considering several bills that address open government issues and deserve your attention

More and more government business takes place via email. If HF 1185 passes it would require emails and letters be retained for three years. Three years may not be long enough for issues that develop over five or 10 years. But a consistent, three-year retention law is a good place to start.

A second bill hits closer to home. A St. Paul senator, Richard Cohen, has taken up the cause of the Wetterling family's legal battle to keep certain investigation records private. His bill would restrict access to the types of records that have been public for decades.

The presumption of openness is the hallmark of the Data Practices Act. Unless there's a clear and specific reason to withhold public data, it's presumed to be open.

Under the bill, people involved in criminal investigations could request information about them be kept private if it's irrelevant to the preparation or prosecution of the case. Cohen's measure states inactive investigative data would be private if the person who is the subject of the data requests it, and if certain conditions are met. Currently, when an investigation is closed, the investigative file becomes public. Law enforcement would determine the relevance and weigh that request against the value of public disclosure, or decide whether releasing the information was an unwarranted invasion of privacy.

The Wetterlings want to block 168 pages of about 56,000 pages of documents about the 27-year investigation of the abduction and murder of their son. Meanwhile, there's a court battle over opening the entire file. With expected appeals, that fight could drag on a year or more.

Opponents of the bill argue open investigative files are needed to provide oversight, evaluation and accountability of law enforcement.

Indeed, in the Wetterling case, they are many questions about how the sheriff's office and other law enforcement agencies pursued suspects and leads in the case.

Mark Anfinson is a lawyer representing media organizations and others pushing for public access to the Wetterling records. He told the *StarTribune* he has worked with Cohen in the past and said "the goal here is entirely legitimate." But Anfinson and other open-records advocates worry unless the language is narrowly defined, law enforcement will define irrelevant information broadly and could protect info that could be important.

Making a significant change in the State Data Practices Act based on one case is a bad idea. While we are sympathetic to the Wetterlings' privacy and the family's tragedy, this law should not be passed unless the standard for what can be blocked is specific and set very high.

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.

Morals, sex used to matter in politics

Poor old Nelson Rockefeller. I've been thinking of him lately.

Here's why.

My interest in politics and political journalism dates to the mid 1960s. In September 1968, Rockefeller visited St. Cloud, making him the first national politician I saw in person.

In those days, the St. Cloud airport was on the north side. Now its former hangers house the Whitney Recreation Center.

When I heard Rockefeller's plane was going to land there, I rode my bike the few blocks from my house near St. Cloud Hospital so I could see him.

A crowd of about 200 waited to greet Rockefeller and a news story from the event described his welcome as appropriate for a presidential candidate.

But Rockefeller wasn't running for president. He was here to campaign for Rep. John Zwack, an unremarkable Republican with a farming background. He represented the Sixth District, which in the 1960s was primarily a farming district running from St. Cloud southwest to Marshall and the South Dakota border.

Rockefeller might have been a presidential candidate, or even president. In 1964, as leader of the Republican's "Eastern Establishment," he was the front-runner for the nomination. But a recent divorce ended Rockefeller's campaign and Sen. Barry Goldwater won the Republican nomination. President Lyndon Johnson clobbered Goldwater, partly by painting Goldwater as an extreme conservative ready to start

Mike

Knaak

Editor



a nuclear war.

Rockefeller tried again in 1968, but his record as the liberal Republican governor of New York didn't stand up to Richard Nixon's law-and-order pitch.

During a speech before some 1,500 people at Cathedral High School, Rockefeller promoted Nixon's candidacy as well as Zwack's by speculating that Nixon might carry Minnesota. (He didn't. Minnesota's former Sen. Hubert Humphrey won the state with 54 percent of the vote.)

So a divorce changed presidential politics and perhaps history. How would the world be different without the presidencies of Johnson and Nixon?

Rockefeller returned to St. Cloud in November 1975 and by this time I was a working journalist. I covered his appearance at the state Republican Convention, including protestors opposed to his pro-choice politics. Rockefeller was now Gerald Ford's vice president, a largely ceremonial role that didn't exploit his considerable talents.

Twenty years after Rockefeller's first St. Cloud appearance, Sen. Gary Hart, a Democrat from Colorado, dropped out of the presidential race. Like Rockefeller, he was the front-run-

ner for his party's nomination until photos turned up of him with a girlfriend aboard a yacht unfortunately named "Monkey Business." His campaign was scuttled when he wouldn't answer a question about committing adultery.

Again, sex and politics didn't mix well. But then things changed.

Bill Clinton dodged a string of claims about affairs and managed to get elected in 1992. After his relationship with an intern, an encounter that would get pretty much any manager at any company in America fired, the House of Representatives impeached him. Most people didn't seem to care. He left office with an approval rating of 65 percent, the highest for a departing president since Harry Truman.

Martin Luther King Jr. is credited with this quote that originated with Unitarian minister Theodore Parker: "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

I'd like to amend that a bit to "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward sleaziness."

We now have a president with more divorces than Rockefeller, more girlfriends than Hart and who has denied having sex with more women than Clinton. And he's bragged about being a serial sexual assaulter.

We've come a long way since 1968. Today the words of a porn star are more credible than those of the leader of the free world.

Poor old Nelson Rockefeller. Fifty years later, he could have been a con-

Letter to the editor

Why St. Joseph resident believes annexation is not the answer

Len Bechtold, St. Joseph

In December 2017, the city of St. Joseph notified St Joseph Township of the intent to annex all of the property located within the Orderly Annexation Agreement area. This area includes all the property in St. Joseph Township lying north of the Sauk River and north of I-94, an area of several thousand acres.

At the March 5 City Council meeting, by letter I asked "As a city resident and a concerned taxpayer, what will be the cost of providing water and sewer services to the entire annexation area?" To this date, I have not received a reply. Certainly that price will be in the millions. Does the city have the adequate water storage capacity and sewage facility to handle this or will these facilities need to be expanded? How much of this cost will the city taxpayers be required to pay? If the entire cost were to be assessed to the taxpayers of the OAA, the cost would be overwhelming.

For the taxpayers of the township which would remain following annexation, would the township be able to survive without substantially raising their taxes so they could adequately maintain roads, provide fire protection and more?

The township would be reimbursed by the city for taxes collected at the rate of

Year 1 - 60%

Year 2 - 50%

Year 3 - 40%

Year 4 - 30 %

Year 5 - 20%

At year 6 and beyond, all tax revenues are property of the city.

The township would stand to lose more than 40 percent of its income.

In early 2017, Stearns County notified the city and township they would no longer be providing planning services to the OAA. On May 25, a public hearing was held to consider modifying the OAA and to modify the management of the OAA to include administration duties. The proposal was the city administrator would be responsible for this. This meeting was attended by approximately 150 residents and owners of property within the OAA. All who spoke were opposed to this agreement. After lengthy negotiations, on Aug 26, 2017, the city and township approved a resolution re-defining the land-use-management process and adopting the county zoning regulations and naming the city as plan administrator.

So why annexation?

In December 2017, the city notified the township it's their intention to annex all of the property in the OAA effective April 1, 2018. Public input sessions were announced. At the Jan. 25, 2018 meeting, approximately 100 residents attended. All who spoke were opposed to annexation as there were no benefits to them, only much higher taxes and

more severe regulations. At the Feb. 15 meeting, attended by approximately 75 residents, the city administrator stated the reason for annexation was the boundaries were fragmented and managing the OAA was difficult, created a lot of confusion and was ineffective. All who spoke at this hearing were in opposition to annexation. Negotiations between the city and township continue at this time.

It appears the motivating factor for the city at this time is this is nothing more than a "tax grab." For the city administrator that motivation is power, control and authority as she wishes to impose city ordinances and regulations on the residents, even though they don't want to be in the city and will receive no benefits.

Throughout this entire process the residents have been ignored.

As a resolution, I would suggest the following;

- All annexation plans be put on hold.
- Allow the present OAA to continue.
- Turn administration of the OAA over to the township where it belongs.
- Annex property only when petitioned by resident and owners.

This annexation issue appears to be very expensive to the taxpayers of the city, the township and mostly to the residents of the OAA.

Why annexation? It just doesn't make sense!

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

St. Patrick’s Day is about more than green beer

Recently, an invasion of green in what has otherwise been a white winter took over the United States. Unfortunately, it wasn’t a spell of warm weather, but an event we know as St. Patrick’s Day, a holiday with an interesting history.

If you’ve heard about St. Patrick, you may have encountered the story in which he banished all snakes from Ireland. Though scientific evidence concludes this is a tall tale, it is true St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, and a celebrated saint of the Catholic Church. He is widely believed to have died on March 17, and thus it became celebrated as his feast day.

But how did a religious feast day turn into our modern celebration of Irish culture? Historical

research indicates early St. Patrick’s Day festivities in the United States date back to 17th century Spanish Florida in St. Augustine. Cities such as Boston, New York and Savannah started having celebrations around the 18th and 19th centuries, with Boston being the first in the Thirteen Colonies. Other cities with Irish heritage have since followed suit. Our state capital of St. Paul had its 52nd annual parade this year.

Reasons for the date’s rapid expansion are also speculated upon. Since March 17 is in the middle of Lent, fasting restrictions are often lifted, giving rise to the tradition of drinking on the day. Irish settlers coming to America in waves after the Great Potato Famine also took up the celebration as an expression of identity in

Connor Kockler

Guest Writer



their new home. From these beginnings, St. Patrick’s Day has now been widely adopted by the American public.

But it would be much longer until it was recognized officially. In fact, St. Patrick’s Day isn’t actually an official holiday in the United States. The place it’s official is Suffolk County, Massachusetts, which celebrates it alongside Evacuation Day, commemorating the retreat of British forces from Boston during the Revolutionary War. March has been declared Irish-American Heritage Month every

year since 1991.

Well-known traditions include Chicago dyeing its river green, which started in 1962. This practice has been imitated by many other cities in dyeing their fountains or canals green. The White House started dyeing the north fountain green in 2009. Seattle paints the road traffic stripe green for its parade. Peas are traditionally planted in the Northeastern United States on St. Patrick’s Day.

The day has even been an occasion for international politics. During the last few decades, the Irish taoiseach, or prime minister, has almost always been in Washington, D.C., on March 17 for an official visit. During Bill Clinton’s tenure, the day served as a venue for peace talks concerning the conflict between Irish unionists

and nationalists in Northern Ireland.

Who knew one day could contain so many different elements? Religious roots, celebratory extravagance, national heritage and a symbol of international friendship. No wonder it’s struck a chord with Americans and people all around the world and has become so prevalent in our culture. It’s reflective of the great variety of experiences and cultures that make the United States such an amazing place to live and work. For next year’s St. Patrick’s Day, remember how it came to be, and just how lucky we are to have such a great tradition each year.

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

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 23

Les Miserables, presented by St. John’s Prep, 7 p.m., Paramount Center for the Arts, 913 St. Germain St., St. Cloud. 320-259-5463.

All Saints Academy Fish Fry,

4-7:30 p.m., Heritage Hall and School Cafeteria, 32 W. Minnesota St., St. Joesph.

Saturday, March 24

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.

Central Minnesota Credit Union annual meeting, 10 a.m., Melrose High School Auditorium, 546 Fifth Ave. NE., Melrose. 888-330-8482.

March for Our Lives, 10 a.m., Sartell City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N.

Move the Mall Walk for Volunteerism, hosted by Catholic Charities, 8-10 a.m., Crossroads Center, 4101 Division St. W., St. Cloud, 320-229-4589.

Les Miserables, presented by St. John’s Prep, 7 p.m., Paramount Center for the Arts, 913 St. Germain St., St. Cloud. 320-259-5463.

Sunday, March 25

Joe Town Table, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Amreican Legion, 101 W. Minnesota St., St. Joseph. centralmncw@gmail.com.

Les Miserables, presented by St. John’s Prep, 2 p.m., Paramount Center for the Arts, 913 St. Germain St., St.

Cloud. 320-259-5463.

Monday, March 26

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

St. Joseph Park Board, 6 p.m., St. Joseph City Hall, 75 Callaway St. E. 363-7201. cityofstjoseph.com.

Tuesday, March 27

Red Cross Blood Drive, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Cloud VA Health Care System, CD135 Volunteer Services. redcrossblood.org or call 800-733-2767.

Red Cross Blood Drive, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., College of St. Benedict, 37 S.

College Ave. redcrossblood.org or call 800-733-2767.

Thursday, March 29

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.

Friday, March 30

Fish Fry, Meat Raffle and Bake Sale, sponsored by the St. Joseph Lions Club, 4:30-7:30 p.m.. Sal’s Bar & Grill, 109 W Minnesota St., St Joseph.

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Library

from front page

containing information on which homes they will go to for their next dinner stops – for first course and then main course.

United Way

The United Way of Central Minnesota began funding the local area’s Imagination Library 12 years ago, and 1.3 million books were received by children during that time.

Books are age-appropriate. The first one a child receives is *The Little Engine That Could*, and the last, just before turning age 6, is *Kindergarten, Here I Come!*

Lori Eich of Sauk Rapids is the director of individual giving for the United Way. This year’s Imagination Library goal, she noted, is to raise \$50,000. In the past 12 years, \$190,000 was raised, which helped pay for books sent via Dolly Parton’s Dollywood Foundation.

Eich’s own children – Coltin, now 12, and Carleigh, 10 – were also recipients of Imagination Library books. She can remember vividly how excited her children became when the books would arrive in the mail and how much fun the family had reading them together.

“There are about 120 more children each year on the program,” Eich said. “There is a waiting list now. As children go beyond the age of 5, new ones are always being added.”

This year’s progressive dinner will involve 135 volunteers and close to an estimated 300 diners.

To find out more about the event, call Lori Eich at 320-229-3501 or 320-761-2571. Contributions to the program can be sent to United Way of Central Minnesota Imagination Library Fund, 921 First St. N., Suite 200, St. Cloud, Minn. 56303.



contributed photo
At an Imagination Library progressive dinner stop at a Sartell home in 2017, mother Alexis Lutgen of Avon and her daughter, Vivian, enjoy looking through a storybook together.



contributed photo
These escargots (snails) comprised one of the entrees at a French-themed Imagination Library dinner in 2017.



contributed photo
At an Imagination Library dinner stop, 2017, some of the storybooks were on display in the home, including *Pigs Love Potatoes* and *Llama Llama Mad at Mama*.

Attention Stearns Electric Association Members!



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for

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Nominated by the SEA members who served on 2018 Nominating Committee.

Look for details in the SEA’s Power Connection newsletter.

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Please vote by mail by April 2, or bring to Melrose evening Election on April 5.

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