

St. Joseph Newsleader

Friday, March 30, 2018
Volume 30, Issue 13
Est. 1989

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

Register now for Star Watch Party
A Minnesota Star Watch Party, featuring WCCO Radio's Mike Lynch and his giant telescopes, will be held from 8-10 p.m. Thursday, April 12 at the Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Participation is limited. There is a fee. Call Community Education to register 320-253-4036.

Dollars for Scholars apps now online
2018 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.

Help Catholic Charities' emergency services
Catholic Charities' Emergency Services program has several weekly opportunities for volunteers. Check out: 4-6 p.m. Mondays and 9 a.m. to noon Fridays; Clothing support: 8:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesdays; 8:45-1 p.m. 12:45-4 p.m. Thursday; donation door: 8:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 12:30-4:15 p.m. Thursdays; and food shelf guide: 3:45-7 p.m. Wednesdays. These opportunities are at 157 Roosevelt Road, Suite 100, St. Cloud. Contact Michelle at 320-229-4586 or visit thenewsleaders.com and click on March 30 Criers.

EZ-GO cart drivers
Give sisters a ride to different areas on campus in a golf cart during a minimum three-hour morning or afternoon shift. Sisters of St. Benedict and St. Scholastica are a monastic community of women who seek God in their daily lives according to the Gospel and the Rule of Benedict. The sisters of St. Benedict and St. Scholastica Convent have ministered to the people of Stearns County as well as other parts of the United States and in foreign countries for the past 150 years. Contact Sister Jean Schwartz OSB, volunteer coordinator at 320-363-7105.

Y2K Lions donates 49 Easter baskets



contributed photo
St. Joseph Y2K Lions members (from left to right) Delrose Fischer, Margaret Molus, Becky Staneart and Joyce Stenger-Oldeen fill Easter baskets to be donated.

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

Many local residents received a special Easter basket from the St. Joseph Y2K Lions Club when members filled and delivered 49 baskets to children and adults with special needs who live in the area. Twelve members of the Y2K Lions gathered March 25 at the Church of St. Joseph Heritage Hall to prepare the baskets to be delivered before Easter. The baskets were filled with snacks, candies, fruit, toothbrushes and toothpaste and other items. The Y2K Lions have been donating the baskets for more than 25 years. Y2K Lions member Beth Leither has been helping coordinate the baskets for 22 years. She said it's so much fun to see the recipients' reactions when they receive the baskets

because "they smile, their eyes get wide with excitement, they say 'thank you' and give you hugs." Leither said the parents of the recipients are also very appreciative of the baskets. "We like to see the appreciation that is shown when they receive their baskets," said Becky Staneart, the club's first vice president. "It feels good to make kids happy," said Sandy Stocker, the club's second vice president. The St. Joseph area includes two Lions clubs: the Y2K and the St. Joseph Lions. Both clubs provide service and benefits to the area. The Y2K Lions club was founded in 2000. The organization meets the second Wednesday of each month. For more information, email stjosephlionsy2k@gmail.com.

DFL endorses Read for 13A election bid

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Jim Read of Avon was endorsed last weekend by DFL delegates to compete for the seat in Minnesota House District 13A. That seat is currently held by Rep. Jeff Howe (R-Rockville), who was first elected in 2012 and has retained that office for three consecutive terms. Before Howe's tenure, the



Read

House District 13A seat was held by former St. Joseph Mayor Larry Hosch, who served the legislative district from 2004-2012. Voters will likely choose between Read in the Nov. 6 general election. However, the official filing period runs from May 22 through June 5. If more than one candidate files in either party, there will be a primary on Aug. 14.



Howe

House District 13A covers a large area of Stearns County, including St. Joseph and the townships of St. Joseph, Collegeville, Avon (southern part), Fairhaven, Lynden, Maine Prairie, Luxemburg, Eden Lake, Rockville, Paynesville, Munson, Wakefield and Zion. Since 1988, Read has been a political-science professor at St. John's University and the College of St. Benedict. Read's wife, Pia Lopez, is a teacher at St. Cloud Technical & Community College. They met when they were in college and recently celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary. This will be Read's second bid for a House seat. He competed in 1992 and lost by 98 votes, determined by a recount.

Read
Born in Chesterton, Ind., Read attended public schools and was active as a Boy Scout and Eagle Scout. He graduated from the University of Chicago and later earned a doctorate in political science from Harvard University. One of Read's teaching emphases is the U.S. Constitution

Read • page 3

March for Our Lives calls for solutions

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

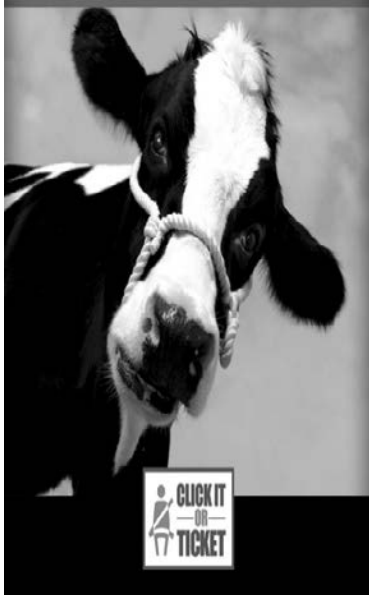
Seeking solutions to gun violence, about 300 people participated in Sartell's March for Our Lives Saturday, March 24. The demonstration, organized by Angie Trulson of Sartell, started with a rally at Sartell City Hall before marchers traveled more than a mile to First United Methodist Church where some marchers lit candles in memory of gun violence victims. Before the march started,

Trulson, who's brother died in a shooting at his workplace, asked marchers to gather in a circle and hold hands for a moment of silence. "We as a country are full of smart people who will come together with solutions and compassion," Trulson said. The Sartell march was one of more than 800 events organized around the world by students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., where 17 people died in a shooting Feb. 14. Organizers

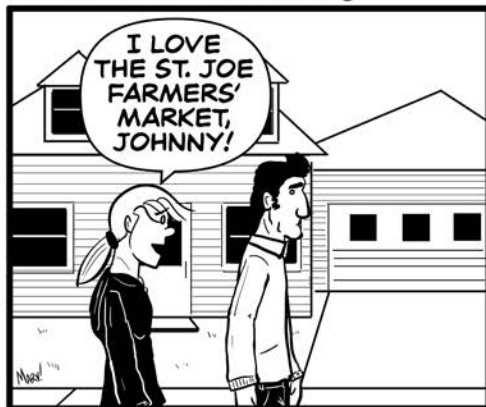


photo by Mike Knaak
Some of the March for Our Lives participants walk the trail from City Hall to First United Methodist Church.

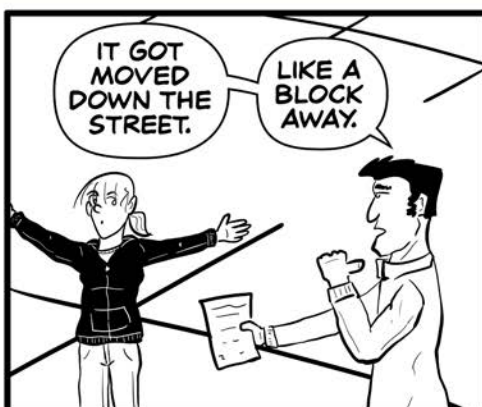
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by the Marvelous Patric



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People

Mary Jepperson, a professor of accounting and finance at the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University recently joined the board of directors at Stearns Bank National Association. Jepperson began her career in the Minneapolis office of Coopers & Lybrand, where she became the office's first female partner. She is experienced in forensic accounting and litigation services.

Six St. Joseph students recently graduated from St. Cloud State University. They are the following: **Hannah Kalla**, bachelor's in elementary/K-6 education, summa cum laude; **Whitney Lorentz**, bachelor's in information systems; **Richard Welch**, bachelor's in accounting, summa cum laude; **Richard Bohan-**

non, master's in geography/geographic information science; **Megan Loso**, dual bachelor's degrees in biology and life science/general science education grades 5-12, magna cum laude; and **Abby Lyon**, graduate certificate in educational administration.

St. John's Prep's Knowledge Bowl team advanced to the state meet after winning at the regional level. The Regional Knowledge Bowl was March 20 at Celebration Lutheran Church; 18 teams competed in a written test and five oral rounds. Five teams will advance to the state meet April 12-13 at Cragun's, Brainerd. The prep-school team is coached by **Charles Miller** and **Jan Dai-ker**. Team members are **Tina**

Chen, Gabriel Curnutt, Zander Haws, Regan Mies and Caitlin Skahen.

Four St. Joseph students have been named to the fall semester dean's list at the College of St. Benedict. **Rose Berg-Arnold**, daughter of Mark and Brenda Berg-Arnold, is a senior nursing major. **Leela Cofell**, daughter of Monica Cofell, is a senior political science major. **Jamie Muske**, daughter of Tim and Shelly Muske, is a junior elementary education major. **Caitlin Terres**, daughter of Robbie and Teresa Terres, is a senior nursing major.

To be included on the dean's list, students must have a grade-point average of at least 3.80 and have completed 12 credits.

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

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Published each Friday by Von Meyer Publishing Inc.

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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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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ST. JOSEPH NEWSLEADER, P.O. Box 324, St. Joseph, MN 56374.

Read

from front page

and the rights and duties of citizenship. He is the author of three books. One of them, *Doorstep Democracy: Face to Face Politics in the Heartland*, is about his door-to-door campaign for the Minnesota Legislature in 1992. He is currently working on a book about Abraham Lincoln and majority rule.

Read started his campaign in September 2017, long before his DFL endorsement. He enjoys door-to-door campaigning, meeting people face to face, because he is a strong believer in grassroots democracy.

“Our national and state politics have recently taken a negative and destructive turn,” Read said. “But in response to this, we have seen an inspiring upsurge of democratic activism by ordinary citizens, meeting and talking in living rooms and cafes and peacefully marching by the thousands for what they believe.”

During his campaign, Read is emphasizing a healing of the division in the state and nation, a renewal of grassroots democracy and an effort for all Minnesotans to have access to affordable health care.

Howe

Born in Morris, raised on a farm near Chokio, Howe has been a small-business owner, consultant and 35-year member of the Minnesota National

Guard, attaining the ranks of major and lieutenant-colonel.

He has a bachelor’s degree in elective studies from St. Cloud State University.

He and his wife, Sheri, raised four children in Rockville.

Howe has also been a firefighter for 27 years, having served as Rockville fire chief, a fire marshal and an emergency management coordinator.

As a military man, Howe completed two tours of duty in Iraq and is the recipient of two bronze stars. He served in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Kitty Hawk during the crisis precipitated by the taking of American hostages at the U.S. Embassy in Iran.

He is a member of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and several other military associations. He has served on the Rockville City Council and is an elder at Gloria Dei Church.

As the representative for House District 13A, Howe has served on many committees, including those concerned with data-practices policy, job growth, public safety, transportation, finance and energy affordability.

Howe, in his campaigning, emphasizes the need to control state spending, job creation and retention, fewer business regulations, the restoration of local control in decision-making, making transportation a high priority, a strengthening of services for veterans, and working for a fair and simpler education-funding formula.

It’s time to bring St. Joseph’s farmers’ market downtown

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

Think about your favorite event in St. Joseph. For many, the annual Millstream Arts Festival is the most anticipated event of the year. Wouldn’t it be great if we could replicate the energy that pulses through downtown during the art festival on a more regular basis? There is a tremendous opportunity to bring this energy downtown every Friday afternoon throughout the summer. For years the St. Joseph Farmers’ Market has taken place in the parking lot of Resurrection Lutheran Church. Although the church has served as a great home for the market, moving it downtown would



bring the sustainability of the event to the emotional center of the city.

A farmers’ market is a picture-perfect example of sustainability on every front. Economically, a farmers’ market keeps money within the community. Socially, farmers’ markets provide face-to-face interaction which builds community. Environmentally, farmers’ markets provide a place for locals to buy local products grown in much more environmentally friendly fashion. Wouldn’t it be great to bring the sustainability and energy of this event downtown?

Currently, Friday afternoons during the summer in St. Joseph are relatively quiet, and the downtown area is generally empty. Bringing the farmers’ market downtown would get people downtown interacting with each other. Additionally, having the farmers’ market downtown would be a more accessible location for all the residents of St. Joseph. The relatively central geographical location of the

downtown would make it easier for people to get to the event by means other than driving. Shouldn’t an event that is a cornerstone of sustainability be

able to be accessed in a more sustainable way, like by foot or bike?

Bringing the farmers’ market to Minnesota Street would also help promote the downtown. A farmers’ market is a positive experience that reflects well on the people visiting and encourages them to visit the area again. Having the farmers’ market in the parking lot of a church does not have a positive impact on the area, as there are no businesses in the area to reap the benefit. This redeeming characteristic of a farmers’ market is currently being wasted in St. Joseph.

The vibe of St. Joseph is most prevalent when people come together and interact. Location-wise, the vibe of St. Joseph pulses strongest through the downtown area. Bringing the farmers’ market to downtown can add to the energy of the area on a regular basis and can help promote a more sustainable future for the area.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF ST. JOSEPH PUBLIC HEARING OUTDOOR SPECIAL EVENTS

The St. Joseph City Council shall conduct a public hearing at 6 p.m. Monday, April 16, 2018 in the St. Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. The purpose of the hearing is to consider the issuance of an outdoor special event on June 23, 2018 for Sal’s Bar and Grill. All persons wishing to be heard will be heard and oral

testimony will be limited to five minutes. Written testimony can be mailed to the City Administrator, 75 Callaway St. E., St. Joseph, Minn. 56374.

Judy Weyrens
Administrator

Publish: March 30, 2018

I’ll Buy You Dinner at Every Game

I’ll also buy dinner for your friends, for your kids, for your aunts and uncles, for your neighbors, for anybody you say. Then I’ll buy you seconds, and thirds.

By Mike Johnson
General Manager
St. Cloud Rox

This isn’t an early version of an April Fool’s prank. This is the real deal.

We were thinking of families when we came up with this idea, but this also applies to friends, neighbors, whomever.

Here are the benefits that come with the All-You-Can-Eat 7-Game Plan:

1.All-You-Can-Eat. At every game you attend in this seven-game ticket package, you’ll get all of the hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken sandwiches, chips, soda and water you want.

All of the food and drinks come with the ticket. There’s even an express line that is dedicated just for the 7-Game ticket plan holder. This means no waiting.

2.Free Rox gifts. You’ll get a St. Cloud Rox Hat for each 7-Game Plan that you buy. Additionally, you’ll get a Rox jersey. (These gifts are not available for single game buyers.)

3.Exchange games. I know families will love this. If you can’t make a game in your 7-Game Plan, you can exchange your ticket for another available game.

4.The best games. A tickle that would make both you and your kids laugh. You’ll see two fireworks shows, the famous national entertainment acts ZOOperstars and BirdZerk. Dueling Pianos and every night you’ll see Chisel the mascot and laugh.



The cost is just \$98 per 7-Game Plan in the reserved section. That is just \$14 per seat, per game, for an All-You-Can-Eat St. Cloud Rox baseball game.

If you left your wallet at home, you wouldn’t miss out on anything. You’d eat as much as you wanted and you’d have fun watching our game. In order to get the best available seat locations, I recommend that order today by calling (320) 240-9798 or at www.stcloudrox.com.



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photos by Mike Knaak

About 300 people participated in the March for Our Lives from Sartell City Hall to First United Methodist Church.

March

from front page

estimated that between 500,000 and 800,000 participated in the Washington, D.C., march while between 18,000 and 20,000 gathered for the march in St. Paul, the largest of 13 protests planned across Minnesota.

The Sartell march attracted people from around central Minnesota.

"Change needs to happen," said Sarah Pasela, Big Lake, who attended the march with her son and husband. "We adults haven't been able to do much. Now we're taking the lead from students. We need to listen to their voices."

Many marchers spoke of their frustration with what they see as a lack of action by government after mass shootings that began with Columbine more than 20 years ago.

"You see all this going on and you want to get something done," said Hanna Haeg, St. Joseph.

"As a college student I think it's ridiculous this keeps happening. It should have ended with Columbine," said Katelyn Gill, a St. Cloud State University student from Sioux Falls, S.D.

"I work in a preschool and I want to support the kids. I want this to end," said Sheri Olson, Zimmerman.

The recent federal budget approved by Congress and signed by President Trump includes



March organizer Angie Trulson (in orange) asks participants to hold hands and observe a moment of silence for gun-violence victims.

some gun-safety measures including strengthening the background check database and allowing public health research on gun violence. The Department of Justice has proposed regulations to band "bump-stocks," accessories that turn semi-automatics into fully automatic weapons. But expected legal challenges may find that proposed rule is outside the scope of current gun laws.

Gun-safety advocates say those measures don't go far enough and they want tougher laws to ban assault-style weapons, high-capacity magazines and mandate universal background checks.

At the Minnesota Legislature, Republicans have backed improved school safety but have

blocked proposals to restrict gun access.

Gov. Mark Dayton wants expanded background checks, the age to buy assault weapons raised to 21 and police to have power to take guns away from people who may harm themselves or others. A Republican-controlled house has turned down bills backed by Democrats.

As the last marchers left city hall, Trulson looked ahead.

"Now it's time for others to take the reins, get involved and make a difference," she said.

Each marcher received a handout that listed next steps for additional action. The handout listed the contact information for state and federal lawmakers and details on how to get involved

with advocacy groups.

"This is not an anti-gun protest," Trulson said before the event. "It's an end-gun-violence peace rally. We can collectively begin to heal the wounds we've experienced individually and as a culture by standing with others to say 'This is not OK with us, we demand change.'"

Reacting to Saturday's turnout, Trulson said, "This is just the beginning and we have the chance to keep the momentum going. The positive response from passersby with thumbs up, smiles and waves, and even someone who pulled over to spontaneously join the march speaks volumes in fulfilling the intent of the movement."

Legion auxiliary begins centennial planning

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

When members of the American Legion Auxiliary in St. Joseph meet Tuesday, April 4, they will begin a once-in-a-hundred years project.

The members will begin planning events to mark the 100th anniversary of the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary.

The Legion was formed following World War II in March 1919. The auxiliary formed a year later.

The centennial events to be planned this spring will take place in 2018 and early 2019, according to Rosie Court, the St. Joseph auxiliary president.

The group will meet at 6:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 328, 101 W. Minnesota St.

Court's father, Matt, was an Army veteran of World War II, and she has been an auxiliary member for 19 years.

"The most important action

is support for veterans for their service to our country, to let them know they are not alone," Court said.

In addition to veterans, she said the group serves those who are on active duty as well as POW/MIA efforts and support for homeless and unemployed veterans.

"For the past fiscal year, we donated more than \$4,500 to veteran's programs and \$1,000 to our community," Court said in her report to the group's members.

A key fundraising effort is the annual poppy program.

In April, the auxiliary begins distributing poppies in exchange for donations to local businesses. The poppy has been a symbol of the auxiliary since the 1920s. It symbolizes freedom and the blood sacrificed by troops and comes from the poem "In Flanders Fields." The poem refers to the poppies that grew out of the newly dug soldiers' graves during World

War I.

The poppies are made by veterans including those at the St. Cloud VA Health Care System.


Last year, the group donated \$500 from poppy sales to the VA for coats and T-shirts.

"We need to give them the same level of devotion as they gave to our country," Court said. "We need to be there for them."



contributed photo

The poppy is a nationally recognized symbol of sacrifice worn by Americans since World War I to honor those who served and died in all wars.



He is Risen!

CHURCH OF SAINT JOSEPH

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HOLY THURSDAY: MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
Thursday, March 29 7:00 pm

GOOD FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION
Friday, March 30 1:00 pm

HOLY SATURDAY: EASTER VIGIL
Saturday, March 31 8:30 pm

EASTER SUNDAY: RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
Sunday, April 1 8:00 and 10:00 am

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St. John's Prep math team takes first place at state competition

by Cori Hilsgen
news@the.newsleaders.com

The St. John's Preparatory School math team recently earned first-place in the Beta class at the Minnesota State High School Mathematics League tournament March 12 at South St. Paul High School.

Junior Tina Chen and freshman Henry Chen were part of the winning team that also included Toto Chen (Shanghai), David Feng (Harbin Heilongjiang, China), Zander Haws (St. Cloud), Emily Huang (Shanghai), James Liu (Beijing), Ally Wang (Shanghai) and Christine Xu (Changshu, Jiangsu, China).

This is Tina's third year she has been involved with the math team.

"I decided to join the math team because I really enjoy doing challenging math problems and I thought this would be a great way to do math in a competitive way," she said. "I really wasn't expecting the win because we had the fourth highest season total in our class, but I was really excited when we won."

After high school, Tina said she hopes to study engineering or physics.

Henry has been with the math team for two years and this is his first year on the state math team. He first decided to join the team because his math teacher recommended he join.

"I like math and I thought it was going to be fun," Henry said. "Being at state was a humbling experience because I got to see and talk to many great mathematicians my age."

During the summer, he hopes to improve his math skills so he can perform better next year.

After high school, Henry said he hopes to study something related to physics and mathematics.

Henry and Tina's parents are Michelle and Tony Chen.

St. John's Prep math teacher Mary Rueter coaches the math team that includes 40 students in grades nine-12.

The Minnesota State High School Mathematics League predetermines topics for each meet.

Students on the St. John's Prep math team began practicing in October and practice one and one-half hours each week. Practices include reviewing the math topics for the upcoming meet and working problems related to the topic. Rueter uses copies of previously used tests to help the team practice.

She chooses eight students from the math team to compete on the varsity team for each meet. League rules require at least two of the eight varsity team members must be sophomores or younger.

There are five regular-season meets. St. John's Prep is in the Central Gopher Conference that

includes St. John's Prep, Sartell, Albany, Apollo, Cathedral, Rocori, Sauk Rapids-Rice and Tech. These schools compete at each meet.

St. John's Prep finished in first place in the Central Gopher Conference, which qualified them to compete in the state tournament.

At the tournament, each student takes two, 15-minute individual written tests that contain four questions. The team then works together for 30 minutes to solve six very complicated problems. The scores on the individual and team test are added together for the team score.

Rueter has been teaching math for 25 years, the last five of which have been with St. John's Prep. This is her 10th year of coaching a math team and the seventh time she has had students competing at the state tournament.

This is the third year St. John's Prep has had a math team. They have won the Central Gopher Division all three years and competed at the state tournament three times.

Minnehaha Academy took second place and Mahtomedi High School took third place in the Beta class at the tournament.

The Minnesota State High School Mathematics League identifies and recognizes students who have unusual mathematical ability and offers them the chance to study topics not usually taught in the high-school curriculum. Currently, more than 3,000 students participate in the league, which includes 172 schools in 25 divisions.

For additional information, visit the <http://mnmathleague.org> website.



contributed photos

The St. John's Prep math team includes the following students: (front row, left to right) Toto Chen, grade 12, Henry Chen, grade 9, David Feng, grade 12, Emily Huang, grade 10, Christine Xu, grade 11; and (back row) Coach Mary Rueter, James Liu, grade 10, Ally Wang, grade 11, Zander Haws, grade 12, and Tina Chen, grade 11. The team recently earned first place in its class at the Minnesota State High School Mathematics League competition in St. Paul.



Team members received this medal when their St. John's Prep math team earned first-place in the Beta class at the Minnesota State High School Mathematics League competition.



Math teacher Mary Rueter coaches the St. John's Prep math team which recently earned first-place in the Beta class at the Minnesota State High School Mathematics League competition.

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Opinion

Our View Democracy is not a spectator sport

Recent local reaction to gun violence in schools has taught us being a citizen in a democracy is not a spectator sport.

Shaping the country's response requires active participation and engagement in civic life.

The actions of two central Minnesota women showed two paths among many complicated solutions to the causes and means of gun violence. They both ask each of us take action with our fellow citizens.

After students at St. John's Prep walked out of classes on the one-month anniversary of the Parkland, Fla., shootings, Principal Pam McCarthy challenged students to "walk up" after walking out.

McCarthy 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. 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.

It will be hard to measure if walk-up efforts prevent a future mass shooting. But short-circuiting the anger and alienation of a young person who may someday act on those feelings by grabbing a gun is certainly worth the effort.

Among about a million people who took part in 800 March for Out Lives events across the world, 300 people joined the march organized by Angie Trulson in Sartell.

Trulson and many marchers talked about the need for solidarity, listening to young people, acting with compassion and working to find solutions.

Solidarity – working together with mutual support for a common interest – means making a commitment to stay involved, to encourage action, to vote.

Both these actions are really about changing minds one person at a time. In other words, be a participant, not a spectator.

The estimated 500,000 people who marched on the national mall looked impressive on television. But most members of Congress left town the day before and missed the moment except for a few members who joined the march in Washington, D.C., such as Sen. Amy Klobuchar. During the rally's climactic moment, Donald Trump was enjoying a round of golf at his resort about 30 miles from Parkland instead of participating in democracy.

Those political leaders missed articulate, passionate speeches in democracy by young participants. No one should be surprised by them because they were trained for this moment by their school.

While many schools have cut arts, civics and extracurriculars, Marjory Stoneman Douglas boasts a system-wide debate and public-speaking program, drama, journalism and civic-activism classes.

Congress has pretty much finished with the gun issue. The recent budget bill includes minimal efforts to improve the background-check system, lifting limits on gun-safety research and money for improving school security.

The Department of Justice plans to regulate "bump-stocks," but that effort probably won't survive a court challenge because it's outside the scope of gun laws.

So to make change many people support such as assault weapons and high-capacity magazine bans and universal background checks, participation needs to continue. That means walking up, reaching out to those with common cause and most importantly voting out the politicians who choose to go on vacation instead of participating in the debate.

St. Joseph • Sartell-St. Stephen

Newsleaders

Reaching EVERYbody!

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

Letters to the editor may be sent to news@thenewsleaders.com or P.O. Box 324, St. Joseph, MN 56374. Deadline is noon Monday. Please include your full name for publication (and address and phone number for verification only.) Letters must be 350 words or less. We reserve the right to edit for space.

How slow is too slow on I-94?

At first it sounds like a great idea.

Sen. John Jasinski from Faribault introduced a bill that would penalize slow-moving drivers in the left lane of double-lane roads.

We've all been frustrated by "slow" drivers in the left lane of Interstate Highway 94 between central Minnesota and the Twin Cities.

Under the best conditions, the trip to a Twins game, the airport or the Mall of America can take around 75 minutes. A delay-free drive is even more important for the 5,000 central Minnesotans who work in the Twin Cities.

More than 45,000 vehicles travel both directions between central Minnesota and the Twin Cities on a typical day. And all it takes is one of those vehicles to totally clog up the freeway.

Jasinski's bill demands "a person operating a vehicle at less than the speed of traffic under the existing conditions must drive in the right-hand lane."

If not, they'd be fined \$100.

So how will the State Patrol define "the speed of traffic under normal conditions?"

I conducted an experiment with my spouse at the wheel this past weekend to record normal traffic conditions. She usually pushes the speed limit and she's way more im-

Mike Knaak
Editor



patient with pokey drivers than I am. So she was a good test subject to simulate a typical driver. While she drove on a sunny Saturday afternoon, I took notes on a trip to Minneapolis.

Heading south, we quickly exceeded the 70-mph speed limit while passing slower traffic in the right lane.

In the left lane, the "traffic speed under existing conditions" appeared to be 77 mph. So does that mean the State Patrol won't enforce the speed limit if you're keeping up with the rest of the vehicles?

Or if you do obey the speed limit and stick to 70 mph, will you get fined \$100 for violating the slow-moving-vehicle-in-the-left-lane law? Will the state troopers even bother to enforce the law?

And there are a couple of unique traffic situations that further confound the rules.

On the weekend of any Vikings home game, beware of North Dakota fans in a hurry to get to the

game.

Keep your eye on your rear-view mirror for a Peace Garden State plate on the front bumper of an F-150 or a Tahoe heading to the big game at 80-plus mph. Get over or get run over. Who gets the ticket? The Fargo fan cruising 10 or 15 mph over the limit or the Minnesota taxpayer going 75 mph...but too slow?

If you're a detail-oriented driver, you've noticed the rough road surface on the right lane of I-94 between Clearwater and Monticello. If you stay in the right lane for the entire 16-mile stretch, you may have the fillings jarred out of your teeth. Move to the left lane and be ready to roll at 75 to 80 mph or risk high-beam lights in your mirror, finger gestures or tailgating.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is working to fix that problem this summer by "diamond grinding" to smooth the road surface.

With or without North Dakota drivers and rough roads, the speed of traffic under "existing conditions" will still be much faster than the posted speed limit.

Maybe drivers are different in Sen. Jasinski's home turf on I-35 around Faribault. But before the Legislature votes, I'd like him to ride with my wife on I-94.

Letters to the editor

Township resident says annexation doesn't make sense

Len Bechtold, St. Joseph

The city of St Joseph has notified the township it intends to annex all of the property in the Orderly Annexation Area. At meetings on May 25, 2017, attended by approximately 50 people; a meeting on Jan 25, 2018, attended by approximately 100 people; and a meeting on Feb. 15, 2018 attended by approximately 75 people, all who testified spoke against annexation and were cheered on by all attending.

At each of these meetings, one message came through loud and clear: The people of St. Joseph town-

ship do not want to be governed by the city of St. Joseph.

No one has petitioned for annexation nor has anyone requested water-and-sewer services, so what is the city's motivation in doing this?

Is it for the taxes? Not only would the taxes be sent to the city, but there would be a huge tax increase to most residents of the annexation area even though they would receive no benefits. The annexation agreement states "When undeveloped land is annexed for the purpose of development, the city tax rate shall not apply until a plat has been recorded. All other properties shall be taxed at

the city tax rate upon completion of annexation."

Or is it for the control and authority? The only reason given for annexation is it's "confusing and ineffective" for the city administrator to administer the county's regulations in the annexation area. If the area is annexed, then the residents would be required to follow the city's regulations.

What has happened to the principles our country was founded by; "Government of the people, by the people and for the people?"

Annexation just doesn't make sense.

Reader believes Trump's Twitter account is threatening our democracy

Amy Braig-Lindstrom, St. Joseph

Hey Twitter, Enough is enough!

The @realdonaldtrump account should have been left behind with civilian life. Instead, it is the single biggest threat against our already obviously fragile democracy. Join me in demanding Twitter enforce its sanctions for violating the rules in its terms and agreements for abusive behavior.

Twitter's rules and policies state, "...we prohibit behavior that crosses the line into abuse, including behavior that harasses, intimidates or uses fear to silence another user's voice." Twitter's sanctions for violating the Abusive Behavior section

of its rules are as follows; 1.) Make it "temporarily unavailable" and require the violator edit the media or information in their profile to come into compliance. 2.) If it seems like an otherwise healthy account is in the middle of an abusive episode, we might temporarily make their account read-only, limiting their ability to Tweet, ReTweet or Like content until calmer heads prevail. 3.) Permanently suspending an account which will remove it from global view, and the violator will not be allowed to create new accounts.

Whether you are a twitter user or not, Donald J. Trump's tweets are something none of us can escape.

People I've met or know who voted

DJT into office express grave concern for his sometimes dangerous, often childish, frequently false and generally abusive statements on Twitter. In the name of Our Forefathers and Democracy we must demand a change. Together we need to rise up and reclaim the decency we all believe our democracy was founded on and be compassionate along the way because as a member of the human race we are far more alike than we are different.

It is also possible, given the choice between his personal Twitter account and the Office of the Presidency, Donald Trump might head to Mar-a-Lago and never return to the White House...Ah, the audacity of hope.

GOT AN OPINION?

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

Email: news@thenewsleaders.com

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

Don’t turn Dreamers into deportees

For weeks, ever since the fate of the DACA Dreamers has been in doubt, I keep hearing in my head a haunting lament written nearly 70 years ago.

The song, its words penned by that feisty American balladeer Woody Guthrie, is “Deportee (Plane Wreck at Los Gatos).” Check it out on YouTube. It’s been sung by almost every top singer under the sun – from Odetta to Dolly Parton, from Bob Dylan to Bruce Springsteen.

Here is the song’s refrain:

“Goodbye to my Juan, goodbye Rosalita.
Adios mis amigos, Jesus y Maria.
You won’t have your names when you ride the big airplane
All they will call you will be deportees.”

On Jan. 28, 1948, which happens to be my birthday, a plane filled with Mexican crop workers crashed in Los Gatos Canyon near

Fresno, Calif. All aboard died in the fiery crash, including the four American crew members and the 28 guest workers, three of them women. The U.S. Immigration Service was flying them back to Mexico.

Guthrie, living in New York City at the time, read about the catastrophe in the *New York Times* and was disturbed the story mentioned the names of the crew members but none of the names of the Mexican victims. As often happened when Guthrie’s sense of outrage was riled up, he wrote a poem about it. Later, a schoolteacher, Martin Hoffman, created a beautiful melody for the words.

What Guthrie didn’t know at the time was that the Fresno newspaper did, in fact, print all the names of the deceased. But, never mind, because with many a great song, it’s the meaning and spirit of the song (not so much facts) that carry the day and that live on.

The meaning and spir-

Dennis Dalman Reporter



it of “Deportee” is that very often the “other,” the “foreigner, the “outsider,” the “not us” are considered mere statistics, numbers, things that can be used and discarded. People turned into objects – made faceless, nameless, invisible. That is why, in his moving song, Guthrie gave back names to the workers – Juan, Rosalita, Jesus, Maria. He restored their humanity.

The victims of the plane crash, sad to say, remained nameless even in death. They were buried in a mass grave.

The U.S. Congress, paralyzed once again by its reckless, insensitive deadlock, still has not passed a bill, as promised, to protect the nearly 1.5-million “Dreamers” from deportation. Those are people

who were brought to this country when they were children and who now live and work here productively in virtually every field, blue-collar and professional, including serving in the military.

Will the day come, as in the song, when they will become rejected, tossed out, forgotten, when all we will call them will be deportees?

In 1942, Congress passed what is known as the “Braceros” agreement with Mexico, a way for Mexican manual laborers (braceros in Spanish) to work in the United States to help with a vast labor shortage during World War II. The workers, after their months of hard labor, would be transported back to Mexico by the companies (mostly agricultural ones) that needed their labor. If the contractors welched on that promise, the workers would be transported back by the U.S. Immigration Service. That was the situation when the plane crashed near Fresno.

“The sky plane caught fire over Los Gatos Canyon, A fireball of lightning, and shook all our hills, Who are all these friends, all scattered like dry leaves? The radio says, They are just deportees.”

Let’s insist our legislators and our president drop their petty, inhumane disputes long enough to pass a DACA Relief Act. To keep those good young people in a limbo of anguish and uncertainty is nothing less than criminal.

We should take time to recall that other great Guthrie song, our “other” national anthem, “This land is your land, this land is my land . . . This land was made for you and me.”

By all means, strengthen the border, deport law-breakers and (this one’s a tall order) pass comprehensive immigration reform.

In the meantime and that means now, let’s demand lax legislators not turn these dedicated Dreamers into dejected deportees.

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

Grill 109 W. Minnesota St., St Joseph.

Monday, April 2
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave. NW., St. Joseph.
St. Joseph City Council, 6 p.m., council chambers, St. Joseph City Hall, 75 Callaway St. E. 320-363-7201. cityofstjoseph.com.

Tuesday, April 3
St. Joseph Lions Club, 7:30 p.m., Millstream Park Pavilion 101 Fifth Ave. NW., St Joseph. Joanne Bechtold, 320-363-4483.

American Legion Auxiliary Post 328, 6:30 p.m., American Legion, 101 W. Minnesota St., St. Joseph, to make plans for poppy program, Memorial Day and 100th anniversary events. Rosie Court, 320-597-3160.

Wednesday, April 4
Recovery Innovations Breakfast, featuring Carol Falkowski, the former director of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division of the Minnesota Department of Human Services, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Voyageurs Room, Atwood Center, St. Cloud State University. <http://tinyurl.com/scsecurecoverybreakfast>.

Thursday, April 5
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave. NW, St. Joseph.
Great River Regional Coin Club, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Miller Auto Marine Sports Plaza, 2930 Second St. S., St. Cloud. 320-241-9229.
St. Joseph Planning Commission, 6 p.m., St. Joseph City Hall, 75 Callaway St. E. 320-363-7201. cityofstjoseph.com.
Stearns Electric Association annual meeting, including districts 4, 5 and 9 election of director to the cooperative’s board. 7-9 p.m., Melrose High School Auditorium, 545 Fifth

Ave. NE, Melrose. 320-363-4630.
Friday, April 6
St. Joseph Area Historical Society, open 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave. NW. stjosephhistoricalmn.org.

Saturday, April 7
“The Oblate Way of Life,” an information session on what it means to live the Benedictine Oblate way of life, 9:30-11 a.m., St. Benedict’s Monastery, Rosamound A, St. Joseph, 320-363-7144.

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Building birdhouses: Great for birds, better for families

Birdhouses for the annual St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club birdhouse building event on March 19 were pre cut by retired carpenters as well as St. Joseph Rod and Gun members Peter Giroux, Ron Rennie, Niel Loso, Marvin Bierschbach, Al Kalla and friends. Supplies were donated by Ace Hardware St. Joseph and Manions, St. Cloud. All wood was donated by the Rod and Gun Club.



photos by Mollie Rushmeyer
Peyton Kalscheuer, 9, of St. Joseph helps her mom, Christy, with the electric drill, the only thing participants are required to bring to the birdhouse building event. All other materials are donated by generous community individuals and businesses.



St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club volunteers, like Ron Rennie of St. Joseph (center), make the event possible by helping pre-cut the wood for the birdhouses and assisting families at the event. Here (left to right), Colleen Klein enjoys making birdhouses and memories with her granddaughters, Libby Klein, 3, while Rennie lends a helping hand to Olivia, 10, and Lucy, 5, all of St. Joseph.



Amanda Roles of St. Joseph helps her daughter, Avery, 6, build a blue bird house during their first visit to the 25th annual St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club birdhouse building event Mar 19 at the American Legion in St. Joseph. The event brings roughly 200 families out each year to build pre-cut wood duck, blue bird and wren houses, which they can bring home at no charge to help the bird habitats in the area. But, Al Kalla, event organizer, says, it has always been about bringing families together for a fun activity.

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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Attention Stearns Electric Association Members!



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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.
Paid for by the candidate on his own behalf.