

St. Joseph Newsleader

Friday, April 6, 2018
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Est. 1989

Town Crier

Senior Connection hosts monarch butterflies talk

The Sartell Senior Connection will host a talk on monarch butterflies at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 10 at the Sartell Community Center, 850-19th St. S. Kirsten Boehne has been a butterfly enthusiast since she was a young girl. She raised her first monarchs when she was in elementary school. Now, decades later, she has raised several hundred. Kirsten has become an advocate and teacher sharing her love of monarchs and butterflies with local community groups and organizations. She will be talking about the life of a monarch butterfly and show how to raise them in order to increase the survival of these beautiful creatures.

Sartell Winter Market set Saturday at city hall

The Sartell Winter Market will be held from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, April 7 inside Sartell City Hall. Welcome spring with great items for the grill. Some items available this month include: meat, eggs, popcorn, treats and much more. Learn about what is new for the 2018 summer season including the opening dates and the exciting new vendors we have for the 2018 season.

Office assistant needed

St. Benedict's Monastery is looking for office assistants to help with inventory of cards and other items for the Whitby Gift Shop. 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. For more information, visit thenewsleaders.com and click on April 6 Criers.

Tutoring at St. Cloud area schools

Minnesota Reading Corps and Minnesota Math Corps will train 20 literacy and math tutors to begin 11 months of service in August. Tutors receive a living allowance, an education award of up to \$5,920 and the reward of making a lasting impact in the community. Tutors who are 55 or older may transfer the education award to a child or grandchild. Volunteers need to be available at least three days a week. For more information, visit thenewsleaders.com and click on April 6 Criers.

INSERTS:
Sliced on College Ave.
Country Manor
Senior Housing

A smoother ride ahead after summer work on CR 75

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

The constant thump, thump, thump of tires crossing cracks felt by drivers on CR 75 will end after a massive resurfacing project scheduled this summer.

Plans call for a new road surface as well as safety and drainage improvements from just west of St. Joseph at the Interstate Highway 94 split through the city to the 15th Avenue/CR 81 intersection in Waite Park.

County officials are waiting for federal approval so work can begin in June on the 5.7-mile stretch. About half of the \$10 million project will be federally funded with the other half coming from the state-aid-construction fund.

The work will begin by replacing traffic signals with temporary lights and building cross-over lanes.

During the entire project, the



photo by Mike Knaak

Stearns CR 75 traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction this summer during a major reconstruction project.

four-lane road will be reduced to one lane of traffic in each direction. The current road surface will be removed and replaced with a 7-inch bituminous surface.

All traffic will be moved to westbound lanes while the east-

bound lanes are replaced.

Then traffic will move to the new eastbound lanes while the westbound work is completed.

During construction, there will still be left- and right-turn lanes where possible.

More than 24,000 vehicles

use the busiest road in the county each day.

"If people have the option to take an alternate route, I would advise it," said Jodi Teich, Stearns County engineer.

The current road surface was

CR 75 • back page

Poetry is at work in St. Joseph

by Tracy Rittmueller
news@thenewsleaders.com

This April, St. Joseph students, teachers, merchants, readers and, of course, poets are encouraging everyone to notice poetry's important place in our culture and our lives. National Poetry Month, founded and sponsored by the Academy of American Poets, is celebrating its 22nd year and St. Joseph is joining the world's largest literary event.

The Local Blend is inviting people to come to its open mic every Tuesday starting at 7:30 p.m. to read and listen to poetry.

And on Wednesday, April 26, "National Poem in Your Pocket Day," Minnesota Street Market wants everyone to stop by to pick up free poems by local and national poets.

But poetry in St. Joseph is not only an April activity. This past February and March, on four Saturday mornings, 11 people gathered at the Spirituality Center of St. Benedict's Monastery to discuss and do the work of poetry. Mara Faulkner, OSB, designed and facilitated the workshop for participants who came from as near as in town and as far as 40 miles south of Minneapolis.

Some had been reading and writing poetry for decades. For others, this was their first exploration of what poetry is and what it can accomplish. At the first meeting, when Faulkner asked them to describe their current relationship with poetry, answers varied as much as their ages, ranging from 28 to 86.

"I don't know anything about poetry," said Mary Downs, a retired business person and current freelance writer.

David Walters, a retired pastor, said, "Reading and writing poetry is one of my great passions." He wrote poetry in his youth and took it up again after

he retired as a pastor. He came to the workshop hoping to become a better poet.

"Poetry is music," said Caitlin Brutger. She lives in St. Joseph and teaches piano at the Wirth Center for the Performing Arts.

Faulkner named this learning opportunity "Caution: Poetry at Work," as if to remind everyone to slow down and pay attention. Be careful because you're entering a danger zone, but proceed anyway.

"Poets try to express the inexpressible," Faulkner told the participants.

Poetry • page 4

Police department adds five new reserve officers

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Mayor Rick Schultz swore in five new police reserve officers at the April 2 City Council meeting.

The five join nine full-time officers including Chief Joel Klein and one part-time officer. There are nine reserve officers.

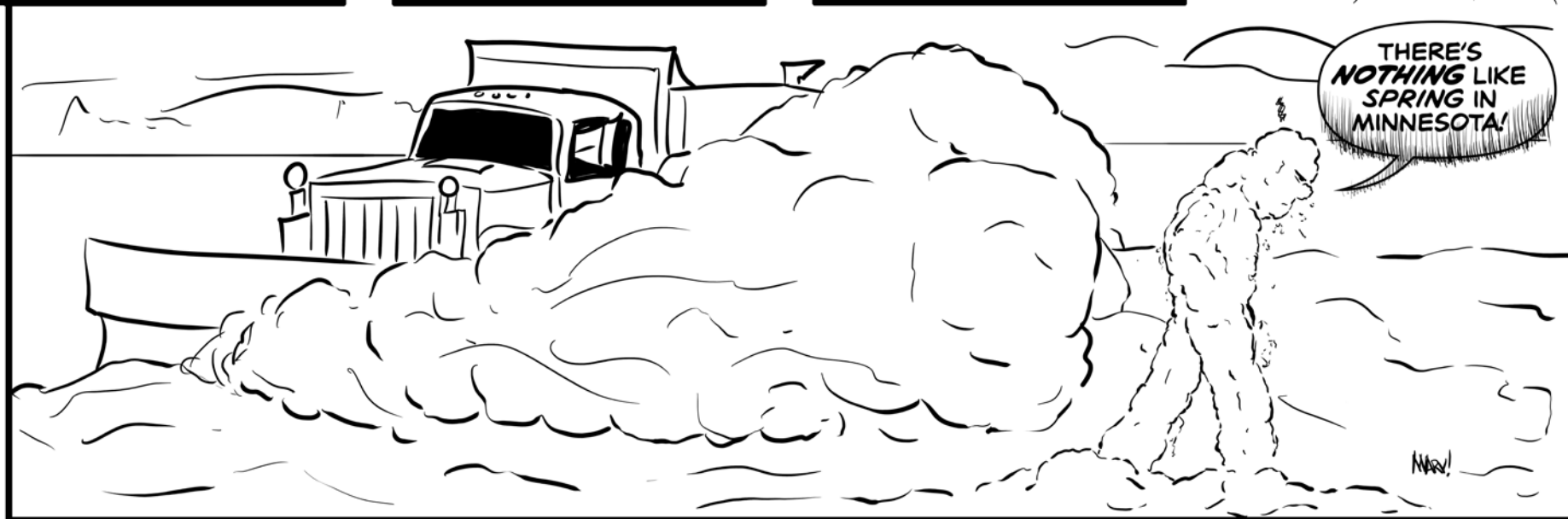
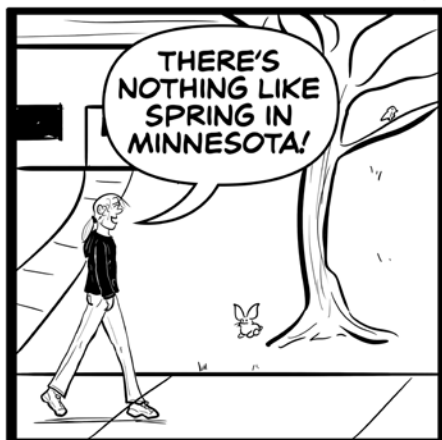
The new reserve officers are: David Sweeter, a photographer; Madison Honer, a law-enforcement student at Alexandria Technical & Community College; Cynthia Jasso, a student at the College of St. Benedict; Brady Casselman, a teacher at Little Saints preschool; and Trevon Mattson, a security officer at Midwest Patrol.



photo by Mike Knaak

St. Joseph Mayor Rick Schultz swears in new police reserve officers at the April 2 city council meeting. The new officers are (from left) David Sweeter, Madison Honer, Cynthia Jasso, Brady Casselman and Trevon Mattson.

Bennie & Johnny



by the Marvelous Patric

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In business

Traut Cos. was key to an investigation surrounding two decades-old municipal wells in St. Anthony Village.

Of primary concern was the wells' proximity to an area with well restrictions to protect aquifers. Investigation into the location of the wells was completed

by Minnesota Department of Health by investigative drilling by Traut to verify the material in the wells and determine if the required liner casings were present.

Traut drilled out both wells and discovered they had ungrouted liner casings that could

allow downward movement of water and contaminants to aquifers. The wells were then resealed. By completing the project groundwater was safeguarded for St. Anthony Village and public health was protected.

EMPTY BOWLS

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Blotter

If any readers have tips concerning crimes, they should call the St. Joseph Police Department at 320-363-8250 or Tri-County Crime Stoppers at 320-255-1301 or access its tip site at www.tri-countycrimestoppers.org. 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 11

6:21 a.m. Alarm. College Avenue N. Alarm call at the LaPlayette. Officers arrived and found the business secure.

March 15

12:44 p.m. Driving complaint. CR 75 and CR 133. An officer was dispatched to a complaint of a red van coming into St. Joseph on CR 133. Officers followed the vehicle and saw it cross the center line on a curve on CR 2. Officers stopped the vehicle and determined the driver was OK. The driver was warned.

March 16

7:25 a.m. Vehicle crash. CR 75 and 20th Avenue SE. An officer investigated a collision that had occurred earlier. The complainant said she had been rear-ended. The damage was minimal and no state report was required.
10:18 a.m. Alarm. Second Avenue NE. An officer was dispatched to an alarm covering the garage entry. The officer met with the owner who said it was a false alarm but the alarm company was not notified. The

officer told the owner to call the alarm company in the future.
9:26 p.m. Vehicle fire. Northland Drive. An officer was dispatched to a report of a vehicle fire at Boulder Ridge Apartments. Three officers arrived and saw fire coming from under the hood and front wheels of the vehicle. Fire extinguishers were used to keep the fire from spreading to other vehicles. The St. Joseph Fire Department arrived and extinguished the fire.

March 17

1:18 a.m. False identification. College Avenue N. An intoxicated man was reported in the bathroom at Gary's Pizza. The officer found the man alert and on the floor. The man showed a false ID and later produced a valid Minnesota driver's license. He was taken to Stearns County Jail. He was cited for minor consumption and providing a false ID.
1:27 p.m. Blood on the driveway. Hickory Drive. An officer was dispatched for a report of blood on the driveway. The officer saw blood and bird feathers on the garage apron and on the overhead door. The officer believed a bird flew into the door and it flew off or was dragged off by another animal.
3:47 p.m. Underage consumption. College Avenue S. College of St. Benedict security reported an underage, intoxicated woman. She was issued a citation.
4:17 p.m. Intoxicated woman. College Avenue S. College of St. Benedict reported an intoxicated woman. She was issued a citation.

4:48 p.m. Loud party. Old Hwy. 52. Several officers responded to a report of a loud party. Officers saw people leaving but they estimated there were still more than 50 people at the party. The party could be heard from the street. Two renters were cited for a noise/party violation. A motorist driving on CR 75 reported someone from the party threw a bottle at his car.
5:09 p.m.. Public urination. Old Hwy. 52. While responding to a loud party, an officer noticed a man urinating in the bushes. While walking to the front of the property, the man, who was under 21, tried to flee. He was arrested and cited for minor consumption, public urination and fleeing a police officer.

March 21

8:55 p.m. Deer hit by car. CR 2 and Minnesota Street W. A motorist reported he struck a deer while driving south on CR 2 just north of Minnesota Street W. There was severe damage to the car but it was drivable. The officer could not locate the deer.

March 22

4:01 a.m. Gun complaint. 11th Avenue N. An officer assisted Waite Park police with a gun complaint. The St. Joseph officer assisted with setting up a perimeter. While the Waite Park officers were busy, the St. Joseph officer assisted with medical treatment and then arrested the victim on an outstanding warrant and transported him to Stearns County Jail.



St. Joseph – unlike other suburbs

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

After living in the Joe Town community as a student at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University, I have gained an appreciation and understanding for the surrounding area. Joe Town, which is a suburb of St. Cloud, is unlike any other suburb I've visited or lived in. St. Joseph, although just miles away from St. Cloud, feels like it's a part of a completely different world.
Walking in downtown St. Joseph is a completely different experience than walking in downtown St. Cloud. Perhaps the most interesting thing I've found in my time in the area is

almost everyone who lives in St. Joseph resents having to go to St. Cloud for one reason or another. It's rare people visit St. Cloud for enjoyment. More often people visit the city to complete errands.
This is a phenomenon I've never experienced when visiting a community. Typically, metropolitan centers are the center of entertainment and activities. People usually want to get out of the suburbs and go to the main city when they are looking for a night of fun. This is not an accurate way of describing the relationship between St. Cloud and Joe Town. Instead, residents often stay in Joe Town for entertainment.
This relationship is in no way due entirely to the flaws of St. Cloud. Rather, the Vibe of Joe Town has locals comfortable and content in their own community. The abundance of activities in St. Joseph and the overall trusting vibe has spoiled everyone who lives in the city. As a result, people don't go to St. Cloud because they want to, they go because they have to. After all, St. Joseph is a small town that lacks few amenities.

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Help Wanted

The City of Sartell is accepting applications for a Maintenance Worker – Streets. This is a full-time position with starting wage of \$20.13/hour. City application and addendum are required. Applications and other information is available at www.sartellmn.com.

Applications are due by April 20, 2018.

Poetry

from front page

She explained poetry takes abstract ideas like poverty, love, heroism and grief and moves them into the concrete, sensory world. Senses are the gateway to emotions. And when people feel deeply, they are moved to act.

Poetry can work people up, work them over, work as an agent of change. But it doesn't work at all if people exclude poetry from their lives. Those who attended Faulkner's workshop took a risk. They opened themselves to poetry and to each other to see what would happen.

"I found an appreciation for the world of poetry," said Downs, the woman who hadn't known anything about it.

"I had never tried writing poetry, it was something I listened to," said pianist Brutger. "Listening to poets give talks or listening to music [lyrics] was passive. This workshop took me into the creative writing exercise and made poetry more active."

In one exercise, Faulkner suggested they use the words "prairie sage, blues in the night, Harley Davidson, orphan and velvet." From that list, Brutger crafted this poem:

IN THE BEGINNING

*In the beginning
there was only the prairie sage.
No orphan railroad tracks
abandoned and rusted.
No shriek of car keys
in a Harley Davidson
leaving a scratch on a dusty
back road.*

*In the beginning
"blues in the night" meant the
call of the birds,
the chirping of the crickets,
the winds in the grass –
an orchestra of nature
without meter to abide.
Velvet was the midnight sky,
deep black, soft & embracing.*

*There was only the prairie
sage
in the beginning.*

Workshop participants told Brutger she has a natural talent.

"[Before this] my biggest interaction with poetry was through music," she said. "I play piano with Mike Opitz, professor at St. Ben's, who puts poems to music. We're currently working on an Emily Dickinson poem, and we did an excerpt from a book by Murakami called '1Q84.'"

She said writing poetry has been a fun discovery, giving her another creative outlet different from other writing or music.

"I'm definitely going to keep writing poems," she said.

Brutger is contributing a poem to Minnesota Street Market's National "Poem in Your Pocket Day" project, as are other local poets Charles Wm. Preble, Mara Faulkner and Larry Schug.

Faulkner said poets pay attention to the natural world, to smells, sensations, sights, sounds and tastes — even the unpleasant ones. They make room for all their emotions.

Writing from the many prompts Faulkner supplied, workshop participants explored regret and forgiveness, the comforting beauty of nature, refracting light and the individuality of people's perceptions of col-

or. They wrote about loneliness, friendship and self-acceptance, about the environment and love and loss. They shared their writing with one another and they responded carefully with kindness.

They spent 12 hours together discussing the work of poetry, generating poems and they came to see one another as unique, gifted, astonishing humans, each with important things to tell the world. The connections they formed were important enough that many of them, including Brutger, plan to get together on a regular basis.

There is a perception a poet writes alone. While that's often true, poetry is a human art, and like humanity, it needs partnerships and collaborations. So they partnered up. The first person wrote a few lines and stopped. Then the second person added a few more lines. Through emails, they passed words back and forth until they agreed the poem was complete.

The following verse is from a partner poem by David Walters and Dave Larson, a retired orthopedic surgeon who had never written poetry before attending the workshop in St. Joseph.

DIALOGUE BETWEEN TWO POETS

*Winter's frozen nights lose
their lonely howl
As we gather 'round warm
fires in community,
Wisdom falls on us like soft
cleansing snow now,
birthing children whose cries
awaken generosity.*

At the group's last meeting, March 17, Faulkner said in

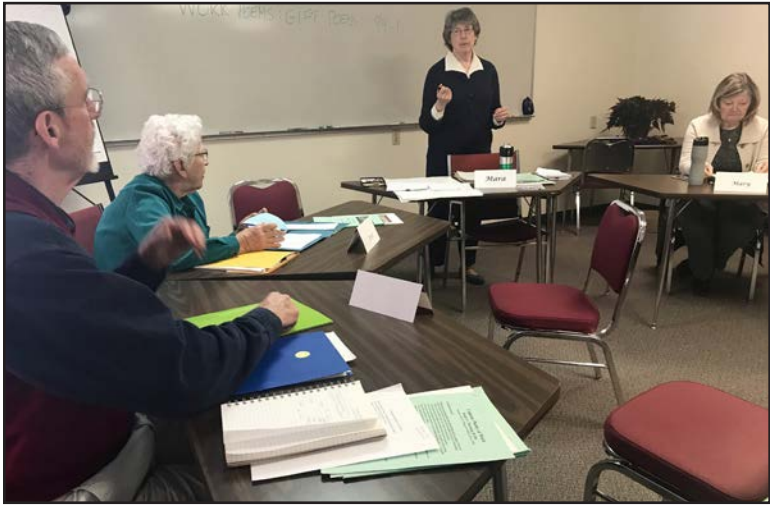


photo by Tracy Rittmueller

At a recent workshop hosted by the Spirituality Center of St. Benedict's Monastery, adults from 26-86 years old explored the importance of poetry. They are (from left to right) David Walters of Northfield; Janet Thielges, OSB, St. Benedict's Monastery; Mara Faulkner OSB, St. Benedict's Monastery; and Mary Downs, Paynesville.

the face of major difficulties and challenges — injustices, corruption, needless death and destruction — humans have an obligation to speak up, to witness and testify, to call for something better.

"Cry out the truth as if you have a million tongues. It's silence that kills the world," she said, quoting 14th century philosopher and theologian, Catherine of Siena. "Of course, as a Benedictine, I also love silence."

There is more than one kind of silence. The keeping of secrets and covering crimes can be suffocating and deadly, and yet there is a silence St. Joseph poet Charles Wm. Preble says is essential to poetry and to music.

"The contemplative and poetic stance is silence," Preble said recently at the Local Blend while drinking coffee and discussing poetry. "Behold, says the poet! Behold is a word that startles like a magician. To behold is to be still, observe, be held."

He explained writing or reading a poem is sometimes akin to birdwatching or enjoying a sunset. It comes from and leads to an inner stillness.

So, do poets enter silence or do they break silence?

Poets takes us into the uneasy realms of paradox and ambiguity, where opposite things can be simultaneously true, where there are no simple answers. In poetry, contradictory emotions exist together with important questions about what we should do when powerful feelings arise.

Poetry asks us to dive deeply into experience: to mourn, lament and rage; to love and rejoice in ecstasy; to ponder, brood, wonder and awe. Poetry challenges us to welcome and embrace our full humanity in our private and public lives.

April is National Poetry Month. The Academy of American Poets, along with the poets of St. Joseph and poets of surrounding central Minnesota towns, are asking everyone to notice poetry and explore the remarkable work it can do. They want people to know poetry possesses the unique power to express the inexpressible. Poetry can paint the full range of human experience with all its joy and sorrow, solemnity and silliness. The poets who participated in the recent workshop concluded one of the many things poetry does is to astonish us into awareness, helping us to be more fully alive.

Retiring

AFTER

33

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People



contributed photo

The Granite City Gearheads team includes (front row, left to right) Kaylin Fischer, Lori Dale, Rose Kellner, Natalie Fischer and Hannah Applegate; (second row) Barb Fischer, Colton Hennek, Carter Calhoun, Donovan Magney, David Dale, Bridget Applegate and Corey Applegate; (back row) Dave Fischer, Gavin Peabody, Justin Fischer, Jaeger Johnson, Zachary Asplund, Christopher Schweiger, Austin Applegate, Nicholas Asplund and Taylor Bauer. Kellner is from St. Joseph.

Granite City Gearheads, the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition Team from the St. Cloud district competed in the Medtronic Foundation Regional competition this weekend; 60 teams attended, mostly from Minnesota, but some came from as far as Florida and the Czech Republic.

The team includes Rose Kellner of St. Joseph and

Carter Calhoun and Jaeger Johnson, who both attend Sartell High School.

This year’s challenge was titled FIRST POWER-UP, themed after classic eight-bit arcade games. Robots had to collect “power-up cubes” and stack them on scales and switches in order to maintain control for the longest time in order to score more points. At the end of a match, teams may climb the center scale to

earn more points.

The Gearheads ranked ninth in the competition and advanced to the eighth seed when two higher ranked teams joined together during alliance selection.

As a result of being the eighth seed, the Gearheads formed their own alliance and went on to earn second place and a spot in the World Championship in Detroit on April 25-28.



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Our View

There’s really no way to save daylight

After long, dark winters, the time to “spring forward” marks the symbolic beginning of summer.

We look forward to long summer evenings enjoying outdoor recreation until well after 9 p.m.

As we enter April with golf courses and softball fields covered by snow and with the outdoor temperature more appropriate for downhill skiing than water skiing, the March 11 switch to “summertime,” as the British call it, seems to be a joke.

Some people would like to make daylight-saving time permanent. The clocks would move ahead and stay there.

Permanent daylight-saving time is a bad idea.

The Florida legislature recently overwhelmingly passed the cleverly named Sunshine Protection Act. As Minnesota snowbirds will tell you, Florida is a perfect place to enjoy another hour of evening daylight year-round.

For years, New Englanders argued for extending daylight-saving time to their region for the entire year. Because they are at the far east edge of the sprawling Eastern Time Zone, winter sunsets come early.

Congress established daylight-saving time as well as standard time in 1918. Daylight-saving time was repealed a year later, after strident objections from farmers, who preferred having more light in the morning, not in the evening. Daylight-saving time returned during World War II and then became an issue for state and local governments until the Uniform Time Act of 1966.

In response to the 1973 energy crisis, daylight time began earlier in 1974 and 1975. In 1976, the United States reverted to the schedule set in the Uniform Time Act because of late winter sunrise times.

Proponents of permanent daylight-saving time argue it saves energy because lights get turned on later in the day. Opponents say the longer evenings coax people out to play and shop...in their cars...which drives gasoline consumption.

Researchers assert the twice-yearly clock changes affect our productivity. The week after a time change has been found to lead to more car and work accidents, heart attacks and headaches, as well as decreased work productivity. It’s estimated the resulting loss in productivity costs the United States economy \$434 million a year.

Calling the twice-yearly time changes daylight-saving time really sounds more like a marketing term than science. Daylight really isn’t saved. One person’s daylight saved is another person’s daylight lost.

Let’s look at the clock. In late June, we enjoy long days. The sun sets after 9 p.m. (daylight time) after more than 15 hours and 40 minutes of daylight.

But now the bad news. In late December, there’s a lot less daylight to save. There are about 8 hours and 40 minutes of daylight to spend. With standard time, December sunrises are just before 8 a.m. With year-round daylight-saving time, the sun would rise just before 9 a.m. – long after most of us have left for school or work.

Let Florida protect sunshine.

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Reaching EVERYbody!

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

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

Opinion

How to get around a roundabout argument

Religion and politics. Those are two topics that should never be discussed if you want to keep a conversation friendly and flowing. By bringing up one of those topics, you’ll find everyone has deeply held opinions they will gladly and enthusiastically share.

I’d like to add roundabouts to that list of hot topics.

The *Newsleader* staff meets on Friday mornings to talk about story and advertising plans, to critique the latest editions and deal with other mundane issues such as days off.

I recently derailed our smoothly running meeting by mentioning the plans for more roundabouts in Sartell.

It turns out, some of my colleagues hate roundabouts, believe they are a threat to public safety and in general are a bad idea. Others praise their efficiency and safety.

Traffic engineers will tell you they prefer roundabouts because they are safer, improve traffic flow and result in better fuel economy. T-bone crashes decrease, pedestrians easily cross the street and motorists move through the intersection with less delay.

Statistics show there are 37 percent fewer collisions, 75 percent fewer injuries and 90 percent fewer fatalities after intersections are converted to roundabouts.

Central Minnesota traffic engineers embraced roundabouts in the past five to 10 years. My informal count reveals Sartell leads the way with 11

Mike Knaak
Editor



and two more planned. When Sauk Rapids and Benton County reconstructed Second Street N./CR 3, six roundabouts sprouted. You’ll find my favorite roundabout collection straddling the Waite Park/St. Cloud border near the new Tech High School. Motorists exiting Minnesota Hwy. 15 at Graniteview Road encounter four roundabouts in a half-mile stretch of 33rd Street S.

Roundabouts may present exciting new challenges for central Minnesota drivers, but they’ve been standard traffic features on the East Coast and Europe for years, where they are often called rotaries or traffic circles.

My first roundabout driving adventure happened during a family vacation in Ireland years ago.

In addition to frequent traffic circles, the good people of Ireland drive very fast on the wrong side of the road.

Stone walls or hedges line the narrow roads in rural Ireland to add to the driving excitement.

For our travels in the challenging motoring environment, we rented a compact car. The purple Honda Fit (called a Jazz in Ireland) was a lit-

tle cozy for four adults and luggage. I would not describe the vehicle as jazzy and I don’t see a connection to music that originated in the American South. But the Jazz was well-matched to rural Ireland driving.

If you find entering the wide, well-marked roundabouts in Minnesota challenging, try approaching one on the “wrong” side of the road from a narrow, stone-walled path.

Surprisingly I mastered the technique after a few tries, to the amusement of my spouse and daughters.

After a few miles of driving, we did notice an odd roadside feature. Rearview mirrors littered the roadsides at the base of the stone walls or hedges. Apparently, drivers who misjudged their speed or the roadway width were penalized by getting their mirrors ripped off.

Despite these perils, Ireland’s traffic death rate is half as high as the rate in the United States.

Historians believe the phrase “luck of the Irish” originated with the good fortunes of Irish gold and silver miners.

I disagree. Luck of the Irish has more to do with safe driving by speeding motorists on narrow, wall-lined roads.

So central Minnesota drivers, embrace roundabouts – or traffic circles or rotaries. They are safe, efficient traffic features.

And limit the emotional conversations to religion and politics.

Letters to the editor

Reader thanks Scouts for exemplifying civic duties

Jim Graeve, St. Joseph

I had the opportunity to work with and alongside a couple of young men when we had our DFL Senate 13 meeting at Kennedy School on March 24.

We had asked the Boy Scouts to present the flags, lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, and serve coffee and donuts.

Adam Novack and Soren Haaland did an admirable job in all of the above. They collected money keeping track of two different funds. They worked from early Saturday morning to midafternoon. They did it all competently,

cheerfully and courteously!

Any time we elders feel anxious, worried or concerned about the direction our country is heading, we should sit down and visit some young folks.

Thanks again Adam and Soren for helping us in our civic duty as citizens in this great country!

Resident urges city to plow walking, biking paths

Bob Ringstrom, St. Joseph

We should be able to start using the walking and biking paths in St Joseph any day now. Maybe in two to four weeks? The snow should melt by then. We can look forward to maybe six months of clear walking paths before the white stuff returns. But the question remains: why does snowfall have to inhibit safe use of public streets, roads and paths? We plow streets to promote commerce, traffic safety and a break from television. But why aren’t we promoting practical and healthy walking? It’s not because people in St Joseph don’t want to use the paths. Not at all! On the contrary, our recent long-range community-planning project stressed overwhelmingly that “walkability” of our community is a quality that’s important. Yet our walking and biking paths during the winter are left buried in snow – unused – the same paths new construction and property developments are pushed to include in plans submitted to the city.

The report generated by the Community Design Group under contract with the city of St Joseph speaks to this in numerous passages. It points to the pride and interest in the

gering heights. The 2009 study: Levi, J. et al, “Prevention for a Healthier America” showed by investing \$10 per person each year in proven community-based efforts such as encouraging walking or riding bicycles on pathways could save \$16 billion in health costs in less than five years’ time! Or, if even just 10 percent of adults began regularly walking, the APHA projects \$5.6 billion in heart-disease costs alone could be averted.

Earlier this winter, my wife and I walked on several occasions in spite of the snow-covered paths. We were frequently forced into the streets with motor vehicles. We would steady each other on our walks, in and out of the wet snow and slippery ice. On one occasion, we met another determined pedestrian, roughly in our age group. We chatted briefly about the walking conditions. She was using two ski poles to secure her balance on the snow and wet roadways. She had recently relocated to St Joseph. Referring to her “walking sticks,” she commented on her perception that paths in municipalities everywhere were cleared of snow, just like the streets. “What’s up with that?” was her question. That’s my question too.

Taxes fund public health to stag-

Why do I shop local? I’m all about the (tax) base

Man, I love shopping at Target. Mostly, it’s because despite being knee-deep into my 30s, I always love to look at the toys even if my kids aren’t with me. (They don’t like to look at the same toys as me anyway.) But, there’s another reason I prefer making a Target run on my way home as opposed to Walmart; every purchase I make there helps support a Minnesota company. That same Minnesota company pays its business taxes to the state of Minnesota, growing the tax base of our state.

I also like to shop locally at small businesses for the same reason. Sure, a lot of people like to shop local because they’re supporting local businesses, which is a fine reason, but I guess I’m a tad more selfish. See, when I shop at a locally owned business, I know that business is paying taxes to help pay for

things in my community. It turns out, businesses pay a variety of different taxes that go to a variety of community needs.

Let’s play follow the money for a moment. When I stop in at Sliced on College Avenue for my weekly pizza lunch, I give them money in exchange for goods or services (in this case, delicious pizza). From that purchase, the company divides the funds up to pay for the different things a company needs to exist, such as supplies, a building, advertising and employees. Besides that, though, every company needs to pay its corporate taxes on at least a state and federal level. At a federal level, we all know those funds are used in a variety of places throughout the country, but at a state level, it gets a bit more localized. Then we get to the municipal level, which also collects corporate taxes

Patric Lewandowski

Guest Writer



and that’s where we should really pay attention.

Municipal taxes help pay for a wide variety of things. Sure, there’s the obvious things like roads (or underpasses), but even the less obvious things such as the municipal employees who answer phones, or even the basic equipment needed to run the city office. Even if you think about a local police force funded by taxes, you often stop at thinking about the officers themselves. In truth, a police force has many people working as support staff that never are thought of.

Now, I don’t know about you, but I know I like having my job, because it allows me to buy things like food,

shelter and Legos (you know, the essentials). All these other city employees also like having their jobs too, I bet. So what, you probably ask. All these clerks and secretaries and whatnot, that’s just big government! But, those big-government jobs in your small town, paid for in part by the corporate taxes from the small businesses you shop at, are jobs held by people who shop at local businesses that pay corporate taxes to pay for...well, I think you get the gist of this run-on sentence.

I haven’t even mentioned sales tax, which just adds more to this.

In the end, a small town lives with small businesses and dies without them. Without the funds generated by the tax base, a town cannot provide any services unless they start massively raising property taxes. While I know

some consider a world without public services to be a Libertarian Utopia, I tend to be somewhere on the other side, where I like that my local government is able to provide a variety of services, such as snow removal, emergency services and even other human services. The more that tax base grows (thanks to local business growth), the more services can be provided to all of us. I think even the most curmudgeonly of us can appreciate the parks, civic centers or even pools and splash pads only a few months away from opening, that wouldn’t exist without local businesses.

The next time you pop in to Cornerstone Buffet, remember not only are you getting a great meal, you’re helping your town thrive. To paraphrase Meghan Trainor: “I’m all about the base, ‘bout the base, shop local.”

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, 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, 104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph, 320-363-7144.

Monday, April 9

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

Disabled American Veterans Chapter 9 meeting, 6:30-8 p.m. Sauk Rapids VFW 901 N. Benton Drive. davch9stcloud@gmail.com. 320-492-9702.

Moms Demand Action, 7 p.m., St. Cloud Public Library, 1300 St. Germain St.

St. Joseph Township Board, 8 p.m., St. Joseph Township Hall, 935 College Ave. S.

Tuesday, April 10

St. Joseph Joint Planning Board, 7 p.m., St. Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. 320-363-7201. cityofstjoseph.com.

Holistic Moms Network, 7-8:30 p.m., Good Earth Co-op, 2010 Veterans Drive, St. Cloud. 320-252-2489.

Wednesday, April 11

St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce, 11:30 a.m., St. Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. stjosephchamber.com.

Thursday, April 12

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

Great River Regional Coin Club, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Miller Auto Marine Sports Plaza, 2930 Second St. S., St. Cloud. 320-241-9229.

St. Joseph Senior Citizens, 1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Community Fire Hall, 323 Fourth Ave. NE.

CPR Training, 6-10 p.m., free, paid for by the Y2K Lions of St. Joseph and the St. Cloud Metro Lions, St. Joseph Community Fire Hall, 25 College Ave. N. Call 320-363-7201 to register. Limit of 20 spots per class.

New York Times Bestselling author William Kent Krueger, 6:30-

7:30 p.m., Waite Park Public Library 253 Fifth Ave. N. 320-253-9359.

St. Joseph Action Group, 7 p.m., American Legion, 101 W Minnesota St., St. Joseph. 320-363-7666.

Saturday, April 14

St. Joseph Farmers’ Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2, St. Joseph.

St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce Community Showcase, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Kennedy Community School, 1300 Jade Road, St. Joseph.

Central Minnesota Chapter of the Federation of the Blind of Minnesota, 12:30 p.m., American Legion, 17 Second Ave. N., Waite Park.

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St. Joseph survey results earn \$950

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

The St. Joseph treasury is \$950 richer thanks to the city’s participation in a state program to measure how residents rate their local government.

Minnesota’s Legislature created the Council on Lo-

cal Results and Innovation in 2010. The council set 10 performance standards for cities and counties to help local government measure residents’ opinions.

Participating governments collect 14 cents for each person in the city or county.

Survey results were collected in February on a web-

site hosted by the Minnesota League of Cities. Ten people responded this year.

Six of the 10 responses were from people who have lived in St. Joseph for 15 years or less.

Public-safety services received high marks with five people feeling very safe and four rating the city’s fire

protection as excellent.

The overall quality of city services received a good rating from four people, a fair rating from five people and a poor rating from one person.

Citizens could also submit comments.

St. Joseph has participated in the survey since 2012.

News Tips?

Call the Newsleader at 363-7741

CR 75

from front page

constructed in 1996 when about 18,000 vehicles used the highway.

“The pavement is in pretty poor condition. The amount of heavy traffic causes the road to deteriorate rapidly,” Teich said.

Improvements will be made to the turn lanes at a number of intersections.

Left-turn lanes will be constructed for drivers heading east to access the businesses on the north side of CR 75 at Old Hwy. 52.

The eastbound right-turn lane will be widened at Fourth Avenue and the pedestrian crossing will be moved to the east side of the intersection.

At CR 133, there will be a wider corner for right turns from the westbound lane and the eastbound left-turn lane will be lengthened from 400 to 800 feet.

Drivers using both CR 134 intersections will find wider corners.

Just west of the Sauk River bridge, about one mile of road surface into Waite Park will be replaced with concrete to accommodate heavier trucks and more traffic. A 6-inch-high median will be added so drivers can’t make left turns to the businesses on the north and south sides of CR 75 west of the bridge. Recently there have been seven collisions in that area, Teich said.

While the 28th Avenue intersection is rebuilt, there will be no left turns at 28th Avenue for about a week. Drivers heading west to I-94 or to Minnesota Hwy. 23 will need to detour to Hwy. 23 via Minnesota Hwy. 15 in St. Cloud.

Teich said meetings with businesses are planned to help them navigate the detours, and updates and maps will be posted on the county website.

To receive updates by email, sign up here: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/STEARNS/subscriber/new?topic_id=STEARNS_387

Regular updates will also be available online at thenewsleaders.com.

The project should be completed by October.

“It’s going to be a traffic nightmare, but it will be worth it when we get it done,” Teich said. “We have to do it right.”



Community Showcase

Saturday, April 14, 2018

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Kennedy Community School in St. Joseph

FREE family-friendly fun & entertainment!

- | | | |
|--|--------------------|----------------|
| Youth Talent Stage (from local schools) | Drone Presentation | Food Vendors |
| Insulated Grocery Tote to First 300 families | Kids’ Activities | Kids’ Crafts |
| Door Prize Drawings | Product Demos | Freedom Flight |

St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to Showcase our local businesses!

Don’t miss out!

VISIT EACH OF THE EXHIBITORS:

AMG Promotions

Arlington Place Assisted Living
Bentrud for Stearns County Sheriff
Borgert Products, Inc.
Brenny Transportation, Inc.
Capital One
Central Minnesota Credit Union
Coborn’s
Edina Realty - Tara Bayerl

Farmers Insurance - Laurie Oppel
Gabriel Media
Jim Read for State Representative
Kay's Kitchen
Kwik Trip, Inc.
McDonald's Restaurant - Jova Mgmt ,LLC
Mission Nutrition, LLC
MN Home Improvement/LeafGuard Gutters
MN Street Market
Pine Cone Vision Center
Resurrection Lutheran Church

Retro Green Energy
Rockhouse Productions LLC
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Sentry Bank
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Tell-A-Vision Productions

What is your WHY?