

St. Joseph Newsleader

Friday, April 20, 2018
Volume 30, Issue 16
Est. 1989

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

Stearns County to hold seized, surplus auction
Stearns County will hold a spring auction to sell seized and surplus property on Saturday, April 28 at the Stearns County Public Works building, 455 28th Ave. S., Waite Park, three blocks south of Mill's Fleet Farm. Site opens at 8 a.m.; auction begins at 9:30 a.m. Items include many cars, trucks and SUVs; a John Deere tractor; flat bed and skid loader trailers; mowers; a wood chipper; a snow blower; a fuel tank and pump; gas oil storage tanks, front bumpers for late model Mack trucks; a mini bike; tools and hardware; office machines and furniture; assorted concrete culverts; and many other miscellaneous items. To get more information on the auction, a list of what is for sale and to see photos, visit midwestauctions.com or auctionzip.com and click on Benoit Auction Service.

St. Joseph Legion needs baseball players
The St Joseph Legion Post 328 is looking for youth between the ages of 16 to 19 who would like to play summer Legion baseball. The season starts the first week in June and runs through mid July. The team plays 12 games, six home and six away. All home games are played at Schneider Field in St Joseph. There is no cost to the players. The Legion post sponsors the team and provides liability insurance to all coaches and players. For those who would like to play, or have additional questions, call or email Mike Staller at 612-730-0879 mstaller@Comcast.net.

Hospice seeks pet therapy
St. Croix Hospice is looking for compassionate individuals and their furry friends to visit people affected by a life-limiting illness. Pet therapy has been shown to reduce stress, anxiety, and physical and emotional pain. Volunteers are needed from central Minnesota. Visits are typically made once a week and the schedule is flexible. Contact Caitlin Tierney, St. Croix Hospice volunteer coordinator, at 320-252-2803 or ctierney@st-croixhospice.com.

INSERTS:
Country Manor Senior Housing
Culligan Water
Toro

Community showcase attracts big crowd



photo by Mike Knaak

Students from All Saints Academy sing during the St. Joseph Community Showcase April 14 at Kennedy Community School.

Program trains students to create businesses

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Business and education leaders in Sartell, Sauk Rapids and St. Cloud are in the early stages of launching a program that will teach high school seniors to be entrepreneurs.

Called Great River CEO, the program will welcome its first students in fall 2019.

Right now, organizers are raising funds to train and market the effort and then to hire a

facilitator/teacher.

The "CEO" in the name stands for Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities and the entrepreneurial experience is the heart of the plan.

"The program will teach students how to be entrepreneurs and students will learn from people who are running businesses. They will teach skills on how to run a business," said Adam O'Doherty, executive director of Partner for Student Success, one of the many educa-

tion and business groups backing the program.

The initial class of 20 students will be chosen from applicants at Apollo, Sartell, Sauk Rapids and Tech high schools.

Right now, the group is trying to raise \$25,000 to fund training and marketing. Then they'll be looking for 40 businesses to contribute \$1,000 for three years. The \$40,000 will primarily pay for a teacher/facilitator to run the program.

If businesses want to partic-

ipate but can't make the cash commitment, there are other ways to participate. Once underway, the program will need tour hosts, speakers, mentors and places for meetings.

The students will meet five days a week for an hour before school. Once or twice a week, the class will meet at a host business or go on a tour, O'Doherty said.

In the project-based program, students will apply the concepts

CEO • back page

No easy fixes for busy school intersection

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

A St. Joseph woman is worried about heavy traffic and the potential for crashes on College Avenue in front of Kennedy Community School as parents rush to drop off their children every morning.

Rhonda Dahlgren has firsthand knowledge of the situation. She was involved in a collision on April 5 at the intersection of College Avenue, also known as CR 121, and Jade Road.

No one was injured, but the collision prompted Dahlgren to speak out.

"This ridiculous intersec-

tion is going to get somebody killed," she said.

Traffic going in and out of Jade Road backs up as the school day begins and parents and buses enter and depart Jade Road. After dropping students, most drivers want to turn left, to head back north on College Avenue while other vehicles are coming south.

That's what happened to Dahlgren, who lives on Iverson Road less than a mile north of the school. She was driving south on her way to an appointment. A left-turning truck pulled out in front of her from Jade Road. She avoided it but she collided with another car, also turning left.



photo by Mike Knaak

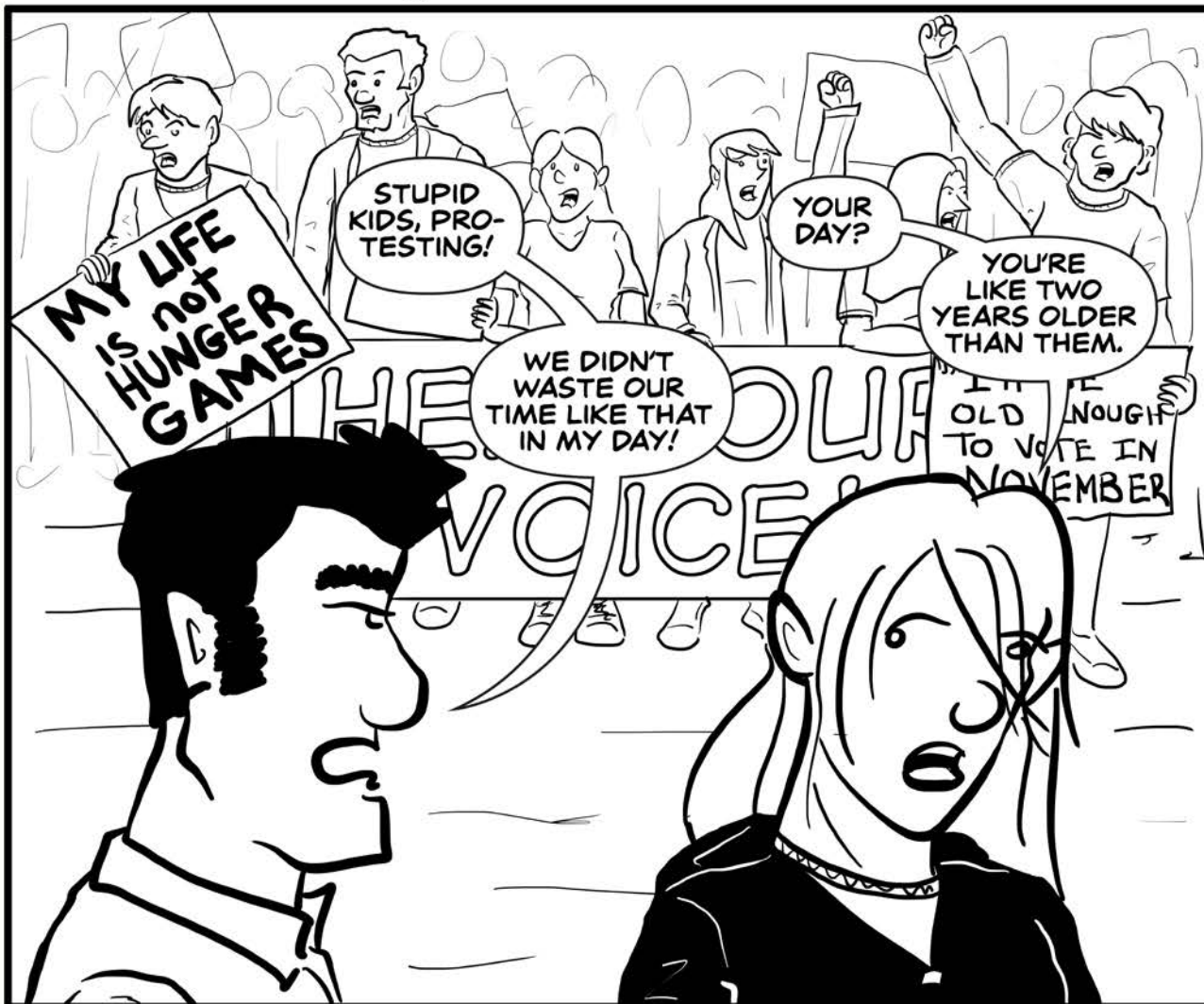
While buses arrive with more students, parents who have already dropped off their children at Kennedy Community School turn back onto College Avenue about 7:15 a.m. Wednesday, April 18.

"I was practically stopped because I was dodging the truck," Dahlgren said.

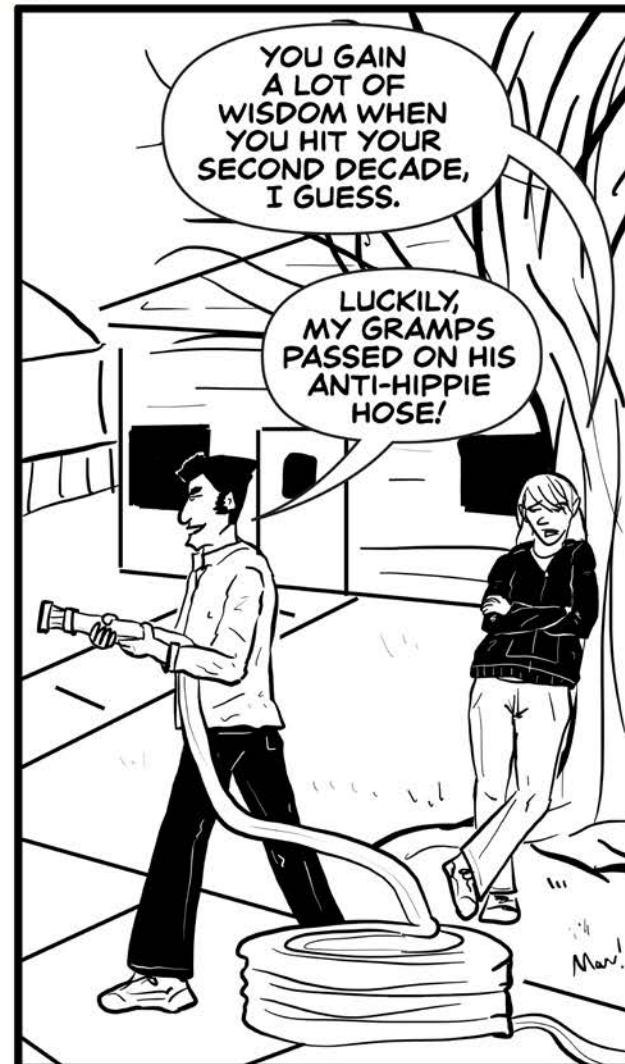
Traffic congestion increased a few years ago when the school changed from staggered start times to all students arriving at the same time. The school's approximately 875 students are expected to arrive between 7:05 and 7:20 a.m.

Traffic • back page

Bennie & Johnny



by the Marvelous Patric



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Correction

A story about birth-assisters named doulas in the April 13 *St. Joseph Newsleader* needs a correction. A website ad-

dress referred to in that story contained an extra "d" in it. The correct website address is www.birthbootcamp.com.

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People



Andrew Rudd of St. Joseph, a student at the St Cloud Technical & Community College, was one of five students who won first place at the SkillsUSA 2018 State Competition. Rudd represented the medium/heavy truck program. He will next attend national competition in Louisville, Kentucky. While attending college, Rudd has been employed at C&L Excavation Inc., St. Joseph, where he said he hopes to continue working following graduation this spring.

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Published each Friday by Von Meyer Publishing Inc.

Publisher/Owner
Janelle Von Pinnon

Editor
Mike Knaak

Operations Assistant
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Designer
Patric Lewandowski

Assignment Editor
Carolyn Bertsch

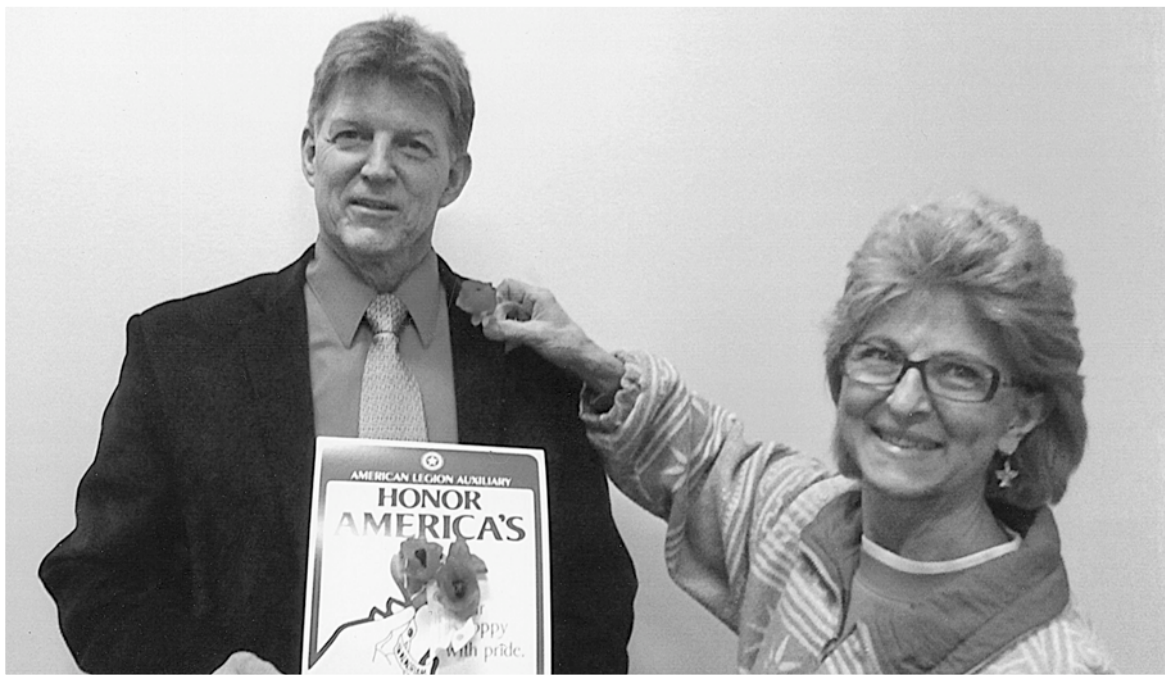
Delivery
John Herring

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.



contributed photo

Elaine Eisenschenk, American Legion Auxiliary poppy chairwoman, pins a poppy on St. Joseph Mayor Rick Schultz to launch the group's poppy program. Poppies are available at local businesses with the donations going to support veterans programs. In 1921, poppies became the official flower of the American Legion Auxiliary in memory of soldiers who fought in World War I. The Friday before Memorial Day is National Poppy Day. This year it will be May 25.

Blotter

If any readers have tips concerning crimes, they should call the St. Joseph Police Department at 320-363-8250 or Tri-County Crime Stoppers at 320-255-1301 or access its tip site at www.tricounty-crimestoppers.org. Crime Stoppers offers rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for crimes. This information is submitted by the St. Joseph Police Department.

April 4

6 p.m. Nuisance. Birch Street E. A renter was contacted to remove indoor furniture, a vehicle with expired tabs and assorted junk in the yard. The renter was warned to remove the items within a week or the city would clean up the yard and charge the renter.

April 5

2:40 a.m. Noise complaint. Baker Street E. A person reported a late model Chevrolet Blazer re-

peatedly honking and waking up his 4-year-old. Officers searched the area.

2:42 a.m. Speeding, marijuana. CR 2 and Minnesota Street W. An officer observed a vehicle traveling north on CR 2 near Minnesota Street. The officer's radar showed the vehicle traveling at 69 mph in a 55-mph zone. During the traffic stop, the officer smelled burned marijuana. The driver was cited for speeding and for a small amount of marijuana.

6:08 p.m. Theft from vehicle. Iverson Street W. An officer responded to a report of a tire that was stolen and replaced with a flat one. The theft happened between 4 p.m. and 3 a.m. The tire and bolts are valued at \$100.

April 6

10:36 p.m. Suspicious vehicle. 19th Avenue NE. An officer saw a vehicle with a front license plate parked at Lookin' Good Window Tint. The locked vehicle was not

occupied. The business was secure.

11:18 p.m. Minor consumption. College Avenue N. While conducting a bar check at La Playette, officers identified a 19-year-old man who had been drinking. He was cited for minor consumption.

April 7

4:09 a.m. Minor consumption. College Avenue S. An officer responded for a report of an unresponsive woman. The officer detected an overwhelming smell of alcohol. The woman was cited for minor consumption and taken to St. Cloud Hospital.

April 8

1:38 a.m. Driving while intoxicated. Minnesota Street E. An officer observed a driver passed out in the driver's seat of a running vehicle. The driver was arrested and could be charged with fourth-degree driving while intoxicated.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF TREATMENT OF CURLYLEAF PONDWEED (2018)

Attention Big Watab Lake property owners: 2018.

Big Watab Lake Association has contracted to treat Curlyleaf Pondweed, an aquatic invasive species in Big Watab Lake. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has granted to Big Watab Lake Association a waiver of the requirement that the association obtain the signatures of approval of owners of lakeshore property. Instead, the Big Watab Lake Association will notify property owners of the treatment through alternate forms. is public notice is one form that the Big Watab Lake Association is using to notify property owners.

The proposed date for treatment: Between May 1, 2018 and May 15,

The target species for the treatment: Curlyleaf pondweed.

The method of control or product being used: EPA and MDA Registered Aquatic Herbicide.

How landowners may request that control not occur adjacent to their property: If you desire the treatment of curlyleaf pondweed not occur adjacent to your property, please notify Big Watab Lake Association at the following address and email address: Big Watab Lake Association, P.O. Box 494, St. Joseph, Minn. 56374. bigwatablakeassociation@aol.com.

Publish: April 20, 2018



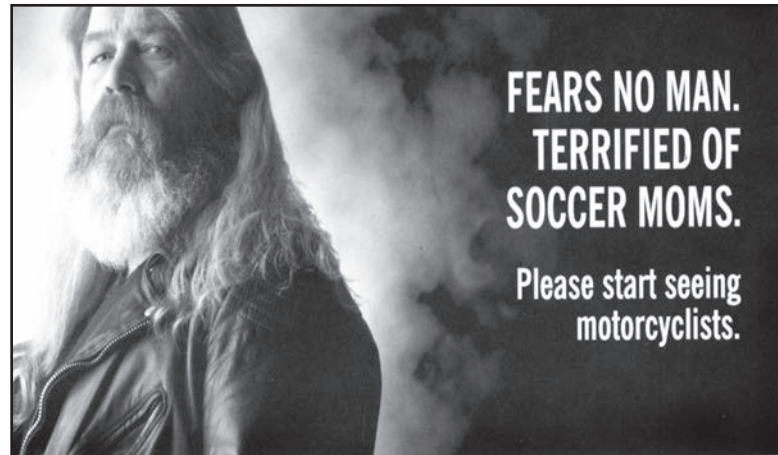
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PUBLIC NOTICE

APRIL 20 PUBLIC NOTICE: SALE OF CONTENTS

Sale of contents storage unit number one for nonpayment. Rented by Nicole Petrie.

Sale Saturday, May 5, 11 a.m. by Miller Mini at the back of Ace Hardware, 207 E. Cedar St., St. Joseph, Minn. 320-363-4185.

Publish: April 20, 27 & May 4, 2018

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The Newsleaders



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Community Engagement. Manage media outlets and advertising, be able to facilitate relationships with other arts organizations, and interact with local businesses and community organizations.

FTE Status: Part time, 20-25 hours per week

Interested applicants should email a letter of interest, resumé and letters of recommendation to jobs@youthchorale.org between now and May 16, 2018.

For a more complete job description, visit jobs.yccm.org

People



contributed photo

The Knights of Columbus Fr. Werner Council 7057 in St. Joseph announced the winners in their Substance Abuse Awareness poster contest. Winners are chosen in two categories – alcohol and drugs – and two age groups – ages 8-11 and 12-14. The winners are (from left) Gabriella Morris, first place, ages 12-14, drug awareness and abuse; Rheanna Sieben, first place, ages 12-14, alcohol aware-

ness and abuse; Oliver Price, first place, ages 8-11, drug awareness and abuse; Maleah Thielen, first place, ages 8-11, alcohol awareness and abuse; Tom Klein, Knights of Columbus; Spencer Scholz, second place, ages 12-14, drug awareness and abuse; Alexis Finken, second place, ages 12-14, alcohol awareness and abuse; Sylvie Bechtold, second place, ages 8-11, drug awareness and abuse; and Jacob Holmstrom, second place, ages 8-11, alcohol awareness and abuse.

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SJU hosts health policy panel

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

The Eugene J. McCarthy Center at St. John's University will host a health-care summit Friday, April 20.

Panelists will discuss whether a single-payer health-care system



Marty

would work in Minnesota.

The event begins at 6 p.m. in Quad 170.

Speakers include state Sen. John Marty, a Ramsey County DFLer; John Nyman, a professor at the University of Minnesota; Rose Roach, executive director of the Minnesota Nurses' Association; and Dr. Brian Yablon, president of Physicians for a National Health Program.

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Community showcase attracts big crowd on snowy day

by Mike Knaak

editor@thenewsleaders.com

More than 300 people braved the spring snowstorm April 14 for the St. Joseph Community Showcase at Kennedy Community School.

About 30 businesses and organizations presented information.

Food vendors offered samples and local musicians performed.

Stearns County deputies planned to demonstrate their drone, but the snowstorm grounded it.

Freedom Flight's POW/MIA balloon was confined to the hallway because of the weather.



photos by Mike Knaak

Families toured the booths from about 30 local organizations and businesses.

Memorial concert for Brian Gapko April 27

By Cori Hilsgen

news@thenewsleaders.com

A memorial concert celebrating the life of Brian Gapko, who died at the age of 47 in November after a two-year battle with metastatic colon cancer, will be from 8-10 p.m. Friday, April 27 at the Local Blend in St. Joseph.

The event will feature three central Minnesota singer-songwriters, Cathy Kongloth, John Larson and MJ Bach.

Gapko appreciated and supported live music and was an "absolute" fixture at the Local Blend's Tuesday Open Mic nights since 2010 and met many wonderful friends there.

During those years, he only missed a few Open Mic nights because of side effects from his chemotherapy treatments. On the nights he was unable to attend one of his three favorite performers due to chemotherapy side effects, his friend Stephanie Cofell would call him on his cell phone and put her phone on speaker so he could still hear them perform.

Because he enjoyed the Tuesday Open Mic nights so much, they were part of his obituary and eulogy.

Gapko never married and didn't have children and felt he would not be remembered after he died.

His friends promised him he would be hard to forget because he gave so much good to remember.

Through an online GoFundMe campaign and a donation

bucket at the Local Blend, his friends were able to raise enough money for a beautiful memorial piece and a concert featuring three of his favorite Open Mic performers.

The concert will include the unveiling of the memorial piece made to match his "gentle, loving and authentic soul."

Cofell said she and her husband, Dave, met Gapko during one of the first Open Mic nights at the Local Blend. Their initial dialogues were about common interests they shared including music, books, comic books, a love of sci-fi and politics. Even though they were at the opposite ends of the spectrum with him, she said this led to some of their best talks.

Gapko had a "bucket list" of things he wanted to see and do before he died, and the Cofells spent a year with him checking things off that list.

Outside of the many excellent and deep conversations the three had, Cofell said their fondest memories are of driving Gapko to different restaurants in the cities to try many various ethnic cuisines which he had never had before and also fulfilling his quest for the perfect bottle of Scotch.

It was during one of these dinners that Gapko said, "Death is not the greatest loss in life. The greatest loss in life is dying on the inside while we're still breathing - before we've had the chance to truly live."

Gapko was diagnosed with Stage 4 metastatic colon cancer and had significant metastatic cells in his liver. Cofell said Gapko was treated with chemotherapy every two weeks for a year while fighting as hard as he could. From



Stearns County Deputy Keith Simon shows visitors how the thermal imaging camera on the Sheriff's Office drone works. The department has two drones that can be used to find lost people or track suspects. Saturday's snowstorm grounded the drone during the showcase.

the start, he understood and seemed to accept better than most people would have, that it was not a cure but rather prolonging his life.

Gapko's younger sister, Lisa Barker, said he was a man who would accept any conversation that came his way, especially if it pertained to politics, television shows, tennis, religion and economics. He is missed by his family and friends every day. His family feels very fortunate and thankful to Stephanie and Dave Cofell and the Local Blend for having made this memorial for him happen to ensure his name and presence at the Local Blend lives on.

Barker said Gapko was the guy who would help out anyone and lend a hand where needed. He would talk about anything because he knew something about everything. A few topics he was especially knowledgeable about included books, music and firearms. He was well-read and could be guaranteed to have the *Wall Street Journal* in his leather bag at all times.

Gapko often said "I'm sorry" even though he didn't need to. Barker said he was the person who wanted to take responsibility for others and make sure all had fun in his presence. He was humble and kind to all and supported multiple human-rights groups.

Gapko was the son of Rudy and Leona Gapko. He graduated from Apollo High School and St. Cloud State University, majoring in American studies and economics.

The memorial plaque will be displayed on the Local Blend stage where Open Mic is held from 7-10 p.m. every Tuesday.

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Opinion

Our View

Pawlenty's poor support for higher education disqualifies him

After eight years as a lobbyist for the financial industry, Tim Pawlenty wants to return to Minnesota's governor's office.

The Democrats competing for their party's nomination quickly responded when Pawlenty made his long-predicted announcement.

After his announcement, Democrats attacked what they consider the failings of his administration. The critics cited inadequate funding for health care, infrastructure and public education.

Republican Pawlenty served two terms, from 2003 to 2011, after 10 years in the House or Representatives. In 2002, Pawlenty won a three-way race with 44 percent of the vote, defeating Democrat Roger Moe and Independence Party candidate Tim Penny. He was re-elected in 2006, beating Democrat Mike Hatch by less than 1 percent.

During his tenure, opponents challenged his "no new taxes" programs which actually shifted funding to fees and balanced the budget with bookkeeping tricks at the expense of school-district funding.

All those issues will surely be part of the debate if Pawlenty wins the Republican nomination. Rebecca Otto, one of the DFL candidates for governor, served as state auditor during Pawlenty's second term. She has been particularly hard on how Pawlenty managed state finances.

Pawlenty's record on pubic education, especially higher education funding, should disqualify him to serve another term as Minnesota's governor.

When the state doesn't fund new roads or replace bridges, the next administration and Legislature decides how to spend the money. Then the roads and bridges are built, although usually at higher cost.

When user fees are used to mask tax increases, a future administration can roll back or remove those fees.

Education is different. Future funding can't catch up for opportunities lost.

A 6-year-old only gets one shot at first grade. If there are not enough teachers or school supplies or a safe school, the 6-year-old moves on without the proper educational support.

An 18-year-old college freshman, faced with limited family financial support and rising tuition, can't wait around for the state to act. She starts racking up student loan debt and tries to squeeze in studying between working a full-time job to pay the bills.

During Pawlenty's eight years in office, tuition at institutions of the Minnesota State system, which includes St. Cloud State University and St. Cloud Technical & Community College, increased 55 percent. At the University of Minnesota, in-state tuition increased 68 percent. At the same time, student grants decreased 7 percent.

In Pawlenty's decade, Minnesota lost its status as a leader among states in funding higher education. Minnesota's ranking in state funding for higher education dropped from 12th in fiscal year 2001 to 35th in fiscal year 2006.

In recent years, some of the significant cuts were restored.

But if you entered college during Pawlenty's eight years, you spent more money, took longer to earn your degree and today are paying off student loans that made up for cuts in state support for higher education.

Don't let another Pawlenty administration steal affordable higher education from another decade of young people.

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.

Despite snow, Minnesota least stressful place to live

If you are a high school student who prepared for ACT tests scheduled for last weekend ...

If you planned to fly to a sunny beach for a spring vacation ...

If you own a golf course or a lawn-care service ...

If you're the Minnesota Twins, who have had four games postponed already ...

If you're just tired of winter ...

Then last weekend's snowstorm might have cranked up your stress level. A storm that was forecast to be over by Saturday noon lingered into Saturday night, then Sunday, then Sunday night.

The latest dump of spring snow forced the cancellation of college-entrance tests, totally shut down Minneapolis-St. Paul airport for an unprecedented eight hours and delayed for days if not weeks any hope of playing or watching spring sports.

So, you may not believe what I'm about to report.

Minnesota is the least stressful place to live of all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Apparently, April is Stress Awareness Month and the personal-finance website WalletHub measured the states with the highest stress levels by comparing 38 key metrics.

The data sets ranged from average hours worked per week to personal bankruptcy rate to share of adults getting adequate sleep. The study

Mike
Knaak
Editor



combined those 38 scores and calculated ratings in four key dimensions. The study revealed these stress levels in Minnesota. (A "1" ranking means the most stressed place, so higher numbers are good.)

- *Work stress 42nd
- *Family stress 49th
- *Money stress 51st
- *Health and safety stress 51st

The overall score produced a No. 1 rank for Minnesota. Among the 38 key metrics, Minnesota ranked in the top 10 percent for highest median credit score, lowest percentage of adults in poor health, the number of psychologists, low divorce rate and a low percentage of people living in poverty.

If you've had enough of cold and snow and you're dreaming about moving to a warmer place, you might want to reconsider.

Louisiana residents scored the highest stress levels, followed by New Mexico.

In fact, four of the five least-stressful places are in the Upper Midwest.

Knowledge Bowl great activity for students, area

We're in the midst of an exciting season here in Central Minnesota, and no it's not the massive amount of snow that came down on us in recent weeks. Many school sports and activities have been having their state meets and tournaments. One of these, the State Knowledge Bowl Meet, was held just recently on April 12 and 13. Knowledge Bowl is a passion of mine because I compete in it personally, and also because it really is a great way to represent the strong schools in our area.

For those who haven't heard of Knowledge Bowl, it's a school-sponsored competitive activity where students use their knowledge and experience rather than athletic prowess. At a meet, teams first compete in the written round, a test of 60 questions, and are then placed into rooms based on their results, with the top three scoring teams in Room 1, the next three in Room 2 and so on. From here the oral rounds begin. The team members sit at tables with a centrally placed buzzer strip, and can buzz in at any time as questions are asked. Correct answers gain the team a point each, and based on their scores at the end of each oral round, teams are then shifted among the rooms accordingly. The winner is the team with the most points after all rounds are complete.

Knowledge Bowl makes for such an interesting and enriching activity because there is so much

Connor
Kockler
Guest Writer



information that's covered. Among Knowledge Bowl competitors, we often joke there is no effective way to really study for it, as one question could be about European geography and the next about elements on the periodic table. To succeed at Knowledge Bowl, you need to have a very well-rounded learning base, which is something I see as a priority for education overall.

It's a great activity for fostering teamwork as well. Each Knowledge Bowl team can consist of up to five members, with all five being able to work on the written round, while only four can compete in oral rounds at a time, with the fifth person switching in or substituting between different rounds. Since the amount of material covered is so broad, teams need to be balanced, often with members specializing in subjects like math and social studies. Coaches and players need to carefully build teams with different strengths and weaknesses in mind.

Rather than any one star player or decisive last-second play or move, Knowledge Bowl is about consistent

Following Minnesota are North Dakota, Utah, Iowa and South Dakota.

And there's more good news for healthful living, according to recent medical research.

Men in Minnesota live longer than those in any other state. Minnesota women rank fourth.

The findings were published recently in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Minnesotans have the fourth-longest life expectancy, with an average life span of 80.8 years, ranking behind only Hawaii, California and Connecticut. Mississippi had the lowest life expectancy, with an average of 74.7 years. Mississippi also failed the stress study, ranking as the fourth-most stressful state.

Minnesota men have an average life expectancy of 78.7 years. Minnesota women have an average life expectancy of 82.9 years.

Minnesota residents overall lead the nation in "healthy life expectancy" at 70.3 years. That category is defined as years of life spent in full health.

The study covered 333 diseases and injuries and 84 risk factors.

Minnesotans, stay put. To be happy and healthy, generally avoid the southeastern states.

Put down the shovel, take a deep breath. "State with the most snow" doesn't even show up on the stress list.

effort and cooperation between all members of teams, and we sure do that well here in Central Minnesota. At the state meet last week, local teams placed extraordinarily well. Out of 24 teams in the small schools division at State, St. John's Prep placed seventh, while out of the 24 large schools, my own Sauk Rapids-Rice took seventh, while Sartell-St. Stephen took the title in first place. Considering almost 1,000 total teams from dozens of high schools compete in Knowledge Bowl each year and only 48 make it to State, these placements are even more impressive.

Though we may not always hear about it, Knowledge Bowl is an activity that's providing great opportunities to students, as well as great publicity for our area. This is because Knowledge Bowl and other academic extracurriculars like Speech and Mock Trial attract students with a passion for learning and growth, and teach them important lessons in teamwork, public speaking and organizational skills. Sports may get a lot of the spotlight, but be sure to pay attention to activities as well. I'm sure glad I did, and my involvement will stick with me for the rest of my life.

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

GOT AN
OPINION?

Email: news@thenewsleaders.com

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

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

Keep Tax Day in your heart all year-round

This past week saw one of our great national holidays occur. No, not the baseball opener (that was earlier), but Tax Day! Yay! I know that much like Christmas, sometimes it’s easy to forget the true meaning of the season and there is some humbuggery floating around, as well as a lot of last-minute preparation and stress. But, also like Christmas, maybe it’s a season we should keep in our hearts all year-round. My dad always said if you’re paying income taxes, at least you have income to be taxed. The implication being that you can’t pay income tax without the income part. Similarly, the most common tax we all pay throughout the rest of

the year can’t happen without the first word; sales tax. Sales tax is a pretty good concept. It is directly paid by the people involved in the transaction. Don’t want to pay sales tax, don’t buy something. Of course, here in Minnesota, we also have the benefit of not every good being taxable (some food items, clothing). Scaled large, it’s a good way for a government to generate revenue. Scaled small, it’s an even better way for small towns to generate revenue. When we think of sales tax, we often just think of it at the state level, but it’s key to remember that smaller municipal units, such as towns and cities,

Patric Lewandowski

Guest Writer



can also levy sales taxes. Towns and cities have two easy ways to generate the revenue they need to provide services: property tax and sales tax. There are other methodologies to be sure, but those two are the easiest. Sales tax is particularly nice because potentially more than just the residents of the municipality can pay it. Should your town or city see a large number of visitors for an event, that is additional revenue, which is a good reason to want to host events and generate

tourism. When sales tax is used at a local level, the revenue generated can be used for special projects that otherwise might not get funding. Sales tax can also help ease property tax burdens at times. I’ve written before about how shopping local ads to a local tax base, and really sales tax is just the icing on the cake. A local business’s sales tax can really help strengthen a local economy, especially in a small town. In the formative years of a small business, the sales tax may be the only real contribution to the tax base the business can make (depending on profit / loss, start-up deductions, and other corporate tax laws

that help small businesses such as the Section 179 deduction). If a small town is to grow and thrive, it needs small businesses to provide revenue, and often those road repairs or city employee salaries can’t wait the three to five years it may take a small business to start paying a meaningful share of corporate taxes. Sales tax becomes crucial. As we put our Tax Day decorations away for another year and start looking forward to other critical holidays, such as Flag Day (less than 60 shopping days left until Flag Day!), it’s important that we remember every time we buy something at our local stores, we keep Tax Day in our hearts all year-round.

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.

- Thursday, April 19**
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave. NW., St. Joseph.
Great River Regional Coin Club, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Miller Auto Marine Sports Plaza, 2930 Second St. S., St. Cloud. 320-241-9229.
- Friday, April 20**
St. Joseph Area Historical Soci-

- ety**, open 4-7 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave NW. stjosephhistoricalmn.org.
Healthcare Summit: A Panel of Experts, 6 p.m., Founders Room, St. John’s University, 2850 Abbey Plaza, Collegeville.
St. Cloud Singles Club Dance, 8 p.m.-midnight, American Legion, 17 Second Ave. S., Waite Park. 320-339-4533. stcloudsingles.net.

- Sunday, April 22**
Joe Town Table, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., American Legion, 101 W. Minnesota St., St. Joseph. centralmncw@gmail.com.

- Monday, April 23**
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave. NW., St. Joseph.
St. Joseph Park Board, 6 p.m., St. Joseph City Hall, 75 Callaway St. E.

363-7201. cityofstjoseph.com.

- Tuesday, April 24**
The Clothesline Project, an awareness event on sexual assault and trauma in the military, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Cloud VA Health Care System, 4801 Veterans Drive, Bldg. 8. Joy Finkelson, 320-252-1670 ext. 6398.
National Alliance on Mental Health, 7-8:30 p.m., Calvary Community Church, 1200 Roosevelt Road, St. Cloud. 320-259-7101.

- Wednesday, April 25**
The Clothesline Project, an awareness event on sexual assault and trauma in the military, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Cloud VA Health Care System, 4801 Veterans Drive, Bldg. 8. Joy Finkelson, 320-252-1670 ext. 6398.
“**Understanding the Neurobiology of Trauma**,” presented by VA psychologist Dr. John Ross, 5 p.m., VA

Health Care System, 4801 Veterans Drive, St. Cloud. 320-255-6353.

- Thursday, April 26**
The Clothesline Project, an awareness event on sexual assault and trauma in the military, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Cloud VA Health Care System, 4801 Veterans Drive, Bldg. 8. Joy Finkelson, 320-252-1670 ext. 6398.
Pajama Party, hosted by United Way, 5-7:30 p.m., St. Cloud Public Library, 1300 St. Germain St. 320-650-2500.
St. Cloud School Board, 7 p.m., City Council Chambers, 400 S. Second St., St. Cloud.

- Friday, April 27**
Brat Sale, sponsored by St. Joseph Y2K Lions, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., St. Joseph Meat Market 26 First Ave. NW. All donations will support the City of St. Joseph Flower Basket Project. Hear-

ing aids and eyeglasses will also be collected.

- Saturday, April 28**
Brat Sale, sponsored by St. Joseph Y2K Lions, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., St. Joseph Meat Market 26 First Ave. NW. All donations will support the City of St. Joseph Flower Basket Project. Hearing aids and eyeglasses will also be collected.
St. Cloud VA Career Fair for nursing, medical clerk and clinical social work occupations, 9 a.m.-noon, VA Health Care System, 4801 Veterans Drive Bldg. 1, St. Cloud. 320-252-1670 ext. 7276.

- Sunday, April 29**
Artrageous, the interactive art and music experience, 3 p.m., Paramount Center for the Arts, 913 St. Germain St., St Cloud. 320-259-5463.

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Traffic

from front page

Aware of the problem, school leaders and St. Joseph police posted a video on the school’s website last summer to show parents how to safely and efficiently drop off their children.

“Part of what makes it challenging for us is that we have a lot of families who open enroll and don’t qualify for transportation,” Principal Laurie Putnam said. “Lots of families have to drop off their students.”

St. Joseph Police Chief Joel Klein has several suggestions for parents. Drivers should travel to the end of the drop-off loop in front of the school, make sure their children are packed up and ready to quickly hop out of the vehicle and

parents should not park in the loop and walk the child into the building.

Klein urged all drivers to take it slow if they approach the intersection and see heavy traffic.

“This is a community thing and people have to be respectful of each other,” Klein said.

There are no quick fixes but Dahlgren and Klein both offer ideas to reduce the chances of a collision.

Dahlgren suggests a stoplight at the intersection. Before and after school, it would control turns but the rest of the day it would flash yellow on College Avenue.

Dahlgren and Klein both proposed installing a roundabout, which reduces the chance of an intersection collision.

A reduced-speed zone, marked with a flashing light during drop-off and pick-up times, would also improve

safety, Dahlgren suggested.

As southbound drivers approach Jade Road from the north, the speed limit increases from 40 mph to 55 mph.

“What concerns me the most is people going south who are not turning into Jade Road meeting drivers coming from the south that are making a left turn,” Putnam said.

While Klein’s officers patrol College Avenue/CR 121 inside the city limits, the county has jurisdiction over the road. So any changes, such as a speed-limit change, a traffic signal or roundabout, would have to be approved by the county.

Dahlgren said she’s considering starting a petition to urge Stearns County to take action.

Putnam said school district, city and county officials met in March to talk about solutions. As a first step, the county is going to do a traffic study, she said.

CEO

from front page

learned to create their own businesses. They will write business plans that will be reviewed by a banker and a lawyer. At the end of the year, students will present their projects at a showcase.

The CEO concept was developed by the Midland Institute for Entrepreneurship. Schools in Willmar, Staples-Motley and Wright County are currently running CEO programs.

Willmar’s CEO program inspired the local effort.

“One Sartell Chamber of Commerce board member had a friend’s sister in the Willmar program. He presented the idea to the chamber board and we expanded it to the four high schools,” said Nikki Sweeter, the Sartell chamber’s

executive director. “Willmar helped us to see we can be successful here. They have been helpful in figuring out what our program ought to be.”

Businesses that want to join the program should contact Sweeter at nikki@sartellchamber.com.

O’Doherty and Sweeter say there will be multiple paybacks for businesses and students.

“We hear in the community about lack of entrepreneurs coming out of school. Forty-four percent of businesses say they lack skilled workers,” O’Doherty said.

“We raise great kids, they leave for college and they don’t come back,” Sweeter said.

O’Dohert added, “We hope they come back after college because of the relationships they have developed. Businesses are excited about identifying rising stars.”

What is Earth Day, and what is it meant to accomplish?

by Kathleen Rogers
President of Earth Day Network

Close to 48 years ago, on 22 April 1970, millions of people took to the streets to protest the negative impacts of 150 years of industrial development.

In the US and around the world, smog was becoming deadly and evidence was growing that pollution led to developmental delays in children. Biodiversity was in decline as a result of the heavy use of pesticides and other pollutants.

The global ecological awareness was growing, and the US Congress and President Nixon responded quickly. In July of the same year, they created the Environmental Protection Agency, and robust environmental laws such as the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act, among many.

One billion people

Earth Day is now a global event each year, and we believe that more than 1 billion people in 192 countries now take part in what is the largest civic-focused day of action in the world.

It is a day of political action and civic participation. People march, sign petitions, meet with their elected officials, plant trees, clean up their towns and roads. Corporations and governments use it to make pledges and announce sustainability measures. Faith leaders, including Pope Francis, connect Earth Day with protecting God’s greatest creations, humans, biodiversity and the planet that we all live on.

Earth Day Network, the organization that leads Earth Day worldwide, today announced that Earth Day 2018 will focus on mobilizing the world to End Plastic Pollution, including creating support for a global effort to eliminate single-use plastics along with global regulation for the disposal of

plastics. EDN will educate millions of people about the health and other risks associated with the use and disposal of plastics, including pollution of our oceans, water, and wildlife, and about the growing body of evidence that decomposing plastics are creating serious global problems.

From poisoning and injuring marine life to the ubiquitous presence of plastics in our food to disrupting human hormones and causing major life-threatening diseases and early puberty, the exponential growth of plastics is threatening our planet’s survival. EDN has built a multi-year campaign to End Plastic Pollution. Our goals include ending single-use plastics, promoting alternatives to fossil fuel-based materials, promoting 100 percent recycling of plastics, corporate and government accountability and changing human behavior concerning plastics.

EDN’s End Plastic Pollution campaign includes four major components:

Leading a grassroots movement to support the adoption of a global framework to regulate plastic pollution;


Educating, mobilizing and activating citizens across the globe to demand that governments and corporations control and clean up plastic pollution;

Educating people worldwide to take personal responsibility for plastic pollution by choosing to reject, reduce, reuse and recycle plastics, and

Promoting local government regulatory and other efforts to tackle plastic pollution.

Earth Day Network will leverage the platform of Earth Day and the growing interest in the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day in 2020 as a catalyst for global action.

For more information and ideas on how to take action, visit earthday.org.



SAVE OUR WETLANDS!

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Earth Day Celebrations



Mark Your Calendars For Our Earth Day Celebration!

- All Ages Are Welcome
- Open To Everyone
- Invite Family and Friends

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

1:00 pm Opening with Doug Wood, local author of “Old Turtle”

INTERMISSION
Nature activities for children, samples from First UMC’s bread oven and guided prairie walks.

2:30 pm *Screenagers: Growing up in a Digital World* for students and parents - FREE POPCORN!

SUNDAY, APRIL 22

9:30 am Earth Day worship with a bald eagle!

11:00 am The Raptor Center presentation

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