

St. Joseph Newsleader

Friday, May 4, 2018
Volume 30, Issue 18
Est. 1989

Town Crier

GNTC to hold class on play auditioning

Thinking about giving theater a try? Great Northern Theatre Company will hold a class for ages 7 and up entitled “How to Audition for a Play” from 6:30-9 p.m. Monday, May 14 at Rocori District Education Facility, Cold Spring. This summer GNTC will perform *Annie the Musical*. Learn auditioning techniques from a pro who has years of experience on stage and in the director role. There will be many parts for children so this is an opportunity to learn to be comfortable auditioning and to let your skills shine. Class will include voice, stage presence, expression, singing, movement and more. There is a nominal fee. To register, visit www.gntc1.com.

Sartell Market Monday opens for summer

Join us from 3-6 p.m. on our opening day Monday, May 7 at the Coborn’s Market Place parking lot off Pinecone Road. You will find meats, eggs, breads, treats, canned goods and early season vegetables. We will be open rain or shine on Mondays until mid-October.

Lemonade, Laughter to be held May 8

The Sartell Senior Connection will host the 10th annual Lemonade and Laughter, featuring musician and storyteller Charlie Roth, at 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 8 at the St. Francis Xavier Gathering Space, 219 Second St. N., Sartell.

Letter carriers’ food drive set May 12 nationwide

Help stamp out hunger by donating food to the Letter Carriers’ National Food Drive on Saturday, May 12, 2018. Put your food by your mailbox by 9 am and the food will be collected and delivered to your local food shelf. There are volunteer opportunities available at Catholic Charities Emergency Services and The Salvation Army sorting food. Catholic Charities Emergency Services 320-229-4568; The Salvation Army 320-252-1424.

Avon’s Spunktacular Days seeks parade entries

Parade entries are wanted for the annual Spunktacular Days parade at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 16, in Avon. For information or parade entry forms <https://avonchamber.weebly.com/spunktacular-days.html> or call Mary at 320-248-3375.

INSERTS:
Bee Line Service Center
Country Manor Senior Housing



photo by Mike Knaak

Footings are in place for the 24 North Lofts project.

Business changes underway in downtown St. Joseph

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Several significant business and commercial plans are changing the look of downtown St. Joseph.

Construction is well underway on the long-planned 24 North Lofts project on College Avenue.

Across the street the old city hall could have a new owner.

Aaron Rieland of Bad Habit Brewing is negotiating with the city of St. Joseph to buy the building at 25 College Ave. N.

A block to the northwest, there’s a new restaurant called Grilled Cravings and Quality Ice Cream set to open in the former Cone Castle building at 118 First Ave. NW.

The 17-unit 24 North Lofts should be ready for residents by December, said project part-

ner Jon Petters.

The project includes four two-bedroom units and 13 one-bedroom units in the three-story building.

Footings and a foundation are being poured now.

“Then it will get real exciting when they go vertical,” Petters said.

In addition to the leased residential units, the main floor has space for what developers hope

will be a restaurant.

All the residential units will have gas or electric fireplaces and balconies big enough for tables, Petter said.

Rieland said negotiations on price are continuing with the city for the former city hall. He said he doesn’t expect anything final until July.

The Grilled Cravings owners plan to open by the end of May.

Old Glory Run funds to help DAV buy vehicle



photo by Troy Goracke

Runners and walkers wind along a path during the Old Glory Run on May 21, 2016. Proceeds from the fundraiser will help the Disabled American Veterans of Minnesota Foundation. Minnesota has about 369,000 veterans, of which more than 18,000 are members of the Disabled American Veterans. See page 5 for entire article.

Auxiliary donates to Eagles Healing Nest

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

With a mission that includes enhancing the lives of veterans, military and their families, members of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 328 of St. Joseph recently donated to the Eagle’s Healing Nest in Sauk Centre.

Auxiliary President Rosie Court and Treasurer Delrose Fischer presented a \$500 donation to Eagle’s Healing Nest director and founder Melony Duscheck in April.

Court and Fischer said they were fortunate to have a chance to tour the facility and see firsthand how veterans are helped.

“After touring the Eagle’s Healing Nest, I was so im-

pressed with the vision of founder and director Melony Butler,” Court said. “It is truly a labor of love for our veterans where vets help vets to heal (before) going back to their families. Healing allows for an easier transition to civilian life. It’s a safe place where no ‘red tape’ is needed to get immediate help when needed. She is an amazing woman who is 100-percent committed and devoted to the care, concerns and issues of veterans.”

Butler established the Eagle’s Healing Nest in 2012 to give struggling veterans hope and a home. By doing so, she is fulfilling a childhood promise she made to her stepfather to never forget the veterans.

The Eagle’s Healing Nest
Nest • page 5

PUBLIC NOTICES

CERTIFICATE
OF ASSUMED NAME
STATE OF MINNESOTA

Pursuant to Chapter 333, Minnesota Statutes, the undersigned, who is or will be conducting or transacting a commercial business in the State of Minnesota under an assumed name, hereby certifies:

- 1. The assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted is: The Rustic Wildflower.
- 2. The stated address of the principal place of business is or will be: 10482 385th St., St. Joseph, Minn. 56374.
- 3. The name and street address of

all persons conducting business under the above assumed name including any corporations that may be conducting this business: Amanda Sanborn, 10482 385th St., St. Joseph, Minn. 56374.

4. I certify I am authorized to sign this certificate and I further certify I understand by signing this certificate, I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Minnesota Statutes section 609.48 as if I had signed this certificate under oath.

Dated: March 19, 2018
Filed: March 30, 2018

/s/ Amanda Sandborn

Publish: May 5 and 11, 2017

CITY OF ST. JOSEPH
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
VACATION OF DRAINAGE & UTILITY EASEMENTS

The St. Joseph City Council shall conduct a public hearing at 6 p.m., or shortly thereafter as the matter may be heard, on Monday, May 21, 2018 in the St. Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E., to hear all persons upon the proposed vacation of certain internal drainage and utility easements between

Lots 1, 2 and 3, Block 1, Jasmine Plat. The request has been submitted by CLC Partners, LLC, for the purpose to readjust lot lines.

Judy Weyrens
Administrator

Publish: May 4 and 11, 2018

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Saturday 5 p.m.
Sunday 8 & 10 a.m.
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contributed photo

Gearhead team members are the following: (front row, left to right) Hannah Applegate, Rose Kellner, (robot), Natalie Fischer and Lori Dale; (middle row) Corey, Bridget and Austin Applegate, Colton Hennek, Carter Calhoun, Taylor Bauer, Donovan Magney and David Dale; and (back row) Dave Fischer, Justin Fischer, Jaeger Johnson, Nicholas Asplund, Christopher Schweiger and Zachary Asplund.

Katie Schleper, St. Joseph, will graduate summa cum laude on Saturday, May 5, from Minnesota State University, Mankato. She earned a bachelor's degree in biology.

The St. Joseph Knights of Columbus Father Werner Council raised more than \$2,200 during its Tootsie Roll

Fundraiser.

The fundraiser, which supports people with developmental disabilities, was conducted April 27-29.

The College of St. Benedict will hold its 103rd commencement ceremony at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 12 at Clemens Field House on the St. Ben's campus.

Beth Dinndorf, class of 1973 and former president of Columbia College, will deliver the commencement address. Dinndorf will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. Maranna Gunnerson, a senior biology major from Annandale, will be the student speaker.

The 2018 CSB graduating class includes 505 women, the third-largest class in school history.

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Wednesday, June 27.....\$99 pp
Discover Stillwater – lunch cruise, trolley tour
Thursday, July 26..... \$79 pp
MN Twins vs Kansas City 1:10 p.m. game
Sunday, Aug. 5\$65 pp
Jasper Theater – Park Rapids w/lunch at West Forty
Wednesday, Aug. 8..... \$69 pp

2018 MOTORCOACH TOURS

Early discounts apply - call soon!

Mackinac Island (2 nights) & Sault Ste Marie	5 days	June 18-22
ALASKA Tours – July and August	Call on availability	
Niagara Falls (2 nights) & Mackinac Island	8 days	July 20-27
Great Parks of the West Tour	8 days	July 31-Aug. 7
Black Hills; Jackson, Wyo. – 2 nts; Yellowstone; Cody; Medora		
Summer Medora Musical (2 nts in Medora)	3 days	Aug. 9-11
Canadian Rockies, Glacier Park & Medora	8 days	Aug. 7-14
Banff-2 nights; Athabasca Glacier; Lake Louise; Glacier Park & Medora	13 days	Sept. 1-13
Fall Pacific Coast Tour – Fly return San Francisco		
Leavenworth; Seattle; Vancouver; Victoria-2 nts; P Coast-Redwoods; Wine Country		
Nova Scotia, PEI & Cape Breton Island & Fly return Boston	15 days	Sept. 18-Oct. 2
New England Fall Colors plus DC & NYC	16 days	Sept. 27-Oct. 12
Door County & Mackinac Island	6 days	Sept. 30-Oct. 5
Nashville & Pigeon Forge	8 days	Oct. 12-19
Carolinas & Georgia	11 days	Oct. 15-25
Fall Branson Tour	6 days and 6 shows	Oct. 17-22

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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.

P.O. Box 324 • 32 1st Ave. N.W. • St. Joseph, Minn. 56374

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

Blotter

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

April 9
9:49 p.m. Suspicious activity. Callaway Street SE. Officers investigated the report a garage door appeared to have

been pried open. There was a car in the driveway that had broken windows or the window was down. The officer contacted the owner who was out of town and the owner told the officer he was aware of the damaged garage door and the open car window.

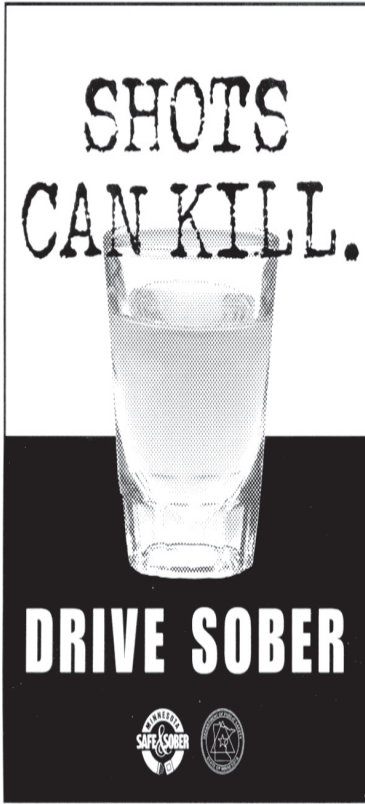
April 10
8:09 a.m. Theft from vehicle. Eighth Avenue SE. A man reported his vehicle had been tampered with overnight and a phone charger valued at \$30 was missing.
1 p.m. Theft from vehicle. Eighth Avenue SE. A man reported two chains and cash

had been stolen and it appeared someone rummaged through the truck.
6:01 p.m. Driving after revocation. Baker Street E. An officer stopped a vehicle for expired registration even though there were 2018 tabs on the vehicle. The driver was cited for driving after revocation and given a verbal warning for no proof of insurance.

April 11
12:22 p.m. Stolen license plate. 10th Avenue SE. A woman reported the rear license plate was stolen from her vehicle between the afternoon of April 9 and 5 p.m. April 10.

April 12
1:07 p.m. Expired registration. Interstate Hwy. 94 and mile-marker 154. The officer stopped a vehicle with expired registration. During the traffic stop, the officer smelled marijuana and saw a joint in the cupholder. The officer searched the vehicle and collected the joint and grinder for evidence. The driver was cited for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

April 16
4:30 p.m. Counterfeit money. Elm Street E. A counterfeit \$5 bill was deposited by the Dairy Queen in Royalton. The bill was processed as evidence.



PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF ST. JOSEPH
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
HEARING
ZONING ORDINANCE
AMENDMENT REZONING

The St. Joseph Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the St. Joseph City Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. at 6 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, Monday, May 14, 2018 to hear all persons present upon the proposed zoning ordinance amendment to rezone certain properties located east of CR 133 in Sections 01, 02, 11, 12, Township 124, Range 029, St. Joseph, Minn. from Agriculture and B-3 General Business to Light Industrial District.

Judy Weyrens
Administrator

Publish: May 4, 2018

PUBLIC NOTICE:
SALE OF CONTENTS

Sale of contents storage unit number one for nonpayment.

Sale is cancelled.

Publish: April 20, 27 & May 4, 2018



STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEARNS

DISTRICT COURT
SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Court File No. 73-PR-18-3546

In Re: Estate of
Robert Walter Kemper,
a/k/a Robert W. Kemper
and a/k/a Bob Kemper,
Decedent.

NOTICE AND ORDER
OF HEARING ON PETITION
FOR PROBATE OF WILL
AND APPOINTMENT
OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVES AND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on June 8, 2018 at 8:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 725 Courthouse Square, St. Cloud, Minnesota, on a petition for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Decedent's Will dated March 2, 1985, and for the appointment of NancyAnn L. Kemper, whose address is P.O. Box 24, Melrose, Minn. 56352 as personal representative of the Decedent's estate in an unsupervised administration.

Any objections to the petition must be raised at the hearing or filed with the Court prior to the hearing. If the petition is proper and no objections are filed or raised, the personal representative will be

appointed with the full power to administer the Decedent's estate, including the power to collect all assets; pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses; sell real and personal property; and do all necessary acts for the Decedent's estate.

Notice is further given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Decedent's estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.

BY THE COURT

Dated: April 27, 2018

/s/ Shan C. Wang
Judge of District Court

Dated: April 27, 2018

/s/ George A. Lock
Court Administrator

Mark F. Uphus
MN# 141136
310 E. Main St. – P.O. Box 158
Melrose, Minn. 56352
Telephone: 320-256-7491
Facsimile: 320-256-7612
e-mail: manager@uphuslaw.com

ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

Publish: May 4 and 11, 2018

GENERAL NOTICE
TO CONTROL OR ERADICATE
NOXIOUS WEEDS

Notice is hereby given this 15th day of May, 2018, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 18.83, subd. 7, (1992), that all persons in Stearns County, Minnesota, shall control or eradicate all noxious weeds on land they own, occupy or are required to maintain. Control or eradication may be accomplished by any lawful method but the methods may need to be repeated in order to prevent the spread of viable noxious weed seeds and other propagating parts to other lands. Failure to comply with the general notice may mean that an individual notice will be issued. An individual notice may be appealed within two working days of receipt to the appeal committee in the county where the land is located. Failure to comply with the individual notice will mean that the inspector having jurisdiction may either hire the work done or seek a misdemeanor charge against the person(s) who failed to comply. If the work is hired done by the inspector, the cost can be placed as a tax upon the land and collected as other real estate taxes are collected. You may obtain a list of the plants that are designated noxious and of the members of the appeal committee from your County Agricultural Inspector or Local Weed Inspector. The Local Weed Inspectors are township supervisors, city mayors or their appointed assistants.

Bob Dunning
Stearns County Agricultural Inspector
P.O. Box 246, St. Cloud, MN Phone 320-255-6180

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Officers certified to teach women defense tactics

by Mike Knaak

editor@thenewsleaders.com

Two St. Joseph police officers are now trained to teach women how to defend themselves from an attacker.

Officers Celeste Walz and Dan Magaard attended a three-day course to earn Basic Certification in the Rape Aggression Defense program – called RAD.

“We learned how to teach women to use their voice and (some) maneuvers like punching, kicking and striking,” Walz said.

The program teaches self-defense tactics and techniques

that begin with awareness and progresses to hands-on defense training.

“The objective is escape,” Walz said.

The two officers plan to offer sessions for a pre-selected group of women this spring to hone their teaching skills.

By August, the officers hope to open the course to all women in the community. The courses will be taught at the Government Center and they will be free.

Class members can be any age (starting at age 12 when accompanied by their mother). The class sessions total

nine hours. Bad Habit Brewing raised money from the sale of a special beer called Bad for Good to pay for mats.

The training course showed the officers how to teach women to position themselves to create a distance from harm, Magaard said.

“We learned to teach them to do something the attacker doesn’t expect,” Magaard said, “(like) tak(ing) the mental part away from the attacker along with using physical (aspects). It’s a tremendous resource for women.”

While wearing protective gear, the officers learned physical skills to fight back.

“I haven’t been in a situation where I could use my full force,” Walz said. “It was really good to see how you could use the skills to effectively escape.”

Before attending the training conducted at South Dakota State University, Walz said she had observed several RAD classes.

“It’s incredible (to watch) women (who) can have all dif-



photo by Mike Knaak

St. Joseph police officers Celeste Walz and Dan Magaard recently completed certification so they can train women in self-defense courses.

ferent backgrounds and life experiences and (with)in the first 30 minutes, you can physically see the change in them,” she said.

The class also informs women about how to communicate

with police officers about a situation including attacker and vehicle descriptions.

“This is really good for a college town with an all-female college,” Walz said.

Court orders release of Wetterling case files

by Mike Knaak

editor@thenewsleader.com

A district court judge’s ruling on April 19 that investigative records in the Jacob Wetterling case must be made public still does not end the dispute.

No date for the release will be set until the 60-day appeal period passes or until parties indicate they don’t plan to appeal, according to Stearns County Attorney Janelle Kendall.

An earlier court ruling directed Stearns County to return thousands of pages of FBI documents to that agency. The county attorney’s office is working to comply with that order as well, Kendall said in a statement.

Patty and Jerry Wetterling, parents of Jacob who was kidnapped in 1989, sued to block release of 168 pages of the 56,373-page file that was compiled by law enforcement.

The three-decade investigation ended in September 2016 when Danny Heinrich confessed to Jacob’s kidnapping and murder.

Once an investigation ends, the records are public as required by the Minnesota Data Practices Act. The Wetterlings reviewed the file and requested Stearns County block information they described as personal and private.

A coalition of media organizations sued to open all the records.

The FBI records are estimated to cover between 25 and 50 percent of the entire case file and cover most of the pages the Wetterlings sought to keep private. Access to the FBI records can be requested through the federal Freedom of Information Act.

In her written ruling, Judge Ann Carrott stated: “The (Wet-

terling) family tragedy had a profound effect on the people of Minnesota. In many ways, Jacob Wetterling’s kidnapping on a dirt road in a small rural town in Minnesota made us all feel less safe. While the court has great personal empathy for the Wetterlings, the court must impartially apply the law, unswayed by emotion. To do otherwise would result in an unfair application of the law.”

In a statement made after the ruling, the Wetterlings said they were thankful for Carrott’s “careful consideration of our concerns.”

The Wetterlings added their lawsuit was never about preventing the media from seeing the case file. It was about preventing victims and their families from further harm.

From the beginning, we have witnessed firsthand the integ-

Files • back page



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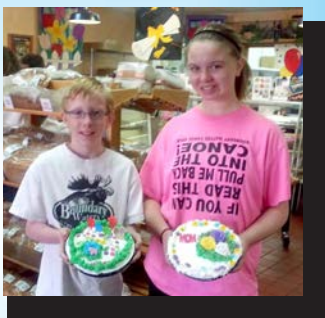
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Old Glory Run funds to help DAV buy vehicle

by Vicki Ikeogu
news@thenewsleaders.com

For more than 6,000 veterans in and around central Minnesota, the only way they can make it to and from various medical appointments is to rely on free transportation services provided by the organization known as Disabled American Veterans or DAV.

“The transportation services provided through the Central Minnesota DAV is the largest transportation program we have in the state, surpassing the (Twin Cities) Metro program,” said Trent Dilks, DAV’s legislative director and director of transportation. “We anticipate need of about \$90,000 worth of transportation costs just in Central Minnesota.”

With a growing demand for transportation services for local veterans – up 43 percent between 2016 and 2017 in central Minnesota alone – Dilks said raising money for vehicle purchases and other expenses has taken on a new importance.

But come May 19, the local DAV chapter based out of the

St. Cloud VA Health Care System, will see a slight boost in contributions, thanks in part to the 11th annual Old Glory Run.

“Since the run’s inception, the money raised has gone to support the vehicle fleet,” Dilks said. “And it has become one of our biggest fundraisers of the year.”

Dilks has been actively involved with the Old Glory Run for the past four years – including assisting with the run’s transition a few years ago from Cold Spring to St. Joseph.

During that time frame, the Central Minnesota DAV chapter has gone from having one vehicle in its fleet to seven with the hopes of adding another vehicle with funds raised this year. Dilks also hopes to be able to replace some of the older vehicles in the fleet with newer ones during the next few years.

“In the past year the (Central Minnesota) DAV has traveled about 262,000 miles,” Dilks said. “Thanks in part to the help of our volunteer drivers who logged about 13,000 volunteer hours last year.”

On average, about 1,000 peo-

ple participate every year in the Old Glory Run – a 5K that has participants starting at the former St. Joseph city hall at 25 College Ave. N.

But the 5K is not just for the avid or competitive runner.

“We are really trying hard to get the word out that this is also available to walkers,” Dilks said. “We have some older veterans who participate who are in wheelchairs that we push through the race. Really, anybody can participate.”

In addition to the 5K, the Old Glory Run has a 1K fun run for kids 12 and under.

Dilks said several vendors will be on site after the race with kids’ activities like a bounce castle and face painting.

There is a cost to participate; participants can register for the event at theoldgloryrun.com.

“This is a great way to support our veterans,” Dilks said. “The money goes toward a good cause. The course isn’t intimidating. So, if you want to get involved, you really can’t pick a better event.”

Applications open for vacant City Council seat

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

The St. Joseph City Council is accepting applications to fill a newly created vacancy.

Council member Matt Killam resigned at the end of April. He is moving out of the area.

The city is accepting applications until 3 p.m. Friday,

May 11. The council will interview applicants and aim to swear in the new member at the June 4 meeting.

The vacant seat will be up for election



Killam

in November along with those of council member Dale Wick and Mayor Rick Schultz.

The application form is available online at cityofstjoseph.com. Applicants must be city residents and be over the age of 21.

Killam was first elected in 2014.



contributed photo

Delrose Fischer (left), treasurer of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 328 of St. Joseph, delivers a \$500 donation from the auxiliary to Melony Butler (center), who is the director and founder of the Eagle’s Healing Nest in Sauk Centre. Also pictured is Diane Duscheck, the 2018 national president of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Nest

from front page

is on the campus of what was previously the Minnesota Home School for Girls.

When Butler first began renovating the property, two eagles flew in and built a nest on the property.

The Eagle’s Healing Nest is a nonprofit, directed by a board of trustees, committed to meeting the needs of veterans, service members and their families who suffer from the invisible wounds of war. It offers housing, meals and recovery services.

Veterans who reside at the Nest pay a suggested daily rate of \$35 and have a code of conduct that includes maintaining sobriety and being drug-free. Veterans are not turned away if they do not have the ability to pay.

The Eagle’s Healing Nest offers therapy classes, counseling

services by licensed clinicians, chiropractic and other health services, peer-support group meetings and many other services veterans might need.

So far, nine buildings at the Eagle’s Healing Nest have been renovated and are currently occupied by 77 residents. When renovations are complete, 24 buildings will have been renovated.

Future plans include training a veteran to be U.S. Department of Agriculture-certified, so the facility can raise and process its own beef on site, and operate a restaurant, which will be open to the public.

The American Legion Auxiliary of St. Joseph has 108 members and meets six months of the year.

To donate supplies or money and for additional information about the Eagle’s Healing Nest at 310 U.S. Hwy. 71 S., Sauk Centre, visit the website eagleshealingnest.com or call 320-351-6200.

News

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Opinion

Our View Time to get serious about Northstar commuter rail

Ever since the first Northstar commuter rail train rolled out of downtown Minneapolis in 2009, central Minnesota mass transit advocates have argued the route should extend to St. Cloud instead of stopping at Big Lake.

Opponents counter the costs and ridership estimates don't justify extending the service. Commuters between St. Cloud and Minneapolis still contend with the increasing traffic on U.S. Hwy. 10 and Interstate Hwy. 94 and paying for gas and parking.

This year, Rep. Jim Knoblach (R-St. Cloud) reintroduced a bill that would extend Northstar to St. Cloud. Knoblach contends the extension could be done with no state funding. Knoblach says the trains could use St. Cloud's Amtrak station and the rails and train equipment are already in place.

On the other side of the Capitol, Gov. Dayton's budget includes \$850,000 to study the issue.

Knoblach's suggestion deserves serious debate in the Legislature and the legislators should approve the money Dayton wants for a study.

Opponents say there's no way the extension can happen without significant state funding. The cost is closer to \$40 million, they argue.

According to the *Minneapolis StarTribune*, MnDOT Commissioner Charlie Zelle said "The idea it could be done for free is ludicrous."

\$10 million would be needed to upgrade the Amtrak station so it complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Knoblach counters Stearns County and the city of St. Cloud could help fund the station improvements. Another \$12.5 million would be needed for additional equipment, a study completed for last year's legislative session found.

According to Metro Transit, there were about 794,000 rides on the Northstar last year, or about 2,800 each weekday, a 12-percent increase over 2016.

Would there be more riders if the train traveled to St. Cloud instead of stopping in Big Lake, 27 miles from St. Cloud?

One way to find out is to do the study.

Today's trip between St. Cloud and Target Field Station in downtown Minneapolis involves a bus ride or driving from St. Cloud to the Big Lake station to catch the train. That's not a very seamless or convenient option.

Connecting St. Cloud with the Twin Cities would benefit both communities. Riders would find it easier to get to work or college. In today's tight job market, central Minnesota employers might find it easier to recruit workers from a wider area. Families traveling to the Twin Cities for sports, cultural or entertainment events might find it more fun and less stressful than driving.

The Republican controlled Legislature, whose members don't like mass transit, are unlikely to put big money behind a Northstar extension. But just saying "No" is not a transportation strategy.

A decade is long enough to debate the merits of finally completing the Northstar line. It's time for a serious debate and in-depth study for a service that could benefit businesses and riders in central Minnesota as well as the Twin Cities.

It turns out, cats are people too

Usually, when one starts a new job, it takes a few weeks to bond with new co-workers.

As the days pass, connections are made because of the work's shared mission and purpose. Learning about the hobbies and interests of new colleagues helps as does getting used to their personalities, quirks and idiosyncrasies.

Getting acquainted is even easier in a small office and that is the case with me. There are four people in the *Newsleader* office and we work together as a somewhat informal team.

I've struggled, however, to connect with a four-legged member of our team.

The Cat.

As a child, we didn't have pets, except a German shepherd that outgrew our smallish city lot and ended up finding a home on a farm with more room to roam.

As an adult, our two daughters never expressed much interest in sharing their space with a cat or dog. That was a good thing, because my spouse is extremely allergic to animal fur. After a few minutes in a room with a dog or cat, her eyes swell and turn red and she has trouble breathing.

No cats or dogs for us.

Many of my friends and colleagues are pet lovers. They cherish their dogs as hunting partners and their cats as companions.

Researchers have found pets promote human well-being. Advocates for pets in the workplace contend they boost morale and lower anxiety.

The clear-thinking folks in corporate human resources departments quickly kill the notion for an office pet. Who's going to pay for the food? What if someone gets bitten? And how about those vet bills?

There's none of that corporate nonsense in our office. The Cat lives here

Mike
Knaak
Editor



full time.

I'm usually first to arrive in the morning and as I approach the door, I can hear The Cat. When I open the door, she scoots outside for a moment and then returns.

When I sit down and start up my laptop, The Cat marches back and forth across my desk, including the keyboard, demanding attention. Finding none, she takes off and perches on the ledge looking out the front window for a new friend to arrive.

The Cat makes cat noises as she waits for Rachel Mohs. When Rachel enters, The Cat races to greet her. The Cat likes Rachel better than me because she likes The Cat better. Rachel will pick up The Cat, pet her and talk to her.

We don't have many cat toys in the office. The Cat improvises. We do have a credit card machine. The



photo by Mike Knaak

The office cat with its newest toy.

Air shows bring back memories

Connor
Kockler
Guest Writer



cake for me was the Blue Angels.

The Blue Angels are the U.S. Navy's elite flight demonstration squadron. I remember the rush that ran through me on seeing their blue and yellow jets for the first time in the sky above me. I had seen them in pictures and videos before, but it nowhere near captures the amazement you feel in real life when watching their shows. I watched breathlessly as their planes zigzagged high above, and felt the sound barrier break in their wake. They then finished off with their signature diamond formation, with four planes flying only inches apart.

Afterward, I was quite impressed, and looked for all sorts of media about them. Many an elementary and middle school book checkout from the library was for a book about planes or the Blue Angels specifically. I also kept an eye out for further air shows, and was excited to see the Blue Angels were actually coming to St. Cloud that next summer. I marked the date, and waited in anticipation.

Cat has found if she pushes the right buttons, the card reader makes noise. When The Cat pushes one special button, the reader shoots out a strip of paper for her to play with.

I spoiled The Cat's fun by placing a plastic tray over the reader and weighing it down with a small block of granite.

We have other potential toys. An empty paper box presents a challenge for The Cat. With no thumbs on her paws, removing the top takes some work. But she manages and soon she is settled inside the box.

I've told my photojournalism students to be careful attributing human emotions to animals when writing photo captions, because, I asserted, animals don't have emotions.

I've teasingly argued the same point with my friend, former colleague and animal lover Kate Kompas. Kate, by the way, shares her home with three cats.

I'm starting to think Kate may be right. The Cat can be frisky, smug, annoyed, inquisitive and persistent. Some of the same qualities as humans.

Oh, and The Cat has a name. Kit Kat.

The day came, and once again I was caught up in the fervor of planes and the Blue Angels. There were plenty of new things to see as well, including a F-22 Raptor stealth fighter that performed tricks with its advanced maneuvering capabilities. All in all, it was another great day, and I got a baseball hat, though a little small for me now, that I wore everywhere emblazoned with the Blue Angels' logo.

Following that burst of activity, I have yet to see another air show again. There was supposed to be one in St. Cloud in 2013 which was cancelled, and others throughout the state I haven't been able to attend, though I've always kept my interest and hope that an opportunity will come up again.

In the end though, I think my air show experiences really served to cement two main ideas in my head, that of an admiration for our nation's service members and the amazing technology that are planes and all things aviation. We are truly lucky to live in a time with so many incredible pilots and innovations all around us.

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

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guest columnists do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Newsleaders*.

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ASA fifth-graders dissect cow hearts

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

All Saints Academy-St. Joseph campus fifth-graders recently studied how the heart functions while dissecting cow hearts in their classroom.

Fifth-grade teacher Tess Koltes said she has been teaching the respiratory and circulatory system to students for 20 years. The dissection allows students a chance to gain hands-on science experience.

She said students have a natural curiosity about the human body and want to learn “what makes them tick.”

While studying the respiratory and circulatory systems, students learn about healthy eating such as lowering salt and fat intake and the importance of exercise to strengthen both systems.

The units also coordinate well with the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program and the importance of staying drug-, alcohol- and tobacco-free.

Koltes said students were amazed by the size of the hearts in cows.

“At first, some students are apprehensive to get their ‘hands dirty’,” she said. “However, once they visually experience the complexity of the inner heart and begin following the path in which blood flows with their hands, they are hooked on dissecting.”

Several fifth-graders commented about what they learned through their dissecting experience and what they would tell future students.

“I learned that the trachea is covered with cartilage,” said

Austin Baird. “Because it’s covered with cartilage, it feels like it’s covered with bones.”

“The dissection was helpful because you got to see the heart in three dimensions and feel the different parts,” said Sylvie Bechtold.

“The blood of the heart can keep your blood cells in a safe place,” said Sayler Christians. “The heart will be really cool to learn about and it gets very messy.”

“What I tell a future fifth-grader (is) it might look bad but once you start it’s not so bad,” said Maria Glatzel. “I mean it can be a little gross but really most of the time it’s fine, maybe even cool.”

“What I would tell future fifth-graders (is) if you don’t think about all the blood and stuff it can be fun and not so gross,” said Paul Rademacher. “Just don’t think about so much blood. You don’t want to miss out. It is very amusing if you pay attention.”

“Dissecting made me understand the heart because you can see it in real life,” said Maleah Thielen.

“I would tell the future fifth-graders it looks really gross at first, but it is actually really fun to learn about how everything works in the heart,” said Julia Uhlenkamp.

Classroom parents who are doctors, cardiologists, nurses or operating-room technicians have often volunteered their time to assist with the classroom dissecting.

Koltes appreciates the professionals who help teach the students and give “expert” advice.

This year, she appreciated



contributed photo

All Saints Academy fifth-graders (left to right) Maria Glatzel, Addison Keul, Sayler Christians, Kaidance Stephens, Julia Uhlenkamp and Ava Nicoll dissect a cow’s heart while learning about the human respiratory and circulatory systems.

and is thankful for the assistance with the dissections she received from parents Eric and LouAnn Baird.

The school has purchased the hearts and a set of lungs from the St. Joseph Meat Market each year. This year they

received cow hearts and a set of lungs. Other years it has been pig hearts, which are about the size of an adult heart.

Files

from page 4

rity and accuracy of the Minnesota news media,” the Wetterlings said. “They have set the bar very high, and have always treated our family with respect and dignity. We trust this high level of reporting will continue. Our hope is that beyond the media, whoever reads the file will also have a discerning eye and will treat information respectfully.”

The Wetterlings’ effort to keep some of the records private found a sympathetic supporter at the state Capitol. Earlier this year, Sen. Richard Cohen, a St. Paul DFLer, introduced legislation to restrict access.

Under his bill, people involved in criminal investigations could request information about them be kept private if it’s irrelevant to the preparation or prosecution of the case. Law enforcement would determine the relevance and weigh that request against the value of public disclosure.

The bill has been referred to the Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy committees. A companion bill introduced by Rep. Jeff Howe, R-Rockville, in the house has been referred to the Civil Law and Data Practices Policy Committee.

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