

St. Joseph Newsleader

Friday, June 15, 2018
Volume 30, Issue 23
Est. 1989

Town Crier

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

‘Beauty and Beast’ to show June 15

Disney’s “Beauty and the Beast” live-action movie is the June 15 selection for Movies Under the Stars, hosted by St. Cloud Park & Recreation and sponsored by Capital One. The free event begins at dusk at Field C-3 in Whitney Memorial Park. Concessions are available. Rain site is Whitney Rec Center. Star Wars: the Last Jedi shows July 20. The Aug. 10 movie is to be determined by community vote. Check out Facebook for community vote @cityofstcloudmnparkandrec. For more information, visit ci.stcloud.mn.us or call 320-255-7277.

Fare for All set June 18

Fare for All’s next distribution will be from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Monday, June 18 at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2, St. Joseph. Fare for All is a budget-stretching program that allows people to save up to 40 percent off fresh fruits, vegetables and frozen meats. Distribution is once a month. This event is open to everyone who wants to stretch their grocery dollar. Cash, credit, debit cards and EBT cards are accepted. For more information please visit our website at fareforall.org or call 1-800-582-4291.

37 reading, math tutors needed

The St. Cloud area needs 37 literacy and math tutors for the 2018-2019 school year according to Minnesota Reading Corps and Minnesota Math Corps. Both full- and part-time tutors are being recruited to begin a year of paid service this fall. Kennedy Community School is one of the schools that have been awarded a tutor position.

Tutors commit to 11 months of service, during which they earn a biweekly living allowance of \$597 (full-time) and an education award of up to \$5,920 to help pay for further education. Full-time tutors also receive health insurance.

Anyone interested in learning more about Reading Corps or Math Corps, or ready to apply to serve, should visit readingandmath.net or contact 866-859-2825.

INSERTS:
Nahan Printing
Stearns County
Fair Guide

Molus chosen grand marshal

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

Margaret Molus is not a person who enjoys being the center of attention in the middle of a large crowd but instead prefers to be volunteering where help is needed at local functions.

Because of her many years of helping with local causes and serving others, Molus was recently selected to be the grand marshal for the annual Fourth of July parade, organized by the St. Joseph Lions Club.

“I was very surprised when I was chosen,” Molus said. “It’s an honor I didn’t expect.”

Molus, 82, has lived in St. Joseph all of her life. She grew up in a family of eight children in the John and Esther Bechtold family. Her siblings in-

clude Arnie and Herb Bechtold, Agnes Steichen, Ann Reischel, and Joe, Dave and Don Bechtold.

When she married her husband, George, they continued to live in St. Joseph, first in town and later out of town in a house they built. They were married for 49 years.

“I like St. Jo(seph),” Molus said.

Molus and her husband were both active volunteers in the area, including at St. John’s University and the College of St. Benedict.

After George died, Molus said she was somewhat lonely after her children had moved away from home and she felt she needed something more to do. When people started asking

Molus • page 5

Squaring up for Hopscotch



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Wearing orange to promote gun violence awareness, a group from Minnesota Street Market takes a break June 1 to play a game of Hopscotch. In the foreground is Addie Carlson of St. Joseph. Waiting a turn is (left) Pia Lopez of Avon, and Terri Johnson of St. Joseph.

Kennedy school dedicates two memorials

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

Kennedy Community School staff and students recently dedicated memorials in remembrance of two individuals who greatly impacted students and staff at their school.

On May 25, they dedicated a Rain Garden in front of the school in memory of former Kennedy Community School teacher Pat Forte. The eighth-grade class, Forte’s family and friends and the school’s parent community were invited.

“Forte was an amazing sixth-grade teacher who positively impacted the lives of

students, staff and community members,” said Jodie Kragness, Kennedy Community School differentiation specialist. “Sadly, Mr. Forte passed away on June 15, 2017, after an 11-year battle with cancer. (His) positive mindset and determination during his adversities were an inspiration to many people.”

The Rain Garden was started by Mary and Tim Radunz in conjunction with Adam Hjelm and the Sauk River Watershed District. The school partnered with Minnesota Native Landscapes and the Sauk River Watershed District on this rain garden initiative.

Rain Gardens absorb storm-

water runoff and help prevent it from entering streams, lakes and rivers.

Students and staff had a chance to share memories of Forte and the Kennedy Honor Choir, composed of sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-graders, performed at the event.

“Pat Forte’s legacy of humor, kindness and high expectations will live on at Kennedy Community School,” said school principal Laurie Putnum. “We are appreciative of the grant provided to Kennedy Community School by the Sauk River Watershed District. They have been exceptional partners to our learning community.”

On May 29, Kennedy staff and students dedicated “Grandma Darlene’s Reading Nook” in the school’s library. Shelley Fischer’s fourth-grade class, who Bechtold worked with during the past several years, and Bechtold’s family were invited for the event.

Bechtold was a local daycare provider for 28 years. When she retired, she missed working with children and discovered the Foster Grandparent Program. She worked at Kennedy for 12 years before her death Feb. 5, 2018, after suffering a traumatic stroke.

“This is such a nice honor

Kennedy • page 4

City council accepts Chief Klein’s resignation



photo by Dave DeMars

City Administrator Judy Weyrens swears in the newest St. Joseph City Council member Anne Buckvold at the June 4 City Council meeting.

by Dave DeMars
news@thenewsleaders.com

It took a half hour of discussion in a closed session at the end of the June 4 regular meeting for the St. Joseph City Council to come to the decision to accept the resignation of Police Chief Joel Klein.

Mayor Rick Schultz read from a prepared statement and took no questions dealing with the investigation or the council decision after the meeting citing the Minnesota Data Practices Act which protects private data.

In the prepared statement Schultz laid out the order of

public events: Klein was placed on paid administrative leave on April 19 pending an investigation regarding complaints about him. The investigation was completed and a report delivered to Klein on May 23. Klein’s attorney contacted the city administrator Judy Weyrens on May 30 and informed her of his intent to resign his position as police chief and police officer with the city of St. Joseph.

The city administrator received Klein’s letter of resignation on May 31 effective immediately. The final action was the council’s acceptance of the

Council • page 4

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Dated: May 15, 2018

Filed: May 15, 2018

/s/ Hayley C. Yamry

Publish: June 1 and 15, 2018

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Filing period ends with primary elections set for Stearns sheriff, St. Cloud school board

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

St. Joseph voters can look forward to two primary elections as a result of candidate filings that closed June 5.

The primary election is Aug. 14. Stearns County voters will elect the first new sheriff in 16 years after four men filed.

Nine people filed for three seats on the St. Cloud school board.

The general election is Nov. 6. The filing period for offices that don't conduct primaries, including St. Joseph City Council, opens July 31.

Here is a list of who has filed for contested seats. Candidates with no opposition are not listed. The individual listing includes information from the candidate's voluntary disclosure form if they filed one with the secretary of state.

Senate District 13

Jeff Howe, Republican. Currently represents District 13A in the Minnesota House.

Joe Perske, DFL. Current District 2 Stearns County commissioner; former Sartell mayor and City Council member.

House District 13A

Lisa Demuth, Republican.

Jim Reed, DFL, political science professor at the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University.

House District 13B

Heidi L. Everett, DFL.

Tim O'Driscoll, Republican.

Stearns County sheriff

Dave Bentrud, chief, Waite Park Police Department.

Bob Dickhaus, lieutenant, Stearns County Sheriff's Office.

Dwight P. Pfannenstien, acting chief, St. Joseph Police Department.

Steve Soyka, sergeant, Stearns County Sheriff's Office.

Stearns County auditor/treasurer

John William Beuning.

Randy R. Schreifels.

St. Cloud school board (three seats open)

Scott Andreasen, owner of a private detective firm.

Zachary Dorholt.

Les Green.

Peter Hamerlinck.

Larry Hosch.

Thomas D. Kufalk.

Natalie Ringsmuth.

Beth Schlangen, retired.

Kathleen A. Steiner.

To look up candidates for all Minnesota offices up for election, go to the secretary of state's website at <https://candidates.sos.state.mn.us/>.

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Blotter

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May 11

11:21 p.m. Driving after suspension. CR 75. An officer noticed a driver drifting over the center line on CR 75. The vehicle was stopped and the driver was cited for driving after suspension.

11:55 p.m. Suspicious man. Ash Street W. An officer saw a man who appeared to be hiding in the bushes. The officer suspected he was urinating. The officer advised him to stay on the streets and sidewalks and keep off private property.

May 12

10:22 p.m. Driving after revocation. Baker Street E. and 18th Avenue SE. While traveling south on 20th Avenue near CR 75, an officer checked the license of a southbound vehicle. The vehicle was stopped and

the driver cited for no insurance and driving after revocation. The vehicle was impounded.

May 14

5:19 a.m. Noise complaint. Old Hwy 52. The officer met with a renter while approaching the residence. The renter cleared out the residence and everyone left quietly.

1020 a.m. Stolen bicycle. Fourth Avenue SE. A woman reported her bicycle, valued at \$1,000, stolen from her apartment bike rack over the weekend. The bike is a specialized model, pink/white.

May 15

7:39 p.m. Driving after suspension. 12th Avenue SE. and Minnesota Street E. An officer observed a vehicle with expired plates. After stopping the vehicle, a records check showed the driver was suspended for child support. He was cited for driving after suspension.

May 16

1:30 p.m. Theft. Cypress Drive. A caller reported two women took a box from a residence. An officer stopped the suspects' vehicle and the three

women occupants told the officer they were looking through junk piles during the spring cleanup. None of the boxes in the vehicle had shipping labels. The complainant said he confronted the women and he believed they returned the box to the residence while he was searching the area for the women.

May 17

10:27 p.m. Warrant arrest. Schneider Drive. Two officers arrested a man on a warrant. While taking him to jail, the man began hyperventilating in the squad car. The officers took the man to the hospital and he was admitted.

May 18

2:25 a.m. Driving after suspension. First Avenue NE. While on patrol, an officer saw a vehicle parked on Schneider Drive where there have been complaints of drug activity. The officer ran a records check and found the registered owner was suspended. Later the officer saw the vehicle on CR 2. The vehicle was stopped and searched. The driver was cited for driving after suspension.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF ST. JOSEPH RESOLUTION 2018-027 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUMMARY PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCE 612 – COMMERCIAL AND NONCOMMERCIAL HANDBILLS

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2018, the City Council for the City of St. Joseph adopted Ordinance 612, entitled “Commercial and Noncommercial Handbills;” and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Joseph desires to publish the Ordinance by Summary Publication; and

WHEREAS, the full text of the amended Ordinances are available at the City Offices, 75 Callaway St. E., or on the City website, www.cityofstjoseph.com.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:

The City Council has reviewed the proposed Summary Publication and finds the summary of the Ordinance clearly informs the public of the intent and effect of the Ordinance.

The City of St. Joseph directs the City Administrator to publish the Ordinance by Summary Publication.

Adopted this 4th day of June, 2018, by a vote of 3 in favor and 1 opposed.

CITY OF ST. JOSEPH

/s/ Rick Schultz, Mayor

/s/ Judy Weyrens, Administrator

Publish: June 15, 2018

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If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-888-833-9522 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.



People

Two St. Joseph students were named to the spring semester dean’s list at Alexandria Technical & Community College for achieving a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher. The students are **Vanessa Solarz** and **Madison Honer**.

Amanda Marie Walz of St. Joseph was named to the spring semester dean’s list at South Dakota State University, Brookings. She received a perfect 4.0 grade-point average.

Two St. Joseph students graduated from Concordia College, Moorhead. **Max Nelson**, son of Ann and Bob Nelson, graduated with a degree in nursing, and **Jessica Warzecka**, daughter of Sandy and Keith Warzecka, graduated summa cum laude with a degree in biology.



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Kennedy

from front page

for mom,” said Bruce Bechtold, her son. “She loved those kids and was elected by the eighth-grade class to deliver the graduation address a few years ago. Mom looked forward to her days at school and was excited for school to start in the fall. We miss her and know they do too.”

The Bechtold family donated money in memory of Grandma Darlene to purchase books for the school. Putnam said they purchased books about grandmothers and families with the funds. Other funds raised by Kennedy staff and the Parent Teacher Association were used to purchase a large rug, bookshelf and wall decorations to create a “reading nook” in Grandma Darlene’s honor.

Kristen Bauer, Kennedy Community School K-5 music specialist, said 68 books were

purchased for the nook, which is to the right of the main entrance of the library. The area contains a large framed picture and two framed quotes of Bechtold.

“It provides a cozy reading space for students and the quotes and picture will be a wonderful reminder of Grandma’s positive impact on Kennedy,” Bauer said.

The two framed quotes read as follows.

*Grandma has ears that truly listen,
Arms that always hold,
Love that’s never ending
And a heart that’s made of gold.*

*In Loving Memory
Your presence we miss.
Your memory we treasure.
Loving you always,
Forgetting you never.*

Bechtold worked closely with Shelley Fischer’s fourth-grade class for several years.

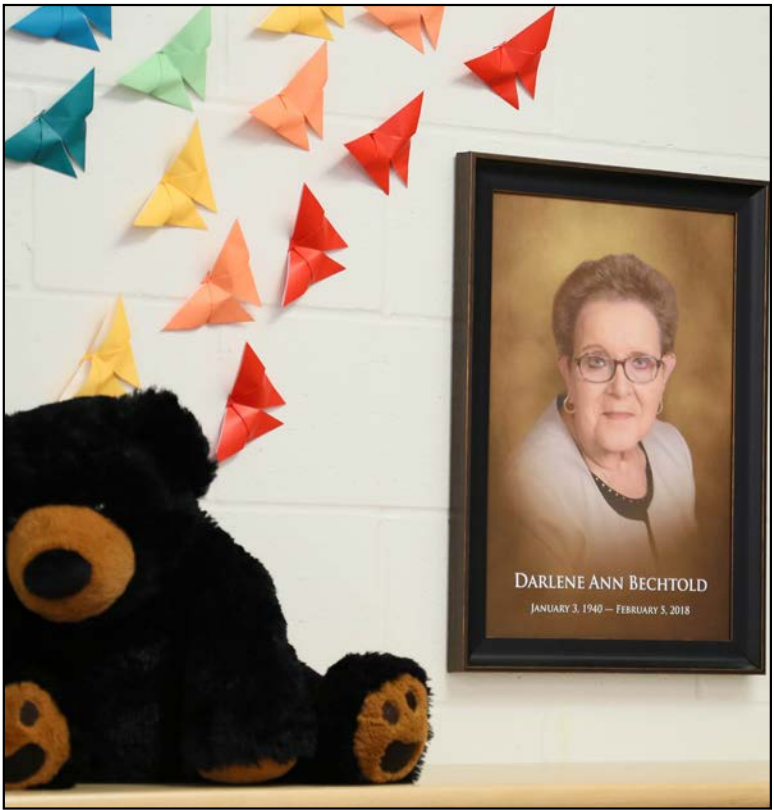
This year’s students from that classroom were especially impacted by her death and decided to write a song in memory of her to perform at her memorial dedication. Bauer wrote the refrain and asked the students to help write the verses.

After brainstorming numerous adjectives, quotes or small stories about Bechtold, they turned those ideas into the verses of the song.

From the experience of creating the song, Bauer said they were able to share many memories of “Grandma Darlene” and to experience the process of writing a song.

Putnam said people are welcome to stop at the school’s media center to view the tribute to an amazing educator.

“Grandma Darlene was a beloved part of our learning community,” Putnam said. “She cared so deeply about the students and staff at Kennedy Community School. We, in turn, felt the same. She will be well-loved in our memories.”



courtesy of St. Cloud Area School district 742

A framed photo of “Grandma Darlene” hangs in the newly dedicated Kennedy Community School reading nook, located in the school library. Bechtold was a foster grandparent at Kennedy for 12 years before her death in February after suffering a stroke. For additional photos, visit thenewsleaders.com.



contributed photo

Teacher, coach and courageous cancer survivor Pat Forte inspires a group of students in 2014 during one of his many pep talks about life, adversity and the true meaning of “winner.”

Council

from front page

resignation June 4. Klein was not in attendance at the meeting nor was his attorney.

In the prepared statement Schultz did state the city will be taking several actions to address areas of concern raised by the complaint and the subsequent investigation. The actions include workplace harassment training for staff, whistle blower and retaliation policy, and implementation of a police audit system to ensure processes and procedures are being followed.

Schultz said the acceptance of the resignation made it possible to begin the search for Klein’s replacement as soon as possible. He went on to say the police department had borne this ordeal well and had carried on with their duties of serving and protecting the city in a professional manner.

Following the reading of the statement, the council adjourned.

City administrator Judy Weyrens clarified the city already has in place requirements for harassment training and a whistle blower and retaliation policy as well as a large book of policies and procedures for police officers. What is a work in progress at the present moment is the audit system to ensure policies are being followed correctly.

A new ordinance

The Council also authorized a new ordinance prohibiting the distribution of handbills on private property unless placed in a container or given directly to the property owner. The problem presently is items such as weekly shoppers, and other advertising handbills are often simply thrown in driveways and then become soiled and useless litter and trash. The ordinance specifically exempts newspapers mail, and other materials property owners might subscribe to and pay for.

The council discussed the issue at some length. Council member Bob Loso said the handbills are a nuisance but did not think simply legislating on the issue would go very far in ad-

ressing the problem.

“I think it is an unenforceable ordinance,” Loso said. “It looks fine on paper, but when it comes down to reality, I don’t think it can be enforced. I think our police officers are going to have a lot better things to do than track down a carrier.”

Distribution of such handbills and advertising shoppers by throwing them on the driveways would be a petty misdemeanor and could eventually result in legal action and a fine by the city.

The council passed the ordinance by a vote of 3-1 with Loso voting no.

Other items of interest

The council swore in its newest member, Anne Buckvold, who will fill the council seat vacated by Matt Killam who resigned at the end of April. Buckvold’s seat is up for election in November and Buckvold has indicated she intends to run to hold that seat for a full term.

The council held a public hearing on vacating a drainage and utility easement in order to combine lots 10 and 11 in Block 3 of the Country Manor Campus. The various utility companies have no objection to the combining of lots and see no problems with easements according to City Administrator Judy Weyrens. With that, the council closed the public hearing and approved the resolution 2018-025.

The council also received the results of a debt-management study undertaken by Northland Securities. Tammy Omdal presented the information giving the city high marks for its management of debt.

City Engineer Randy Sabart requested the council authorize the execution of a service agreement allowing for the survey and platting work to begin for the new industrial park. The city has been working with the Department of Employment and Economic Development to secure the funding in the form of a grant that will be authorized this fall. Construction on the project is slated to begin this fall and getting the survey and platting work done will allow for faster execution once the shovel work begins. The council authorized the agreement.



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Baseball Roundup

by **Dave DeMars**
news@thenewsleaders.com

St. Joseph shut out Becker Bandits, 6-0

Jack Atkinson pitched a one-hit smoothie against the Becker Bandits on June 10. Atkinson was masterful on the mound striking out seven and giving two walks while allowing only one hit in eight innings. Hunter Blommer covered the ninth and finished the game.

The St. Joseph bats gave ample support as they scattered 11 hits and picked up six runs in nine innings. Atkinson was the winning pitcher.

St. Joseph deflates Albertville Villains' hopes, 6-2

June 8 looked like it was going to be a long evening for the St. Joseph Joes as the Villains put up two runs in the first two innings. Pitcher Greg Anderson got tagged for several hits in the early going but found the zone and shut out the Villains in the last seven innings. Anderson pitched all nine innings giving up nine hits, two bases on balls and striking out five batters.

The Joes managed one run in the first inning, but the bats came alive in the seventh and they got three more runs. The Joes tagged Villain pitcher Mike Wallace for nine hits in seven innings, good for a total of four runs, and then the Joes tapped reliever I Harken for four more hits and two runs.

The Joes were error free in the fielding department. Greg Anderson was the winning pitcher.

Beaudreau Saints trounce the Joes, 9-5

Yogi Berra is often quoted as saying that "It ain't over til it's over." And on the evening of June 6, the St. Joseph Joes learned what Berra meant by that quote.

The Joes jumped out in front in the second inning putting up a run. On the mound Nathan Mohs was giving a strong performance for five innings giving up five hits and two runs. Meanwhile the Joes had a blowout inning and scored five runs themselves in the fifth inning giving them the lead at the end of five.

But the baseball gods are a fickle bunch and when Joey Atkinson relieved Mohs, things turned sour. The Saints were able to pick up two runs in the sixth inning and in the ninth, they had a blowout inning themselves scoring five runs.

Atkinson gave up seven runs in three-and-a-third innings pitched and was tagged with the loss.

Molus

from front page

for her help, Molus said she had a hard time saying "no" to requests. She also found it fun to be out doing things with and for other people.

Molus said she has been able to meet and establish many connections with people through her parish, the Church of St. Joseph Catholic Church. She considers the parishioners to be like a large family and said she feels it would have been harder to get to know people if she hadn't been a member of the parish.

Molus has helped with the Catholic church's annual Fourth of July festival for about 70 years. She began helping wait tables when she was 12 or 13 years old and has been helping annually since then. Currently, she coordinates the intake of items for the festival.

Some of the other many things Molus has volunteered with include representing the parish by preparing once-a-month meals for Place of Hope for about 12 years. This involved preparing three or four turkeys, mashed potatoes, gravy, rice and other foods in her home and transporting it to Place of Hope in St. Cloud. Usually, about 80-100 people were served at these meals. She recently retired from this position because it was becoming harder for her to carry the large containers of food.

The Catholic church has four groups that help with dining services for funerals. Molus is in charge of one of those groups. There are several church cleaning groups for the parish and she also helps with one of those groups.

Molus helps serve school lunches once each week at All Saints Academy-St. Joseph campus during the school year.

"I like the school," she said. "The kids always seem so hap-

py there."

Molus is a member of the St. Joseph Y2K Lions and serves on various committees with the group, including coordinating people to help at the St. John's Dining Services and helping with brat sales.

She volunteers with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, helping with mailings for the College of St. Benedict.

Molus has been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 328 of St. Joseph for 42 years. Her husband served in the Army and her twin brothers, Dave and Don, served in the Marines.

Molus said she feels fortunate that with all of her volunteering, she has always had other wonderful volunteers helping work alongside her.

Margaret has four children, who along with their spouses include Sandra and David Woods, Mark and Jackie Molus, Gregory and Lori Molus, and Ronald and Dee Dee Molus.

She has eight grandchildren who include Mitchell and Cole Woods; Matthew, Luke, Andrea, Maxwell and Jack Molus; and Tristen Mortenson.

St. Joseph Lions parade co-chairperson Joanne Bechtold said they usually have about 100 units in the annual Fourth of July parade.

Bechtold and her husband, Joe, along with Ken and Mary Stommies, have been parade co-chairs helping coordinate the annual parade for a number of years.

Float categories for the parade include Best Dressed Business, Cool Youth, Wow! Extreme!, Classy Vehicles, Animals and a Fourth of July theme.

The St. Joseph Lion's Club was chartered in 1964 when a group of citizens organized the club, hoping to improve the quality of life in St. Joseph. The club contributes to many local projects.

The annual parade is scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 4, in St. Joseph.



photo by Cori Hillsen

Margaret Molus, 82, holds her cat Gigi as she discusses being chosen to be the grand marshal for the annual Fourth of July parade. She is being honored for her many years of service to the St. Joseph area.

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Opinion

Our View

Don't let fall election be all about Trump

Two names you probably haven't heard until recently, if at all, should set the agenda of issues for the midterm elections.

While the elected leaders of the Democratic and Republican parties frequently frame the choice as a referendum on Donald Trump, there are urgent issues that need action and that will shape the United States long after Trump is gone.

Asking voters to decide only if Trump is clueless and corrupt certainly is worth debating, but it's not the only crucial choice to be made this fall.

The two names Tom Steyer and Richard Painter are not elected officials of either party, but they have played background roles for years.

Steyer, who made his billions as a hedge-fund manager, "retired" from Wall Street and has used his fortune to back liberal candidates and causes. Steyer raised his national profile with television ads promoting his Need to Impeach campaign. Trump, Steyer claims, is reckless, lawless and dangerous.

Painter, who was George W. Bush's chief ethics counsel in the White House, appears on cable news frequently arguing Trump should be impeached for violating the Constitution's emoluments clause. Painter's frequent TV appearances and Tweets to half-a-million followers criticize Trump as unethical and corrupt. Painter, a law professor at the University of Minnesota, announced he's running as a Democrat for the U.S. Senate. He's competing with Sen. Tina Smith in the August DFL primary. A lifelong Republican, Painter is running as a Democrat because he says the Republicans have "gone off the deep end."

While the two men share the goal of seeing Trump impeached and removed from office, what they are saying about other issues offers an agenda for the fall and that will perhaps help Democrats focus on more than Trump's fitness for office. Republicans too should tell voters where they stand on issues beyond loyalty to Trump.

Steyer recently spoke at a town hall in Minneapolis that was part of a nationwide tour and after making the case for impeachment, he answered questions about challenges facing the country.

Painter offered his list of key issues during a Q & A with voters last week.

- Both men shape the fall debate on these issues:
- Health care.
 - The environment, climate change and clean air and water.
 - Education funding.
 - Equal rights and racial disparity in jobs and income.

In addition, Steyer's list includes protecting workers' rights and unions. Painter zeros in on climate change by asking would you buy stock in a company whose leaders disregard science? And unlike other DFLers, Painter opposes on environmental grounds opening the Iron Range to copper-nickel mining.

The elected party leaders who have trouble focusing and advancing issues should take a look at what outsiders Steyer and Painter are talking about.

This election should not just be all about Trump.

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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.

Beware the virtues of a paperless world

The paperless society is truly here and I enthusiastically embrace it.

No more paper tickets, bills or checks.

Manage your finances, indeed your entire life, with a click of a mouse or with a tap on a smartphone.

It sounds great and it works like magic...until it doesn't. Then we are victims to an electronic high-tech hell.

Multiple digital failures on a day when we just wanted to eat and watch baseball left me longing for the old world of paper.

My spouse and I have been Twins season-ticket holders for years and for the past several years, we've purchased the team's Flex Plan, which offers a bank of tickets to use when and how you wish.

With the Flex Plan, fans access their "tickets" in a mobile format only available via the Ballpark app. Along with the tickets, fans also receive a 10-percent discount on food and merchandise, also activated by a code on the Ballpark app or by scanning a barcode on a plastic card.

When it's time for the game, the fan opens the digital ticket with a barcode on a smartphone and it's scanned for entry to the game.

That's where my trouble began. At a recent game, we passed through

Mike Knaak

Editor



the metal detector and the ticket taker tried to scan my phone for our two tickets.

No deal. The scanner couldn't see the code. The ticket guy tried several more scans, twisting and angling the scanner and my phone to get just the right shot at the bar code. Meanwhile, the line of other fans stacked up behind us. Finally, he asked another official to help. He entered the number manually on the scanner and it worked.

We had the same issue with digital tickets several times last year. The ticket taker said the scanner was too sensitive to sunlight so the ticket needed to be in the shade and scanned at just the right angle. I had hoped the Twins had improved their technology before this season because the sun often shines at baseball games.

At last we were in the park and it was time to find some food.

We like Kramarczuk's Polish sausage and bratwurst. After ordering, my spouse tried to pay with her credit card, but the chip reader said

her account was invalid. So, I tried with my debit card. That didn't work either. Obviously, the chip card reader was broken. I offered to pay cash, but the server wasn't able to read my discount card either. Not being able to take advantage of a 10-percent discount for more than \$20 worth of food didn't cut it. Still hungry, we moved on to another food stand with functioning technology.

The digital disaster at the baseball game followed a day when I wrestled with the old technology of paper checks. I write maybe 10 checks a year and I needed to pay a business that didn't offer online payments. Opening my dusty checkbook I found I was out of checks. Now I couldn't find my stash of blank checks. It had been so long since I last needed a new pad, I thought I was out of them and needed to order some more. After some research and digging, I did indeed have more blank checks....last ordered more than four years ago.

Back at Target Field, the game ended with a Twins victory. As we left our seats and headed for the exit, I noticed the Kramarczuk's worker and two Target Field staffers gathered around the offending digital payment technology, trying to get it to work. At that point, I'll bet the old world of paper looked pretty attractive to them too.

Bad things happen to good people

I, for one, will miss Chief Joel Klein.

Nine years ago, he sat across my desk from me, then one of a handful of police officers on the St. Joseph force.

He said, "Bad things happen to good people."

I was reeling from the shock of discovering one of my employees had been embezzling from me for the past 18 months.

This man in blue, who literally dwarfed all around him both in stature and distinction, on first glance, appeared daunting, intimidating and fierce, someone to be reckoned with, possibly an ex-Marine, what with his bald head and muscular build.

But surprisingly, his demeanor was sympathetic and compassionate, kind and caring, protective and calming.

As he listened to my plight, I felt like I was confiding in someone who had my best interests at heart.

He said 98 percent of victims I deal with somehow play a part, intentionally or not, in what happens to them. In this case, he said, I feel you are truly not to blame; this wasn't the first time she's scammed someone, she's just never been caught before.

Then for the next 18 months,

Janelle Von Pinnon

Publisher



Klein handled my case as the county attorney set out to prosecute this woman.

During the course of that time, he would come to visit me every month or two to update me on the status of the investigation, share some of his personal life about his wife and four kids, as well as spend a few minutes playing laser tag with the office cat.

He always brightened my day with his easy smile, twinkling eyes and genuine sense of humor.

I thought to myself, for one who deals with the grittier parts of life, he somehow has managed to keep that in perspective and also stay human in an occupation that surely can strip the goodness from a soul.

One time, I said to him he was a big teddy bear, and he said, don't let that get around cause it could ruin my reputation.

This spring, someone chose to bring Klein down and do just that, ruin his reputation. Whether the

accusations were warranted or not, we'll never know as those involved were sworn to secrecy and Klein, himself, resigned most likely to avoid a long drawn-out court battle and so he would be able to continue to work in his field.

And, unfortunately for all involved, this generates rumors that may or may not be accurate, fosters mistrust within the community and makes one wonder if the truth will ever come out.

I'm not saying people don't make mistakes because they do, but Klein is not one who's so arrogant he wouldn't admit it if he did. On the contrary, I feel he's a decent person who's honest, candid, forthright – a straight shooter.

And though I may not be an expert judge of character, I feel compelled to go to bat for Klein, who consistently proved to me, again and again, his integrity both professionally and as a human being. I choose to believe his virtue and goodness, and am proud to call him a friend and colleague.

Yes, bad things do happen to good people.

I wish you all the best in your future pursuits, Chief Klein.

Newsleader welcomes letters, explains letters policy

The Newsleader welcomes letters to the editor on current topics of local interest.

Writers are limited to one letter every three months.

Letters must be signed and include contact information, such as an email or phone number, for

verification, but that information will not be published.

During election campaigns, letters will be chosen to present a variety of opinions.

Letters that do not run in print will appear on our website, www.thenewsleaders.com.

To be considered for publication, letters must be exclusive to the Newsleader.

Letters to the editor may be sent to news@thenewsleaders.com or P.O. Box 324, St. Joseph, MN 56374. Deadline is noon Monday. Letters must be 350 words or less.

A grand ol’ flag and a bunch of others

Memorial Day is just behind us and the Fourth of July is ahead. But, sandwiched in between both of those patriotic holidays is another oft-forgotten – Flag Day on June 14.

I’m not here to discuss what the holiday means or anything else, but rather the American flag itself. I suspect I may have some opinions that could be unpopular or controversial, but I ask you hear me out.

The American flag is an icon for our country. Now, whatever “America” as an idea may mean to you or should mean is another topic entirely. Iconography, however, is something I really enjoy talking about. Icons are a shorthand representation of something larger. We encounter

them all the time now in our digital user interfaces, but for the longest time icons were relegated just to things like letters, numbers, signs and (you guessed it) flags.

The American flag is an icon for America. What bothers me is seeing the American flag co-opted by other groups. America is all of us, whether we agree or disagree. No one group is more American than another. When groups co-opt the American flag, in a way they are saying they are America, and anyone not them is not America. I don’t agree with that notion.

As part of the St. Cloud Municipal Band, I played at the VA for their program to honor our soldiers on Memorial

Patric Lewandowski

Guest Writer



Day. There were many flags and such. Our servicemen and servicewomen are fighting and dying for all of America, whether they agree with you or not. America is a singular entity in that respect.

I don’t like seeing the American flag displayed in a similar fashion by civic groups. Specifically, I don’t like the mutated version of the American flag that oftentimes people who want to support their local law enforcement will use. This ver-

sion looks like an American flag, except it has changed its colors to be black and white with one blue stripe.

I don’t like this version of the flag for a multitude of reasons. First, the American flag is red, white and blue. By changing the colors, you’ve changed the icon. The geek in me says it’s not official, that it’s fan art. I also don’t like it equates civic police officers, who do have a level of danger in their chosen careers, with servicemen and servicewomen who are sent out of their communities into openly hostile territory. Police officers do a great service to their community, but they are not soldiers.

Imagine if every civic or local

group altered the American flag. Do you support the librarians? Better fly an American flag that has red and black stripes with yellow stars. Doctors save lives, so show your support for them with your red and blue-striped flag with blue stars on a white field. Seems silly now, doesn’t it? Even worse, it really is diluting what the actual American flag can and should be.

It’s OK to support police, and you should because without them we’d all be massively screwed. You can even think of them as heroes if you want. But, don’t wrap them in the flag. It cheapens both the men and women who serve our communities and the American flag.

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, June 15
St. Joseph Farmers’ Market, 3-6:30 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, under the water tower near the Wobegon Trail Center, C.R. 2.
St. Joseph Area Historical Society, open 4-7 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave. NW. stjosephhistoricalmn.org.
St. Cloud Singles Club Dance, 8 p.m.-midnight, American Legion, 17 Second Ave. S., Waite Park. 320-339-4533. stcloudsingles.net.

Saturday, June 16
St. Cloud Area Farmers’ Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Lady Slipper parking lot, downtown St. Cloud.
St. Cloud Waite Park Harvest Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Crossroads Cen-

ter parking lot, 4101 W. Division St., St. Cloud.
Quarry Parks 20th Anniversary Celebration, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., rock climbing, park scavenger hunt, derrick demonstrations, historical re-enactment, mammal and wetland education, and an aquarium photo booth. 1802 CR 137 Waite Park, 320-255-6172.

Monday, June 18
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave. NW, St. Joseph.
St. Joseph City Council, 6 p.m., council chambers, St. Joseph City Hall, 75 Callaway St. E. 363-7201. cityofstjoseph.com.
St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club, 7 p.m., American Legion, 101 W Minnesota St., St. Joseph.

Tuesday, June 19
St. Joseph Economic Development Authority, 5 p.m., St. Joseph City Hall, 75 Callaway St. E. 320-363-7201. cityofstjoseph.com.
Central Minnesota Market, 3-5:30 p.m., VA Health Care System, 4801 Veterans Drive, St. Cloud. 320-251-2498.
St. Cloud Area Genealogists, 7

p.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. stearns-museum.org.
St. Joseph Lions Club, 7:30 p.m., Millstream Park Pavilion, 101 Fifth Ave. NW., St. Joseph. Joanne Bechtold, 320-363-4483

Wednesday, June 20
“Prepare Ye The Way,” a concert presented by The National Catholic Youth Choir of St. John’s Abbey, 7:30 p.m., Sacred Heart Chapel, 104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph.

Thursday, June 21
Lemonade Concert and Art Fair, 11 a.m.-8:30 p.m., St. Cloud State University, 720 Fourth Ave. S., St. Cloud. 320-308-2205.
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave. NW., St. Joseph.
Family Farmers’ Market, 2-6 p.m., River East parking lot, CentraCare Health Plaza, 1900 CentraCare Circle, St. Cloud. 320-252-2422.
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, June 22
St. Joseph Farmers’ Market, 3-6:30 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, under the water tower near the Wobegon Trail Center, C.R. 2.

Saturday, June 23
St. Cloud Area Farmers’ Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Lady Slipper parking lot, downtown St. Cloud.
St. Cloud Waite Park Harvest Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Crossroads Center parking lot, 4101 W. Division St., St. Cloud.

Sunday, June 24
“Prepare Ye The Way,” Mass and concert presented by The National Catholic Youth Choir of St. John’s Abbey, 10 a.m., St. John’s Abbey and University Church, 2900 Abbey Plaza, Collegeville.
Joe Town Table, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., American Legion, 101 W. Minnesota St., St. Joseph. Every fourth Sunday of the month. centralmncw@gmail.com.

Monday, June 25
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave. NW., St. Joseph.
Market Monday, 3-6:30 p.m., park-

ing lot of Coborn’s Market Place, 1725 Pinecone Road S., Sartell, marketmonday.org.
St. Joseph Park Board, 6 p.m., St. Joseph City Hall, 75 Callaway St. E. 363-7201. cityofstjoseph.com.

Thursday, June 28.
Kids Can Blood Drive, noon-6 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 N. CR 2. 800-733-2767.
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave. NW., St. Joseph.
Family Farmers’ Market, 2-6 p.m., River East parking lot, CentraCare Health Plaza, 1900 CentraCare Circle, St. Cloud. 320-252-2422.
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. Cloud school board, 7 p.m., City Council Chambers, 400 S. Second St., St. Cloud.

Friday, June 29
St. Joseph Farmers’ Market, 3-6:30 p.m., near the Wobegon Trail Center, CR 2.

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Pfannenstein files for sheriff

by **Dennis Dalman**
news@thenewsleaders.com

St. Joseph Police Sgt. Dwight Pfannenstein, who is currently serving as the city's acting police chief, filed June 5 to compete for the position of Stearns County sheriff.

Pfannenstein became acting chief April 19 after then-chief Joel Klein was placed on administrative leave by the city because of allegations made against him. After the city council's investigation into the allegations, which have not been made public, Klein resigned, as announced by Mayor Rick Schultz at the June 4 council meeting (see related story).

Pfannenstein is the fourth and last person to file for the sheriff



Pfannenstein

position. An Aug. 14 primary will determine which two of the four will compete in the Nov. 6 election. The others who filed are Waite Park Police Chief Dave Benrud; Stearns County Sheriff Deputy Sgt. Steve Soyka and Stearns County Sheriff Deputy Lt. Robert Dickhaus.

Pfannenstein said he always had his heart set on someday becoming Stearns County sheriff, even in his early days of police work. Raised in St. Joseph, Pfannenstein said he has lifelong connections to every town and city in Stearns County because of social, business and police connections. He said he knows, understands and values highly the residents of the county.

As acting police chief, Pfannenstein oversees a staff of nine full-time officers, one part-time officer and an office-records specialist.

Pfannenstein and his brother, Kyle, are the sons of Cyril and Janet Pfannenstein, also long-time area residents who are related to the Pfannensteins who founded and

still operate the St. Joseph Meat Market. He attended the St. Joseph Lab School, graduated from Cathedral High School and later graduated from Willmar Community College with an associate's degree in law enforcement in 1996. He went on to attain further education at St. Cloud State University where he earned an interdepartmental sociology degree with an emphasis on social deviance. At SCSU, he minored in criminal-justice studies.

In 2000, Pfannenstein became a patrol officer in Albany, the other officer being Joel Klein. The chief of Albany, Pete Jansky, became the St. Joseph Police Chief in 2001, and Klein and Pfannenstein joined the St. Joseph department at that time.

In 2007, Pfannenstein was promoted to sergeant.

He is a firm believer in the Minnesota work ethic, which he said made possible for him the realization of the American Dream. During his schooling years, he worked at the St. Joseph Meat Market. When he was a teenager, he and a friend began a music DJ service that was highly successful for many years. With his brother, Kyle, he started a specialty transportation bus service to bring groups of people to events and trips. The service still operates under Kyle's ownership.

In 2004, Pfannenstein founded Pfannenstein Landscaping, based in Avon, which now has nine employees and is still owned and operated by Pfannenstein.

"My heart is in St. (Joseph), my heart is in Stearns County," said Pfannenstein during an interview with the St. Joseph Newsleader. "I would be a good sheriff because I have lots of experiences - police union steward, firearms instructor, taser instructor, lots of training programs and many other police duties. I wear many hats. As sheriff, I would want to be fair, to be the guy people can trust and who can do the best job I possibly can. I know how to run a business and how to work with people."

Among the aspects of sheriff work Pfannenstein would like to emphasize are these:

- Train not just newcomers but long-time police about the changing nature of society and thus the changing nature of law-enforcement work in a newer, complex society.

- A possible expansion or construction of a new county jail because at times the jail is so full the county has to pay other jails to house those who are arrested and detained. That money drain should be stopped, Pfannenstein said.

- Deputies must spend more time getting to know people in towns and cities throughout the county with lots of face-to-face interactions.

Pfannenstein has a girlfriend of six years, Amy Bonfig, who founded the Little Saints Academy. She has two daughters, Madeline, a senior at Hamline University; and Hillary, 13, a student at St. John's Prep School.

Pfannenstein's hobbies are hunting and fishing.



photos by Mike Knaak

Wendy Loso and Sherrie Klein stand in the remodeled kitchen of the former credit union office.

Credit union office remodeled into unique Collegeville home

by **Mike Knaak**
editor@thenewsleaders.com

The mother/daughter team of Sherrie Klein and Wendy Loso snapped up a former credit union building and quickly remodeled it into what turned out to be a fast-selling one-of-a kind residence in Collegeville Township.

The building, that housed a branch of the Central Minnesota Credit Union at one time, came on the market in March.

The duo moved quickly.

"I have a ton of buyers looking for property in this area," said Loso, a realtor with First Realty. "They want acreage, it's close to St. John's University and close to the interstate."

When asked by a visitor what was done to the building, both women said in unison, "a lot."

Klein owns Klein Builders with her husband Mark.

"We totally demoed the whole inside," Klein said. "It had no kitchen. We had to cut up the floors."

The crew added an entryway, three-car garage and mud room.

The patio just off the kitchen offers a convenient place for grilling and for watching wildlife on the partially wooded two-acres. As the women

showed a visitor around, a deer slowly walked across the yard.

Mark Klein knew his way around the project. He worked as a carpenter on the crew that constructed the building for the Collegeville Community Credit Union in 1982.

The result: a three-bedroom, three-bathroom, 2,300-square-foot residence on Fruit Farm Road.

The construction crew finished the work about June 1 and Loso listed it for \$449,900.

As of last week, Loso had a finalized purchase agreement for the property.

"We like finding these projects so we can work together," Klein said. Loso watches for properties coming on the market that have remodeling potential.

"We were amazed at how many people drove by and asked what we were doing with the building," Klein said.

The women hosted an open house for members of St. John the Baptist Parish, across the road, and between 30 and 40 people toured on June 2.

The former financial institution does come with one unique feature. There's a metal safe inside a concrete block enclosure in the lower level utility room.



The remodeling included adding a three-stall garage.



A stamped concrete compass adds a decorative touch to the landscaping.



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