

# St. Joseph Newsleader

Friday, July 27, 2018  
Volume 30, Issue 26  
Est. 1989

## Town Crier

### Sheriffs' forum to be held Aug. 6

On Monday, Aug. 6, the League of Women Voters, St. Cloud Area, will co-sponsor with the Whitney Senior Center, a forum featuring Stearns County Sheriff candidates Dave Benrud, Bob Dickhaus and Steve Soyka. The event will be from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Whitney Senior Center, 1527 Northway Drive, St. Cloud. Candidates Benrud, Dickhaus and Soyka will be on the Aug. 14 primary election ballot, along with Dwight Pfannenstien, who is no longer running for the seat. Candidate forums are open to the public, and audience members are invited to submit written questions. The candidates receive equal time to respond.

### 'Jumanji' to show Aug. 10

"Jumangi" is the Aug. 10 selection for Movies Under the Stars, hosted by St. Cloud Park & Recreation. The free event begins at dusk at Field C-3 in Whitney Memorial Park. Concessions are available. Rain site is Whitney Rec Center. For more information, visit ci.stcloud.mn.us or call 320-255-7277.

### Make a difference in a child's life

Lutheran Social Service/St. Cloud Area Crisis Nursery is in need of volunteers to staff their crisis line from home between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. Volunteers receive training on working the crisis line and working with families in crisis. Contact Conni Orth, LSS Crisis Nursery, at 320-654-1090 or conni.orth@lssmn.org.

### For additional stories...

- For these additional stories, check out our website at the-newsleaders.com
- Council denies Klein's benefits after resignation
  - Persistence, finally, brings Wobegon Trail to Waite Park
  - Bikers comment on new section of Lake Wobegon trail
  - Warning lights on CR 2 reduce collisions

## St. Joseph Township approves annexation plan

by Dave DeMars  
news@thenewsleaders.com

A crowd of about 200 St. Joseph Township residents gathered in the AMI Auction Facility on July 17 for a public hearing on what was going to become of the township and how it might change and affect them. After a long, raucous meeting, the St. Joseph Township Board voted 3-0 to accept the resolution for designation of an area for immediate annexation pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 414.0325.

Township Chair Mark Thompson called the meeting to order before handing it off to the township attorney Michael Couri. Couri set about the process of explaining the issues and laying out the options.

The city of St. Joseph had voted on July 16 to annex portions of the township, Couri said, and had been meeting



photo by Dave DeMars

**St. Joseph Township Board members (left to right) Mark Thompson, Steve Gohman and Ralph Eiyneck cast their votes to accept the joint resolution to allow for annexation of a portion of St. Joseph Township.**

with members of the township board to try and hammer out some compromise agreement to defuse some of the anger township residents had expressed in earlier meetings. A July deadline was jointly agreed to by the city and township negotiators.

Couri explained the annexation disagreement stems from the city taking the position that they had a contractual right to

annex portions of the township under the Orderly Annexation Agreement of 2010. The township maintained a different position. Hence, the dispute, and the meetings since January to the present to find a compromise position.

Couri pointed out on a map that the city is not looking to annex all of the township, only certain portions of it. Couri told

the crowd if the annexation issue is not settled, it would end in litigation, and townships throughout the state have not fared well when facing the administrative law judge.

"Basically, it's winner take all," Couri said. "And even if we win in court, the city can annex the township in other ways."

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## New chief, city have grown together

by Mike Knaak  
editor@thenewsleaders.com

When Dwight Pfannenstien was growing up in St. Joseph, most of the town's 2,500 residents in the 1980s knew each other.

Now, as the city's new police chief, Pfannenstien, 43, is responsible for a much larger city, with almost 7,000 residents, with more diversity and newcomers than during his childhood.

"When I grew up, the population was a lot smaller and

you knew more people," Pfannenstien said. "The population has grown because people have chosen St. Joseph because it's a beautiful place to live."

When former Chief Joel Klein resigned recently, the City Council offered the job to Pfannenstien on June 18. A police department sergeant, he had been serving as interim chief while



**Pfannenstien**

Klein was suspended during an investigation into his conduct.

Pfannenstien and his brother, Kyle, are the sons of Cyril and Janet Pfannenstien, longtime 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 and St. Cloud State University with a bachelor's degree.

In 2000, Pfannenstien be-

came a patrol officer in Albany. The Albany chief, Pete Jansky, became the St. Joseph police chief and hired Pfannenstien in 2002. In 2007, Pfannenstien was promoted to sergeant.

During his first month as chief, Pfannenstien says he's getting reacquainted with administration duties such as budgets, replacing squad cars and maintenance. He credits his smooth transition to chief Jansky who he says "showed me the ropes" before he retired.

At the top of Pfannenstien's

**Chief • page 2**

## Colt Action Packs program completes its first year

by Cori Hilsgen  
news@thenewsleaders.com

The Colt Action Packs program, a new outreach program at Kennedy Community School, recently completed its first year. The program, funded entirely by donations and grants, distributed food to an average of 35 students each week during the school year as well as an additional bag during school breaks.

Hoping to help support students' health, behavior and achievement, nonperishable food items were provided each

weekend during the school year to help bridge a gap that can occur when food is less available in the home during the weekend.

The packs included foods such as Nutri-Grain bars, oatmeal, soup, macaroni and cheese, applesauce, fruit snacks, beef jerky, popcorn, crackers and pudding. One fruit, donated by a community member, was also usually included.

The food bags were placed in students' backpacks confidentially before or after school

**Colt • page 5**



contributed photo

**Central Minnesota Catholic Worker Molly Weyrens helps pack food for the Colt Action Packs program.**



## People

**Gabrielle Martone** of St. Joseph was recently named to the spring dean’s list at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. To be eligible, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits. Each school or college sets its own grade-point requirements.

**Connor MacKinney** of St. Joseph graduated with honors May 5 from Montana State University in Bozeman.

The partners, associates and professional staff of the St. Cloud office of Stinson Leonard Street have joined Moss & Barnett. The transition includes **Brian Schoenborn** of St. Joseph, who joined as a shareholder. Schoenborn counsels individuals, families and business owners on business-succession planning, wealth preservation and estate-and-trust administration. He also provides general counsel representation to private and family businesses within the manufacturing, high technology and sports-and-entertainment industries.

**Nadine Leibfried** of St. Joseph recently earned her bachelor’s degree in nursing from Western Governors University in Salt Lake City, Utah. The online, nonprofit university held commencement ceremonies earlier this year to celebrate the recent graduation of more than 15,000 students from across the country.

**Felix Shouse Tourino** has been awarded the Minnesota Music Teachers Association Grand Challenge Award trophy. During his seven years of piano study he has earned 2,500 points for participating in various musical competitions, performances and exams. The programs have required him to study music theory, keyboard skills and music history as well as performing repertoire. Shouse Tourino will enter the eighth grade at Kennedy Community School this fall.

St. Joseph **Midco** customers should expect overnight service interruptions while the company upgrades its equipment. The service interruptions

will take place from midnight to 6 a.m. through Tuesday, Sept. 25. Each neighborhood should expect two- to three-day interruptions, according to the company. Customers will receive mail and email notifications for specific outage dates. If customers have questions about this technology update, they should go to [www.Midco.com/Contact](http://www.Midco.com/Contact).

**Brenny Transportation** Inc. of St. Joseph has been named one of the Top 150 Workplaces in Minnesota by the Star Tribune. Top Workplaces recognizes the most progressive companies in Minnesota based on employee opinions measuring engagement, organizational health and satisfaction. The analysis included responses from more than 71,000 employees at Minnesota public, private and nonprofit organizations. Brenny Transportation was ranked 18th on the small-company list. Brenny Transportation has been listed in the Top Workplaces six times in the last seven years.

## Chief

### from front page

to-do list is hiring a patrol officer to bring the department back to nine full-time officers. The city’s personnel committee accepted applications until July 23 and Pfannenstein said the committee plans to select the top five applicants for interviews on July 31.

Next on the agenda...college students return for fall semester. Pfannentein plans to meet with students who live off campus to have a conversation about city ordinances and behavior.

“We’re going to look at opening up relations with the college in the fall,” he said. “We’ve really worked on trying to bridge the gap between residents and students. We’ve stepped up enforcement the last few years including East Ash (Street).

“We want college to be a fun and cooperative year. We want to get along as best we can. I’ve been part of off-campus

housing meetings to explain city ordinances.

“(But) for some reason that message gets forgotten. I’d like to hit home that point and get them involved with a questions-and-answer session, have a conversation. It’s getting students to understand even though this is a small town, we still have the same laws and ordinances just on a small(er) scale.”

Pfannenstein does not see the recent annexation agreement as a reason to add another officer at this time.

“We did check in the areas where we’re looking to take in and there were about 95 residents. That’s not a lot of extra households,” he said. “The area is more geared toward commercial. The calls are mostly car accidents, thefts and burglaries.”

The chief’s agenda includes keeping the department up to date on training and technology and getting it all done within budget.

Longer term, the police department, along with all city departments has been tasked with envisioning what their teams will look like in five or 10 years. He’ll be thinking about how growth, such as annexation, will affect resources and department organization.

In the meantime, Pfannenstein says, “Our police department will continue to operate with an open-door policy. We like our officers to be in the public as much as possible.”

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# Township

## from front page

What the township board presented to the residents was a compromise that secured some concessions for residents.

“It’s what each side thinks they can live with,” Couri said.

Of key concern to residents was the issue of tax rates. The township tax rate is 21.92 per thousand dollars of valuation while the city is 61.46 per thousand dollars valuation. To reduce the impact, the agreement established a rural taxing district that would tax at the 2018 rate of township taxes. Increases in tax rates would be proportional to the city’s overall 2018 tax rate.

To lessen tax consequences on township residents not annexed, the city would reimburse the township for tax revenue lost as a result of the annexation of property from the township. The reimbursement would be a percentage of tax collected starting with 100 percent in 2019, 90 percent in 2020, and reducing to 20 percent by 2024.

Many residents saw the annexation as a ploy to grab tax dollars from the township. Couri explained the compromise agreement was better than the 2010 agreement in its treatment of taxes and in other areas. Without the compromise agreement, the city could file for

annexation, probably win, and then levy taxes at the city rate immediately rather than the gradual increases proposed.

Couri explained further that much of what was set up in the compromise was circumscribed by state statute.

“I wish we could do more,” Couri said. “We can’t.”

Resident Colleen Donovan wanted to know what state statute allowed the city to tax her for services she didn’t want. She went on to chide Couri for giving incomplete information, referring to a map he was using. You’re not giving me all the information, she said, and urged the board not to accept the compromise proposal.

“United we stand, divided we fall,” said Donovan, who received a rousing round of applause.

Carmie Mick supported Donovan saying she went through annexation before in Waite Park. She expressed concern about the way in which special assessments for water and sewer would be parceled out. She feared it would be a financial burden and would get levied all at once.

Searching for an escape mechanism, Burt Walz suggested that perhaps the township could incorporate and become its own city. Couri admitted that it had been done, but that it was very expensive and also involved a good deal of risk in that the city might withdraw

from the compromise and file to annex and be able to levy taxes at the city rate.

“Either the city takes action unilaterally, or we negotiate,” Couri said. “That is what we are discussing.”

The crowd grew restless and there were shouts about the board not representing the best interests of the people, how information presented was incomplete and how the move by the city was simply designed as a money grab.

“Just vote no. There is no more conversation needed on this,” shouted one audience member.

Floyd Ostendorf analyzed the situation and questioned why, if the city of St. Joseph was not in need of the money, they were pursuing annexation now? He suggested the city let the process of annexation evolve naturally rather than pushing it on people who do not want to be annexed.

“Even though you have a legal right to do this, it is not what people do,” Ostendorf said.

Others seized on the idea of delaying the process and asking for more time to study the issue. What would it hurt? Why the rush was the question? One audience member asked what would be the result if the board simply tabled the measure or voted to study it further. Another resident asked what City Administrator Judy Wey-

rens would recommend to the council if the matter were tabled. City Attorney Sue Kadlec answered and she said she was not willing to answer as that is a discussion with the city.

She replied she did not want to share that information with the audience.

Couri explained the city had set July as the time by which they would have the issue decided. The Council had already voted to annex. If the board voted to table or delay, Couri said he felt the city would simply scrap the negotiated compromise and file for annexation under the 2010 agreement. That would mean the city could proceed to levy higher taxes than that negotiated in the compromise, and they could enforce all the city statues since there would be no compromise agreement to dictate otherwise.

The township could challenge the annexation petition in court, but that would involve

a lengthy and costly legal battle and, given past precedent, would likely end with the city’s position being affirmed.

“Even if we win, we’re going to lose,” one resident grumbled.

By 10 p.m. the crowd had begun to dwindle. There were still questions and some sporadic flashes of anger, but the crowd seemed to have accepted as inevitable the fact the negotiated compromise would be the best deal they could get in the annexation debate.

By the time the township board voted on the measure, the anger and frustration had become more exhaustion and resignation. The annexation had been talked about and examined from all sides. There was nothing more to be done. In the end, the township board voted 3-0 to accept the resolution for designation of an area for immediate annexation pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 414.0325.

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# St. Joseph boy’s lawn-mowing business thrives

by Dennis Dalman  
news@thenewsleaders.com

At the age of 15 – soon to be 16 – Parker Jordan of St. Joseph is already an entrepreneur, having started his own business almost four years ago.

The business he calls simply and directly Parker’s Lawn Care. He mows lawns, all summer long, lots and lots of lawns – an estimated 500 of them just in the past two years, all in the St. Joseph area.

Parker can often be seen on St. Joseph streets and roads, pulling his trusty red Toro Super Mulcher push mower on a carrier behind his bicycle. Some years back, Parker and a friend made the carrier with parts from a baby stroller along with a wooden platform to hold the mower securely.

At that time, Parker had a business partner, Soren Harland of St. Joseph, who is now involved with other pursuits.

“It’s easy to pull the mower on my bike,” Parker said, “unless there’s a wind.”

Why did Parker decide to start a lawn-mowing business? His answer is immediate, and an

easy one.

“I love mowing lawns,” he said. “I’ve always loved mowing lawns.”

Parker said he always gets pleasure when seeing the freshly cut rows on a lawn of ragged, overgrown grass. And when he finishes the job, he likes to stand there, sometimes wiping sweat from his brow, to observe how nice-and-new it all looks.

“I like the way it looks pretty,” he said. “And I love the smell of fresh-cut grass.”

Any downside to the business?

“Oh, yes,” said Parker, laughing. “Mosquitoes! And when it’s too hot and humid. This summer so far has been a killer with the humid heat or too much rain.”

To beat the heat – or at least to endure it – Parker has learned to drink lots of water he carries in his backpack.

He knows his Toro mower like the back of his hand. It goes through about two gallons of gasoline every three weeks and takes about a bottle of oil every month. Parker cleans and maintains his machine scrupulously and even sharpens its blades by himself.

The Toro is in prime shape, but Parker has thoughts of buying a new mower for smart business reasons.

“It would be good to have a bigger one and a wider one that would mow the lawns quicker, more efficiently,” he said.

When Parker and Soren started their lawn-mowing business, about four years ago, they distributed lots of fliers in their neighborhoods and throughout St. Joseph. They had a lot of responses, but now Parker has more than enough jobs because of happy customers and their good word-of-mouth.

“My customers are really nice,” he said. “That’s another reason I like the job.”

Parker is a student at Rocori High School and has lots of hobbies, including woodworking and music. He plays cello, piano and guitar and is a member of the high school orchestra. He will graduate in 2021.

When asked what he intends to major in, he said, “I don’t know yet.” Then he paused and – laughing – said, “Lawn-mowing maybe?”



contributed photo  
Parker Jordan of St. Joseph ingeniously rigged his own lawn-mower hauling trailer with the help of a friend several years ago. He has mowed hundreds of lawns since forming his business, Parker’s Lawn Care.



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# Colt

from front page

when students were not around. The cost of each Colt Action Pack came to about \$3.50 or \$135.00-\$150.00 for each student recipient during the school year.

Staff at Kennedy Community School provided a room for assembling the bags and storing them before distribution. Other donations to the program included donations of money, time, food and food at reduced cost from seven individuals; four businesses (Craig Hiltner/VoigtJohnson Real Estate, Kwik Trip, Coborn's-St. Joseph and Minnesota Street Market, Food and Art Coop); three local organizations (American Legion Post 328, Knights of Columbus and Resurrection Lutheran Church); and grants from Stearns Electric Association and Thrivent Financial.

The Colt Action Packs program began as a pilot program in the spring of 2017 and expanded to a weekly program throughout the 2017-2018 school year.

Minnesota Catholic Worker Molly Weyrens and members of The Partnership were involved with getting the program started. The Partnership is a group in St. Joseph that works to connect resources to needs in the area.

Nancy Holden and Sara

Borgen, two Partnership volunteers, worked with Kennedy licensed school counselor Amy O'Hare and Kennedy masters-level school counselor intern Dana Thomsen to collaborate the program.

Kennedy Student Ambassador student leaders helped pack the bags of food which were distributed each week.

The Student Ambassadors were a new group at Kennedy this past year. Their main purpose was to help orientate new students at Kennedy, but they also chose to be involved in the monthly food-packing assembly line for the Colt Action Packs.

Holden said well-nourished students are usually able to perform better in school.

"With local donors, community volunteers, student and school staff involvement, the Colt Action Packs is truly a community project," Holden said.

"What I love about this program is once again it shows how a few people can have a large and lasting impact on another group's well-being," Weyrens said."To have people in a town not be able to provide food for their family is something that should concern everyone. We are so grateful for

those who have been willing to help us in this endeavor and look forward to more community partners as we go."

Weyrens said organizers are very impressed and grateful for the great staff at Kennedy school, especially O'Hare, who has been great about connecting and helping to organize these efforts.

"Along with adults, there has also been a great group of students involved in helping to pack each bag," Weyrens said. "This allows them to get a better sense of the struggle their classmates face and see ways in which they can help. It all begins with awareness and then we can hopefully teach people to move toward action."

Kennedy Principal Laurie Putnam said the school has 834 students in kindergarten through eighth-grade, and 35.2 percent or 281 students qualify for free and reduced-price lunches.

"The Colts Action Pack program lets students from food-insecure households have consistent meals during the weekends," Putnam said. "Many from our community have given time, food and money to make this program possible. On behalf of the students and staff at Kennedy, I extend my



contributed photo

**Food products are organized for volunteers to pack backpacks for students for the Colt Action Packs program.**

sincere thanks to these people. We are so fortunate to be part of such a generous and kind community."

Parents are informed about Colt Action Packs through family electronic school e-mail, Kennedy home page, and the information is handed out at open houses and conferences. Families are then able to choose if they want to participate in the program or not. Participation is voluntary and confidential.

The Colt Action Packs program is modeled after the Rorori Action Packs program. It is similar to other backpack programs throughout the area and is intended to help meet

the growing need for additional food for children in families struggling with food insecurity and food scarcity in their homes.

Future plans for the Kennedy program are to expand the program to include more children as needs are identified and resources become available.

To volunteer or donate for the program, contact Central Minnesota Catholic Worker by email at [centralmncw@gmail.com](mailto:centralmncw@gmail.com) or by mail at P.O. Box 94, St. Joseph, Minn. 56374. The contact person at Kennedy Community School is O'Hare, 320-363-7791 ext. 6582 or [amy.ohare@isd742.org](mailto:amy.ohare@isd742.org).

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# Opinion

## Our View

### Ruling slightly opens courtroom doors to cameras

An open-government debate that has gone mostly unnoticed for the past 30 years cleared another milestone in early July.

The Minnesota Supreme Court filed an order permanently opening up Minnesota's criminal courts to cameras.

The decision comes after a 2-1/2-year pilot program on camera access to criminal proceedings. The permanent rules take effect Sept. 1.

The U.S. Supreme Court held in 1981 that states may adopt rules permitting cameras and recording equipment in their courts. Since then, all 50 states have done so, but the rules vary widely. In some states visual and audio coverage is permitted in all types of court proceedings that are public, and in others such coverage is permitted only in appellate courts.

Minnesota's rules remain among the nation's most restrictive. Except for limited programs in the 1980s, cameras were not allowed in criminal cases in lower courts until a pilot program began in 2015. For more than 25 years, media representatives were required to file an application with the court in advance of the trial, and each of the parties to the case had a chance to refuse camera access to the courtroom. This resulted in very few cases ever being shown. It provided little evidence to determine whether having cameras in the court affected the fairness of the trial.

The permanent rules fall far short of allowing total coverage.

The new rules allow audio and video recording simply at the discretion of the trial judge — the attorneys and parties don't have a veto. But recording will continue to be allowed only after a guilty plea has been accepted or a guilty verdict has been reached.

Reacting to the order, the Minnesota Newspaper Association called the decision "a modest but important victory." The Court determined "the overall impact of permitted coverage on the proceedings ranged from neutral to positive," and that there was "minimal disruption of the proceedings."

Opponents of cameras, such as Stearns County Attorney Janelle Kendall, argue the prospect of visual coverage could discourage victims from reporting crimes and deter witnesses from coming forward. Two St. Cloud-area lawmakers, Rep. Jim Knoblach and Sen. Jerry Relph, proposed legislation that would bar video and audio use in court unless the defendant, victim, prosecutor, subpoenaed witnesses and judge agree to allow it. Their legislation also barred using state funds to expand audio or video coverage of criminal courts. Those measures failed.

Opponents also argue cameras and other recording equipment disrupts and distracts jurors, lawyers and witnesses. One hundred years ago, large still cameras that needed flash bulbs could indeed disrupt the proceedings. Early huge television cameras rested on tripods and were serviced by thick cables. Technology solved that problem. Today, tiny cameras operated by remote control from outside the courtroom produce high-quality photos and sound. Most courtrooms are already equipped with microphones and sound systems.

Video reporting on trials is no longer limited to a few minutes on the evening news. Entire trials can be streamed online so citizens can see what really happens in court. The majority of Americans have never set foot in a courtroom. Learning about and appreciating the justice system by watching a real trial beats watching "Law and Order."

The new rules will provide evidence to eventually allow full trial coverage. With restrictions to protect some witnesses and victims, coverage should be expanded to all criminal proceedings.

## Dollars, demographics point to soccer success

We had gathered for a picnic, enjoying grilled hot dogs and hamburgers before heading to Target Field to celebrate a friend's 50th birthday by watching a Twins game.

But instead of gathering in the backyard around the grill, most of the group, white guys in their 50s and 60s, huddled around a TV indoors on a beautiful Minnesota Sunday morning, watching the World Cup.

This group, the least likely demographic to be soccer fans, cheered for Croatia, the underdog, while analyzing the powerful French side.

For years, observers have predicted soccer (football to the rest of the world) would find more fans in the United States.

But World Cup TV ratings were down this year by 40 percent, presumably because the American team failed to qualify.

That's too bad. If you didn't watch, you missed several thrilling games including Croatia eliminating Russia on penalty kicks, Belgium beating Brazil and Germany knocking off Sweden in the fifth minute of extra time.

I was in Ulm, Germany, the night of the German victory. Thousands of fans filled the city square to watch on giant TVs. Around the city, crowds gathered in bars and restaurants and spilled out onto the street to see the game. Elsewhere, city streets were deserted.

Thanks to patient and knowledgeable coaches, I learned about soccer's nuances and strategies as our oldest daughter played town, travel and school ball for 10 years. When she went to college and her soccer career ended, my spouse and I continued to

**Mike Knaak**  
*Editor*



be fans, mostly by watching the English Premier League on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

The closest we came to seeing England's top league in person was riding by stadiums in London and Manchester when visiting our younger daughter. We did get to see an English soccer team play...the York Minstermen...who, after several relegations, now play in the National League, five levels below the Premier League. Despite their recent poor record, the team, started in 1908, will be moving to a new stadium in 2019.

A few years ago, we also began following the Minnesota United Football Club, better known as the Loons, who played in Blaine. In 2017, the team moved up to Major League Soccer.

While near the bottom of the MLS standings, the Loons are drawing more than 22,000 fans per game and on July 18 attracted more than 27,000 fans.

The team is playing at TCF Bank Stadium while a new stadium rises in the Midway district of St. Paul. Allianz Field will seat 19,400. The team has more than 1,000 people on the waiting list for 14,500 season tickets and the Loons anticipate selling out all 17 home games in 2019.

Will the fans still be around if the team continues to finish near the bottom of the table and the novelty and newness of the state-of-the-art

stadium fades?

Demographics and dollars say yes.

A Gallup poll found 7 percent of Americans named soccer as their favorite sport to watch. While that may not sound like much, the figure represents a significant, three-percent-age-point gain from just four years ago. Soccer is the only sport to post such a large increase. Football (37 percent, down from 39 percent), basketball (11 percent, down from 12 percent) and baseball (9 percent, down from 13 percent) all showed declining numbers. Hockey was at 4 percent, up from 3 percent.

Among adults aged 18-34, soccer was the favorite sport of 11 percent, tying basketball. Six percent chose baseball as their favorite sport.

The 2015 Women's World Cup finals viewership beat the NBA Finals and the Stanley Cup finals that summer.

And here's what really matters: Twelve years ago, Toronto Football Club paid \$10 million to join what is now a 23-team league. Today, the average MLS team is worth \$223 million.

Some 3.4 billion, or nearly half the total world population of 7.6 billion, watched the World Cup.

How will America's interest increase as domestic teams attract more fans and the country prepares for the 2026 World Cup?

Seventy-five years ago, sportswriters and newspaper sports sections focused on horse racing, boxing and baseball. Of those three pastimes, only baseball remains part of the mainstream discussion anymore.

## Justices should be referees, not players on a partisan team

**Connor Kockler**  
*Guest Writer*



This sounds like a balanced process in theory, and until a couple of decades ago many nominees were confirmed by large margins or even by voice vote, meaning there was no need to even record votes for or against. For example, the retiring Justice Kennedy, who was nominated to the court by President Ronald Reagan in 1987, received a confirmation vote of 97-0 in the Senate. By comparison, the most recent Justice to join, Neil Gorsuch, was confirmed by a vote of 54-45 after being nominated by President Trump last year, with only three Democrats voting in favor.

So what has changed? You may have heard about the "factions" or "blocs" that exist on the Supreme Court. Five justices have currently been appointed by Republican presidents including Justice Kennedy, and four by Democratic presidents. Increasingly, the justices vote in line with these blocs, as many contentious cases have resulted in narrow 5-4 votes. As many issues have stalled in Congress, (think abortion, unions, gay marriage and campaign laws), the Supreme Court is increasingly becoming the institution that decides policy over many of these sensitive issues.

Accordingly, more and more stakes are

being attached to the Supreme Court. Every justice on the court appointed by an ideologically favorable president means a good chance the court will rule in the direction favored by that president and their political party. Justices are chosen more on their personal ideology rather than their adherence to the law and the Constitution.

This is, in my opinion, a troubling development for our nation. The Supreme Court is supposed to be a referee, not an additional player on a team. As political parties maneuver to try and place justices favorable to them on the Supreme Court, the nation as a whole loses. To protect the Supreme Court from becoming just another political institution, we need to put justices on it who will follow the law and make rulings in a manner consistent with the court's authority. In the Constitution, Congress is charged with making laws, and the Supreme Court with ruling on their legality. If the Supreme Court can make law from the bench, we have no way of holding it accountable like with our elected Congressional representatives.

Thus, in the nomination of Judge Kavanaugh and any future nominees, what we should be looking for are judges who will rule with respect to the Constitution and the laws rather than any personal or political ideology. Only then can the Supreme Court return to being the neutral arbiter it's supposed to be.

*Connor Kockler is a student at St. John's University. He enjoys writing, politics and news, among other interests.*



# Jobs panel is next step to help immigrant workers

by Mike Knaak  
editor@thenewsleaders.com

The next step in an effort to connect St. Joseph’s immigrant population with employers seeking workers takes place on Monday, Aug. 13 in Sartell. Cultural Bridges and Career Solutions are hosting a panel for employers from 2-4:30 p.m. at Resource Training and Solutions, 137 23rd St. S. As of earlier this week, five employers who are ready to employ immigrants have agreed to participate on the panel. “It’s a comfortable environment for business leaders to ask

questions of their peers about their successes and how they’ve overcome challenges,” said Sister Renee Domeier in an email. The Aug. 13 panel follows an effort by Cultural Bridges to survey St. Joseph businesses asking about their employee needs and their willingness to hire immigrants. Cultural Bridges contacted 64 of about 100 businesses in St. Joseph by phone or in person. Twenty-five businesses responded and 11 said they were interested in learning more about how to hire immigrants. Six businesses said they were unsure and eight said they had

no interest. “We were really thrilled with that response and a sign that people in St. Joseph were curious about how to engage people for their success,” said Raj Chaphalkar, Cultural Bridges member. “We believe people who have access to a job in their home town have access to a higher quality of life and the dignity of work and freedom to develop in their own town,” Chaphalkar said. “Our job is to smooth the path.” Cultural Bridges member Diane DeVargas said there are more than 50 Somali families

living in St. Joseph and they would like to find jobs close to home. “We realized there are lot of barriers to applying for a job. A lot of job applications are online. (Some) people have never used a computer and they are not literate in English,” Chaphalkar said. “We needed to find out which companies are ready to hire immigrants. They are culturally aware and see a competitive advantage in having an integrated workforce and then steer applicants to them.” In addition to the survey and organizing the panel, Cultural Bridges continues to teach En-

glish as a Second Language. About 25 adults have completed the classes. The class meets for an hour and a half two days a week during the school year. Learning English is important for completing job applications as well as communicating with other employees on the job. Business leaders interested in attending the Aug. 13 panel can register online at <http://www.resourcetraining.com/Event/13151>. Question can be directed to Kari Court at [kari.court@csjobs.org](mailto:kari.court@csjobs.org). There is a \$20 registration fee.

## 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](mailto: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.*

**Saturday, July 28**  
**Brat Sale**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., St.Joseph Meat Market. Y2K Lions. Tips, donations and profits go to the Anna Marie Alliance Building Hope campaign.

**Monday, July 30**  
**St. Joseph Food Shelf**, open 1-3 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave. NW, St. Joseph.  
**St. Joseph Township Board**, 8 p.m., St. Joseph Township Hall, 935 College Ave. S.

**Tuesday, July 31**  
**Central Minnesota Market**, 3-5:30 p.m., St. Cloud VA Health Care System, 4801 Veterans Drive, St.

Cloud. 320-251-2498.  
**Wednesday, Aug. 1**  
**St. Cloud school board work** session, 6:30 p.m., District Office, 1201 Second St. S., Waite Park.

**Thursday, Aug. 2**  
**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.  
**Sauk Rapids Farmers’ Market**, 3-6 p.m., Coborn’s parking lot, 110 First St. S., Sauk Rapids.  
**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.

**Friday, Aug. 3**  
“Annie,” 7 p.m. Rocori High School auditorium, Cold Spring.  
**St. Joseph Area Historical Society**, open 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave. NW. [stjosephhistoricalmn.org](http://stjosephhistoricalmn.org).

**St. Joseph Farmers’ Market**,

3-6:30 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, under the water tower near the Wobegon Trail Center, C.R. 2.

**Sunday, Aug. 5**  
“Annie,” 2 p.m. Rocori High School auditorium, Cold Spring.

**Monday, Aug. 6**  
**Stearns County sheriff candidate forum**, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Whitney Senior Center, 1527 Northway Drive, St. Cloud.  
**St. Joseph City Council**, 6 p.m., council chambers, St. Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. 320-363-7201. [cityofstjoseph.com](http://cityofstjoseph.com).

**Blood Drive**, noon to 6 p.m., Community Church, 204 Avon Ave., N. Contact Mary 248-3375.  
**St. Joseph Food Shelf**, open 1-3 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave. NW, St. Joseph

**Tuesday, Aug. 7**  
**Central Minnesota Market**, 3-5:30 p.m., St. Cloud VA Health Care System, 4801 Veterans Drive, St. Cloud. 320-251-2498.  
**St. Joseph Lions Club**, 7:30 p.m., Millstream Park Pavilion 101 Fifth

Ave. NW., St Joseph. Joanne Bechtold, 320-363-4483.  
**Memory Writers** group develops topics and turn in stories. 10 a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S, St Cloud.  
**Holistic Moms Network**, 7-8:30 p.m., Good Earth Co-op, 2010 Veterans Drive, St. Cloud. 320-252-2489.  
**National Alliance on Mental Health**, 7-8:30 p.m., Calvary Community Church, 1200 Roosevelt Road, St. Cloud. 320-259-7101.

**Wednesday, Aug. 8**  
**Free immigration services**, 9 a.m.-noon, Community Outpost, 600 13th St. S., St. Cloud.  
**St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce**, 11:30 a.m., St. Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. [stjosephchamber.com](http://stjosephchamber.com).  
**St Joseph Y2K Lions Club**, 6:30 p.m., St. Joseph Community Fire Hall, 323 Fourth Ave. NE. Kay Lemke 320-363-8663.  
**Breakfast Club**, 9 a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. Executive Director Carie Essig will present “The Importance of Local History.”

**Thursday, Aug. 9**  
“Annie,” 7 p.m. Rocori High School auditorium, Cold Spring.  
**St. Joseph Senior Citizens**, 1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Community Fire Hall, 323 Fourth Ave. NE.  
**St. Cloud Area Mothers of Multiples**, 7 p.m., VFW Granite Post 428, 9 18th Ave. N., St. Cloud.  
**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.

**Friday, Aug. 10**  
**Benton County Museum**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. [mnbentonhistory.org](http://mnbentonhistory.org).

**Saturday, Aug. 11**  
**Central Minnesota Chapter of the Federation of the Blind of Minnesota**, 12:30 p.m., American Legion, 17 Second Ave. N., Waite Park.

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# Immigrant boy: ‘Now I play soccer. I can be on a team’

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

A woman named Zaina is sitting in a room against a plain dark gray wall. Her large brown eyes, tinged with a touch of sadness, stare at the viewer with a frank open look like a beam of light illuminating a place deep inside the human heart.

These are the words from Zaina, who grew up in Iraq: “I was 12 years old.

All I remember is the shouting,

and I see my uncle killed – that’s all.

And my mother screaming.”

Zaina is one of 20 photographic portraits by James A. Bowey now on display at various businesses in Sartell, St. Joseph, Sauk Rapids and St. Cloud. The photos and their accompanying texts –all of refu-



photo by James A. Bowey

**Yudathoo lived in a Thai refugee camp where the only toys to play with were a rubber band and a marble. Now he is thrilled to be able to play soccer – with a real soccer ball.**

gees living in Minnesota – comprise a traveling exhibit titled “When Home Won’t Let You Stay.” It is sponsored by the Central Minnesota Arts Board, United Way of Central Minnesota and the Paramount Center for the Arts.

After the photographs are displayed in local businesses, they will be gathered together for a public showing and artist reception at 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 23, at the Paramount Visual Arts Center/Theater in downtown St. Cloud. At that event, photographer Bowey will present a slide show/talk titled “The Refugee Crisis and the Empathetic Imagination.”

In the meantime, up until the Aug. 23 showing, the photos can be seen at the following venues: the Local Blend in St. Joseph; the Change Hair Salon in Sartell; Daylily Salon and Spa in Sartell and St. Cloud; Westwood Church in St. Cloud; Good Shepherd Nursing Home in Sauk Rapids; and Quarks American Bento restaurant in St. Cloud.

## Connections

James A. Bowey of St. Paul is a documentary photographer, photojournalist and artist who explores the issues of human rights and social connections. He has covered stories from the war in Bosnia to natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, and his work has been featured in many publications, including The New York Times, Time



Bowey

magazine and Associated Press news member publications. Bowey is also an award-winning educator and taught, among other places, at Winona State University from 2008-2015.

In an interview with the Newsleader, Bowey talked about his work – specifically his traveling photo exhibit of immigrants.

He vividly remembers photographing Zaina in Minneapolis. He asked her for some comments about herself to go with the photo. She said a few lines, and Bowey left the apartment feeling as if he’d failed as an interviewing journalist, as if he came away with just a few words from the woman. But then, suddenly, Zaina’s few words about her mother screaming hit Bowey like a thunderbolt. That is because when he was a boy, his father had suffered a massive heart attack in his sleep, and Bowey recalled vividly how his heartbroken mother, like Zaina’s mother, screamed and screamed. Bowey’s memory was like a nerve synapse that fired an immediate emotional connection to Zaina and her words, her experience. He realized that although Zaina said such few words, the words had such connective power.

And that is the kind of connection Bowey strives to achieve in his photographs and subjects’ comments. It is a human connection sparked by an empathetic encounter with another human being by way of images and words.

“One of the most difficult things a person ever does is to truly see another,” he said. “But if we really look at someone and

consider their story, we discover the shared humanity that links us all. This is the hope for this work (photo exhibit): to find ourselves in each other, one photograph at a time.”

## Loss and hope

In his work, Bowey is not trying to hammer home any sort of political agenda about the refugee crisis in today’s world. Rather, though his subjects are immigrants, he strives to highlight their humanity first and foremost so viewers can experience that encounter, that connection, that spark of recognition, one human to another.

The people in Bowey’s photographs stand or sit in front of mostly bare walls, curtains, windows or tapestries. The photos are almost stark, with strong light and dark contrasts, and yet there is a deep warmth emanating from the people – their skin, their clothing, their expressions that seem to tell the viewer, “I have survived; I live; look at me, I am human; you are human.”

The comments beside each photo are in some cases about remembered violence, trauma, loss and unimaginable suffering and yet the indomitable human spirit shines through in the words and from the people’s faces and body language.

Tortured, survived  
Here are the words of Yatha, who hailed from Burma (also known as Myanmar), words that ring with the perpetual astonishment of his own survival: “I was beaten and tortured by six people.

I was bleeding from my ear, my eyes and mouth.

Around 11 p.m. they took off my clothes

And threw me in the river. I was floating unconscious all night.

There was one girl who witnessed what happened.

My body was found about seven in the morning.

The whole village thought I was dead.

I survived.”

## ‘Somehow you continue’

Ayan, an immigrant from Somalia, expresses how the gradual abandonment of material things practically symbolizes bouts of physical suffering and the nagging pain of emotional losses.

“I was 12 years old.

I wore my best dress, like we were taking a trip.

But fleeing means you let go of everything you can’t carry.

First it was the photographs and clothes,

then the food,

then the water.

You get to the point where you can only carry yourself,

And death would be better.

Somehow you continue.”

The portrait of Yudathoo, a boy who lived in a Thai refugee camp, is next to these words in broken English, simple words that unwittingly express a child’s big wide world of hope:

“I didn’t have a ball in the camp.

We play with rubber band and marble.

We play in mud.

Now I play soccer.

I can be on a team.”

For additional photos by Bowey, visit [thenewsleaders.com](http://thenewsleaders.com).

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