

St. Joseph Newsleader

Friday, June 1, 2018
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Town Crier

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

Newsleaders to print bi-monthly this summer

The Newsleaders will begin publishing the print editions every other week during this summer. Publication dates are as follows: June 1, 15 and 29, July 13 and 27 and Aug. 10 and 24. Advertising deadlines are noon Tuesday prior to the Friday you wish to run; editorial deadlines are noon Monday. The Newsleader apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause. Please continue to enjoy editorial content, which will be updated daily on our website at thenewsleaders.com.

K of C Breakfast for a Seminarian June 3

The Knights of Columbus of St. Joseph will hold its last breakfast of the season from 8:30 a.m.-noon Sunday, June 3 at Heritage Hall in the Church of St. Joseph, 12 W. Minnesota St., St. Joseph. This breakfast is designated for the support of a seminarian. Please come and help us support a seminarian by enjoying an all-you-care-to-eat delicious home-made breakfast of Pep's pork sausage, St. Joseph Meat Market sausage, pancakes, hash browns, fruit, scrambled eggs, caramel and cinnamon rolls, and beverages. Sunday Mass will be at 8 and 10 a.m.

UW sets basics drive for homeless youth

United Way is encouraging groups to host a Back-to-the-Basics Drive to support children and youth experiencing homelessness. Suggested items include: travel-size body wash, lotion, shampoo, conditioner, combs/brushes, deodorant, Q-tips, hand sanitizer, band aids, lip balm, wet wipes, bug repellent, hand warmers, wash cloths, toothpaste, tooth brushes, ointment, small packs of facial tissues, disposable razors, new underwear and socks. Deliver items to United Way of Central Minnesota, 921 First St. N., St. Cloud before 11 a.m. Thursday, June 21. Volunteers will package items to be donated to community programs. Contact Mary Krippner, United Way volunteer engagement coordinator, at 320-223-7991.

Plant a row, harvest a row

Consider planting an extra row in your garden and donating the produce to your local food shelf. Any produce that has a longer shelf life is accepted. Contact food shelves at: Catholic Charities Emergency Services at 320-229-4560; CROSS Center at 320-968-7012; and The Salvation Army at 320-252-4552

Sex trafficking happens in smaller cities too

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Area city officials heard an update on sex trafficking investigations and then they asked law enforcement leaders what else needs to be done to combat the problem.

Stearns County Attorney Janelle Kendall and Waite Park Police Chief Dave Bentrud spoke to mayors, city council members and city administrators during a St. Cloud Area Joint Cities meeting May 29 in Sartell.

"We want our elected leaders to understand what we are seeing," Kendall said. "There's a misperception that this only happens in big cities."

Working with police officers in the Central Min-

nesota Human Trafficking Task Force, Kendall's office has been prosecuting the traffickers as well as the buyers of sex.

"When you understand the connection between traffickers, gang history and violence, you'll see why trafficking is a serious issue," Bentrud said.

Kendall and Bentrud shared some details of the effort with officials: 15-20 traffickers have been prosecuted; 150 to 200 women are being sold for sex; trafficking is less risky than selling drugs - and brings in as much as \$15,000 per month.

Kendall said Stearns is the only county prosecuting the buyers but "we can't prosecute our way

Trafficking • page 3

St. Joseph Legionnaires honor 514 veterans at area cemeteries



photo by Mike Knaak

Members of the color guard of the Legion of St. Joseph lead a procession from the Legion hall to St. Joseph Catholic Church on Memorial Day. Legionnaires conducted three events at area cemeteries to honor 514 veterans.

Fischbach resigns Senate seat; Howe will run in special election

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Michelle Fischbach's resignation from the Minnesota Senate means there will be a special election this fall for Senate District 13.

Fischbach resigned May 25 and took the oath of office for lieutenant governor, a post she's legally held since January.

Current District 13A Rep. Jeff Howe announced May 29 that he will run in the special election to fill Fischbach's Senate seat.

Howe, a Republican from

Rockville, was first elected to the House in 2012 and was re-elected in 2014 and 2016. Prior to his election to the legislature, Howe served on the Rockville City Council.



Fischbach

When former Lt. Gov. Tiny Smith resigned to take Al Franken's vacated U.S. Senate seat, Fischbach who was president of the Senate, automatically

became lieutenant governor as set forth in the Minnesota Constitution.

Fischbach's assertion she could hold both her Senate seat and serve as lieutenant governor triggered lawsuits. One was thrown out in February and a second suit was set for a June hearing.

Fischbach, a Republican from Paynesville, has represented Dis-



Howe

trict 13 since 1996. The district includes St. Joseph and Sartell. Fischbach says she has no plans to run in the special election that will coincide with the Nov. 6 general election.

Fischbach's resignation leaves the Senate evenly split with 33 Republicans and 33 Democrats.

Because the Legislature has adjourned, her resignation will not affect law-making.

Candidates have until June 5 to file and if necessary, there will be a primary election on Aug. 14.

contributed photo

All Saints Academy-St. Joseph campus sixth-grader Emma Zaun (front, left) measures portions of packaged meals with Caroline Linz and fifth-grader Addison Keul (back, right) at the Kids Fighting Hunger facility.



ASA students study Catholic Social Teachings

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

Sixth-grade students at All Saints Academy-St. Joseph campus have been busy learning about Catholic Social Teaching themes and committing to take action to practice those themes.

Sixth-grade teacher Susan Huls said at the beginning of the year, sixth-graders began learning more Catholic Social Teaching themes for the "calls to action" permeating the Scrip-

tures. There are many sources for finding out what each theme states, but the students looked at the seven titles of Solidarity, Community and Participation, Option for the Poor, Care for God's Creation, Rights and Responsibilities, Dignity of the Human Person and Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers.

To create their action plans, the sixth-graders first did some mini-research to learn what each theme stressed. Then the

ASA • page 4

Bennie & Johnny



by the Marvelous Patric



PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF ST. JOSEPH PUBLIC HEARING

2018 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

The St. Joseph Planning Commission shall conduct a public hearing at 6 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on Monday, June 11, 2018 at the St. Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. to obtain public input on the 2018 Comprehensive Plan, an update to the 2008 Comprehensive Plan. The 2018 Comprehensive Plan is a policy document intended to guide development and city decisions. The 2018 Comprehensive Plan contains a series of goals and plan elements including land

use, housing, transportation, economic development, community facilities, parks and recreation, and sustainability. A copy of the draft 2018 Comprehensive Plan can be viewed at the St. Joseph Government Center or online at www.cityofstjoseph.com.

Judy Weyrens
Administrator

Publish: June 1, 2018

CITY OF ST. JOSEPH PUBLIC HEARING

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

The St. Joseph Planning Commission shall conduct a public hearing at 6 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on Monday, June 11, 2018 at the St. Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. The purpose of the hearing is to consider amending Ordinance 502, Zoning Ordinance, Section 502.54: B-2 Highway 75 Business District, including amending the permitted conditional uses to allow for animal pet boarding. A copy of the proposed changes are available for review at St. Joseph

Government Center or on the City website at www.cityofstjoseph.com.

All persons wishing to be heard will be heard and oral testimony will be limited to five minutes. Written testimony may be mailed to: City of St. Joseph, 75 Callaway St. E., St. Joseph, Minn. 56374.

Judy Weyrens
Administrator

Publish: June 1, 2018

Candidates begin filing for election

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Filings for local public offices with primary elections continue through June 5.

Here are the people who have filed through noon on Wednesday, May 30.

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.

House District 13A
Jim Reed, DFL, political science

professor at the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University.

House District 13B
Tim O'Driscoll, Republican.
Heidi L. Everett, DFL.

Stearns County sheriff
Dave Bentrud, chief, Waite Park police
Bob Dickhaus, lieutenant, Stearns County Sheriff's Office.
Steve Soyka, sergeant, Stearns County Sheriff's Office.

Stearns County attorney
Janelle P. Kendall, Stearns County attorney since 2002.

Stearns County auditor/treasurer

John William Beuning.
Randy R. Schreifels.

Sartell mayor (four-year term)
Ryan Fitzthum.
David Peterson.

Sartell City Council (two seats open, four-year term)
Timothy W. Elness.

St. Cloud school board (three seats open)
Scott Andreasen, owner of a private detective firm.
Beth Schlangen, retired.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME STATE OF MINNESOTA

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

1. The assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted is: HCY Handmade.

2. The stated address of the principal place of business is or will be: 19 Second Ave. SE, St. Joseph, Minn. 56374.

3. The name and street address of all persons conducting business under the above assumed name including any corporations that may be conducting this business: Hayley C. Yamry, 19 Second Ave. SE., St. Joseph, Minn. 56374.

4. I certify I am authorized to sign this certificate and I further certify

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

Dated: May 15, 2018

Filed: May 15, 2018

/s/ Hayley C. Yamry

Publish: June 1 and 15, 2018

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Trafficking

from front page

out of this. Beyond that we have to allow (the women) to get out of the life and educate the community so they don't get into it," Kendall said.

The recent arrest of a Waite Park massage parlor owner accused of trafficking and promoting prostitution prompted several questions from city leaders about ordinances.

Bentrud suggested tougher licensing standards for massage parlors but urged officials to adopt the laws

across all jurisdictions. If one city passes a tougher ordinance, that will just push the problem to neighboring cities, he said.



Bentrud

Kendall and Bentrud said they want to speak to schools to alert teachers, administrators and staff on how to recognize victims and buyers. They'd also like to reach students and they asked the elected officials to encourage school board members to let them in the schools.

"We need to be talking to our kids," Bentrud said. "We have sex acts occurring in our area high schools for money. We need the support of the school boards to get this message out to kids."



Kendall

The task force received a \$313,000, two-year state grant to pay for investigators and a data analyst, but long-term funding is a challenge, Bentrud said.

In addition to investigation and education, Bentrud said a transitional

housing facility would help get victims out of "the life" and back into society by providing stable housing, workforce training and legal aid.

"Sustainability for our task force is our near-term challenge," Bentrud said.

Kendall's formal presentation included a video with victims telling their stories as well as police and prosecutors talking about the issue. She also shared materials that help people identify sex trafficking. The materials stress prevention and intervention.

Victims feel insecure and unappreciated and lack relationships, are runaways

or homeless, have been abused - young people in search of belonging, Kendall said.

Buyers are typically white men between 35-60, most are married with children and middle-class jobs. Men arrange for the sex acts during the noon hour or on the way to or from work.

Kendall distributed detailed lists of "red flags" to help spot traffickers and suspicious actions.

"People are being bought and sold," Kendall said. "If you see something say something. Dial 911."

Blotter

If you have a tip concerning a crime, call the St. Joseph Police Department at 363-8250 or Tri-County Crime Stoppers at 255-1301 or access its tip site at tricitycrimestoppers.org. Crime Stoppers offers rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for a crime.

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 driv-

ing 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.

Flammable solvent starts storage-unit fire

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

A man using a flammable solvent accidentally started a fire that extensively damaged at least three storage units May 29 at Ridgewood Self Storage.

The storage renter, Christopher Johnson of St. Joseph, was using the solvent to clean camping equipment when the fire started at 10:57 a.m., according to the Stearns County Sheriff's Office.

Fire departments from St. Joseph, Sartell and Waite Park responded to the call at 8806 Ridgewood Road. The firefighters were assisted by St. Joseph police and Gold Cross Ambulance.

There were no injuries, according to the sheriff's office.

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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The Newsleaders

ASA

from front page

class divided itself into two groups to devise action projects that were inspired by one or two of the themes.

One group decided to focus on Care for God's Creation and Community and Participation. They originally wanted to do the Adopt-a-Highway program but ran into some roadblocks such as there being a minimum age requirement, the participants had to commit to a min-

imum of two years and there were very few available stretches of road close to St. Joseph. The students then revised their plan and decided to offer their time to clean up some city parks this spring.

Huls said it has been difficult with the cool, rainy weather, but students want to fulfill this commitment they made to take some action.

The second group decided to focus on the Option for the Poor, Rights and Responsibilities, and Community and Participation. They chose to work with Kids Fighting Hunger in

Sauk Rapids. Students contacted the organization and scheduled their visit for April 11.

Kids Fighting Hunger packages food that is shipped all over the world and is only able to do so through donations. They ask that each person who visits the site to package food also helps contribute to the cost of the food. That amounts to a donation of \$10 for each child and \$20 for each adult.

The sixth-grade group decided they wanted to hold a bake sale to raise the money to pay for their participation in

packaging the food. Huls said they worked hard to plan and organize, got together to bake a couple times one week, enlisted some adults and families in the school to contribute to their bake sale and then published their sale in the parish bulletin.

The bake sale was after the Catholic Schools Week Mass in January and another mini-sale was also the night of the all-school dance at the end of Catholic Schools Week.

"The parish and the All Saints Academy families responded so generously," Huls said. "We were hoping to make

\$150, enough to cover our 10 students plus one adult (me). The total amount was \$470."

Because the parish members were so generous, the students invited any interested parishioners to join them April 11. No one contacted them, so they invited the fifth-graders to come with them (acting on the Community and Participation idea). On April 11, the sixth- and fifth-graders and their teachers visited the Kids Fighting Hunger facility in Sauk Rapids. The group spent 90 minutes learning about the organization's mission, packing food, finding out where their packaged work would be delivered and even tasted a sample of the rice-vegetable mix they worked on.

Several fifth-graders shared comments about their Kids Fighting Hunger experience.

"I would definitely do it again," Austin Baird said. "It taught me about how we are very lucky for the life we have here and that we should be grateful."

"I thought it was fun, and I was very surprised to find out how (many packages) we made," Sylvie Bechtold said.

"I liked it," Maleah Thielen said. "I hope we do it again. I liked that we got to make the food and that it was easy to make."

"I thought it was amazing that 11 12-year-olds could do something to feed so many

REFLECT. GATHER. HONOR.



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people,” Maria Glatzel said. “I think we should do it again. It was a great experience.”

“It was fun when we were packing the rice and I liked that we were helping people (who) don’t have food,” Wyatt Kutzera said.

“I wished we could have stayed longer,” Paul Rademacher said. “It was also fun tasting the food we made at the end.”

Huls said her colleague, Mary Cheryl Opatz at the St. Cloud campus, has been working with her sixth-graders on Catholic Social Teaching projects for several years. She and her students, and their wide variety of creative works, inspired Huls to also try the projects with her students. This is their first year trying to come up with action projects based on the Catholic Social Teachings.

She said the students really enjoyed the planning that included meeting in small groups, making contacts themselves and organizing the events (with some help from Huls). They learned a lot about how to

make this work better and Huls plans to present it to her students next year also.

Huls said the students still need to decide what to do with the extra money remaining from the bake sales. They may donate it to an Indian family they sponsor through Kathy and Dave Rennie’s WE SHARE program (a program which helps the Vijayapuram Diocese – the poorest Catholic Diocese in Kerala, India), the St. Joseph Food Shelf or to the St. Joseph monthly community meals.

She said All Saints Academy has always had a solid foundation getting students involved in giving through school-wide projects such as the Workathon, Advent collections for Shoebox Gifts and Lenten collections for Operation Rice Bowl, but this was different because it wasn’t driven by adults in the school, but rather by the sixth-grade students who were committing themselves to some action beyond collecting and donating money.



contributed photo

While learning about Catholic Social Teaching themes and committing to take action to practice those themes, All Saints Academy-St. Joseph students planned and volunteered to help package food April 11 with the Kids Fighting Hunger facility in Sauk Rapids. Fifth- and sixth-graders (front row, left to right) Sylvie Bechtold, Maleah Thielen, Paul Rademacher, Austin Baird, Jackson Hoover, Wyatt Kutzera, Maria Glatzel and Sayler Christians; (middle row) Olivia Kremer, Kylie Smith, Sophia Botz, Kaidance Stephens and Addison Keul; and (back row) Rhianna Sieben, Alexis Finken and Emma Zaun listen to instructions on how to package food, about the group’s mission and where the food is shipped.

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Opinion

Our View

Ask candidates if they are ready for compromise

Which political environment produces results? Some people argue that divided government – one party controlling the executive branch and the opposition controlling the legislative – works because the opposing parties serve as a check on the extreme stands of the other and the result is a middle-ground compromise.

The alternative viewpoint – one party controls both the executive and legislative branches – is more efficient because the people's representatives and the governor or president have the same agenda.

Results from the recently concluded legislative session and ongoing paralysis on major issues in Washington, D.C. prove that neither arrangement delivers results.

But maybe it's not an issue of divided vs. not-divided government that's important, but how the people filling the chairs operate.

"The business of politics is the conciliation of differing interests," British political theorist Bernard Crick wrote in his book "In Defense of Politics." Conciliation is the alternative to outright warfare. Politics in a democracy assumes we can find ways of living and working together even when we disagree. That's why we need politicians who take this mission seriously.

Politics is about creating a decent society, a task that can only be accomplished when citizens find ways of cooperating.

That's not what happened in St. Paul.

The Legislature adjourned without a solution to conform the Minnesota tax code to the federal overhaul passed in December. The Republican-controlled House and Senate sent Gov. Mark Dayton a tax bill that would cut income-tax rates and allow the state to set its own deductions and exemptions. Dayton said it favors tax breaks for the wealthy and corporations and he threatened to veto it.

For Minnesota taxpayers, that means confusion, a stressful tax season ahead and some people paying higher taxes.

Despite three months of debate, the governor and Legislature could not agree on measures for school funding and school safety, leaving districts guessing about their own budget decisions.

The \$825-million bonding bill for roads, buildings and infrastructure upgrades did pass but it was smaller than the governor wanted. He'll probably sign it.

The results from Washington, where Republicans control the White House and Congress, are not much better. After 16 months of Republican leadership there's no action on immigration, including fixing Donald Trump's cruel executive order on DACA recipients, no action to improve health care, no action to repair and replace bridges, roads, railroads or airports.

The Republicans are very proud of their tax bill, which blows a hole in the deficit by giving the people who least need it tax relief.

With midterm elections five months away, don't expect any action on those other key issues which were a big part of the 2016 campaign.

When you are making choices of who to elect governor, to the state Legislature, to the U.S. House or U.S. Senate, the priority question for candidates is how they are going to resolve differing interests.

Are they running to give us two more years of conflict and gridlock or are they ready for conciliation and compromise?

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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.

Readers' letters round out opinion page

Informed opinions, vigorously argued, form the foundation of democracy. The opinions appearing on this page (and sometimes the next page as well) are offered in that spirit.

The editorial that regularly appears to the left of this column represents the Newsleader's view of current events. Newspaper editorials aren't meant to tell readers how to think, but instead serve as a starting point for discussion or to focus attention on an issue readers might want to debate.

Connor Kockler, Dennis Dalman, Patric Lewandowski and I share the right side of the page with our columns. We write about a variety of topics – local and national. I like to share my take on current local issues, offer my perspective on the joys and oddities of everyday life and sometimes remind readers of the historical context of current events.

Like the editorial on the left side of the page, the four of us aren't trying to tell you how to think but get you thinking, start a conversation or maybe just share a common moment.

Because we're a small operation, Dennis and I also write news stories. When we're reporting, we set aside our opinions and make decisions about what and how to cover a story

One road ends, another begins

After many years, the path I've been on is finally coming to a close. By coming to a close, I mean graduating from high school. After four years of high school and more years in earlier schooling, it's time to make the jump to the next step of life. While I look forward to what's ahead, I want to first reflect what is now past.

High school graduation is an event that is talked about as a significant milestone in one's life. Though it hasn't really set in yet, I'm starting to slowly but surely feel the signs. At school, you heard talk of the events coming up in May, thinking they were so distant, but really approaching at a breakneck pace. Friends and family at holiday gatherings asked questions about college plans and future careers. The phrase "Class of 2018," long a distant specter in the back of students' minds, suddenly took on its full meaning.

At Sauk Rapids-Rice High School, we certainly took it to heart. A "Change the Culture" movement arose and brought passion and energy to our sports games and classrooms. Seniors from our school accomplished so many great things, and were recognized for their athletic, academic, artistic and community achievements. It was amazing to live through these days and see many students I've known for so

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

Mike Knaak
Editor



based on standards of fairness and significance. You may not agree with the stories we choose to report, where they end up in the newspaper or who we choose to interview, but we make those decisions by applying news judgment and set aside our opinions or biases.

Letters from readers also appear on these pages and I'd like to see more of them.

I invite readers to respond to editorials and columns as well as raise new issues.

We do have some guidelines for letter writers.

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Connor Kockler
Guest Writer



long achieving their goals this year.

But getting this far isn't a solo effort. There are so many parents, teachers, coaches and other mentors who have given the Class of 2018 such great advice, pushed us to do our best and helped us to recognize the important things in life. So many people work selflessly every day to ensure the success of our local students, and I hope they know how much their efforts really mean to every single one of us.

I will always remember starting high school as a young freshman, looking up in awe at the seniors and feeling like it would be forever until I was one of them. Looking back now, it really feels like no time has passed at all. Though the time has flown by, there are so many memories made that will last for the rest of my life. I have met so many amazing, inspiring people and had experiences that will shape my world-view going forward.

One thing I'm most proud of doing in high school, and encourage every current student to do, is to get

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.

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Editorials, columns and letters present a viewpoint by advancing a well-reasoned argument. The most effective writing starts with established facts. You're more likely to sway your audience (and get your letter published) if your writing is anchored in facts, not rumors, clear falsehoods or unsubstantiated accusations.

With the election season now underway, I hope readers will share their opinions about candidates and issues.

Your participation as a letter writer is one way to be part of civic life. Sharing your informed, reasoned opinion serves to focus the public debate and results in sound decision-making by elected officials.

I look forward to hearing from you.

involved. It often felt overwhelming being a part of so many activities and clubs, but it made my time at school so much richer and rewarding. You really gain a sense of all that is going on at the school, and build relationships with other students and teachers that last a lifetime.

It has been a long but rewarding road to get to this point, and I'm ready for the new path that now stretches before me. I would like to thank everyone who has helped get me to this point; my parents, teachers, friends and coaches. I really couldn't have done it without you, and every little thing you did helped me so much.

As we move on to the next stage, I know the Class of 2018 is ready for whatever is ahead. From all of the students I've worked with, I know we are a determined and positive group of people, aware of the challenges ahead but resolving to face them with our best efforts and striving for success.

For all of the Class of 2018, be sure to enjoy this moment and remember all the memories made so far. It's been an honor and a privilege to grow with all of you, and I know the future has great things in store as long as we work hard and keep going strong. Good luck and best wishes.

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St. Joseph's Legion team an endangered species

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

American Legion Post 328 has been the proud sponsor of a Legion baseball team for 28 years, according to Pat Schneider. Rain or shine, win or lose – young men ages 15 to 19 who have a passion for the game of baseball have found an organized place to hone their skills and enjoy the camaraderie of others who love to play the game.

But that sponsorship of Legion ball may come to an end soon. Mike Staller, who has been involved in the Legion

ball program for four years and is the Legion liaison for the baseball team, has been having some difficulty in rounding up guys who are willing to commit to playing.

"I just hate to see it disappear," Schneider said. He helped to found the team back in 1990.

The majority of St. Joseph players have come out of the St. John's Prep school program, but anyone ages 15-19 who lives in the St. Joseph area is eligible to join the team. There is no cost to join; most equipment and uniforms are provided by the Legion. And the

schedule is light – a dozen or so games during the months of June and July. Most games are played in the evening starting at 6:30 p.m on Mondays and Thursdays. Home games are at Schneider Field in St. Joseph.

It's a laid-back baseball experience without lots of pressure to perform, Schneider said.

"St. (Joseph) has a long tradition of supporting youth baseball," Staller said. "This year is no exception and we are looking for individuals who would like to play summer Legion baseball between the ages of 15-19."

The season is ready to start, and the first game is scheduled for June 4, but interested kids shouldn't let that bother them. If they would like to play, Staller said he has room for them. Just call him at 612-730-0879 or email him at mstaller@comcast.com or Pat Schneider, 320-309-2791 or email him at patschneider5@yahoo.com.

Why should young guys be interested in playing ball? That is simple Staller says.

"It's a chance to play again with the guys they played school ball with, especially for seniors. After this they break up and go on to different col-

leges or go to work and they don't have that opportunity to play baseball again with their buddies. And it's a great way to represent the community of St. (Joseph)."

Another benefit of playing Legion ball is it gives young guys a chance to work on skills and improve their play. Some of them might be looking ahead to playing with the town amateur team.

"Practice makes perfect" the old saying goes. And here's a chance to get some practice in laid-back games with little pressure and to perfect their skills.

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.

328, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., St. Joseph Meat Market, 26 First Ave. NW.

Sunday, June 3

"Encore," presented by the St. John's Boys' Choir, 7:30 p.m., Church of St. Augustine, 442 Second St. SE, St. Cloud. Tickets, 320-363-2558 or visit sjbchoir.org.

Monday, June 4

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. 320-363-7201. cityofstjoseph.com.

Tuesday, June 5

St. Joseph Lions Club, 7:30 p.m., Millstream Park Pavilion, 101 Fifth Ave. NW., St Joseph. Joanne Bechtold, 320-363-4483.

Red Cross Blood Drive, 1-7 p.m., Atonement Lutheran Church, 1144 29th Ave. N., St. Cloud. 800-733-2767.

Thursday, June 7

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

Great River Regional Coin Club, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Miller Auto

Marine Sports Plaza, 2930 Second St. S., St. Cloud. 320-252-8452.

Friday, June 8

Brat Sale, sponsored by the St. Joseph Lions Club, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., St. Joseph Meat Market, 26 First Ave. NW.

St. Joseph Farmers' Market, 3-6:30 p.m., near the Wobegon Trail Center, C.R. 2.

Saturday, June 9

Brat Sale, sponsored by the St. Joseph Lions Club, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., St. Joseph Meat Market, 26 First Ave. NW.

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

Monday, June 11

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

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

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

St. Joseph Planning Commis-

sion, 6 p.m., St. Joseph City Hall, 75 Callaway St. E. 320-363-7201. cityofstjoseph.com.

Tuesday, June 12

Central Minnesota Market, 3-5:30 p.m., St. Cloud VA Health Care System, 4801 Veterans Drive, St. Cloud. 320-251-2498.

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

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

Wednesday, June 13

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

Thursday, June 14

Red Cross Blood Drive, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Country Inn & Suites, 235 Park Ave. S., St. Cloud. 800-733-2767.

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

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

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 Area Mothers of Multiples, 7 p.m., VFW Granite Post 428, 9 18th Ave. N., St. Cloud.

Friday, June 15

St. Joseph Farmers' Market, 3-6:30 p.m., 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

Quarry Park's 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.

Friday, June 1

Brat & Burger Sale Fundraiser, sponsored by the American Legion Post 328 and SAL Squadron 328, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., St. Joseph Meat Market, 26 First Ave. NW.

St. Joseph Area Historical Society, open 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave. NW. stjosephhistoricalmn.org.

Red Cross Blood Drive, 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Seven Dolores Catholic Church, 140 Second St., Albany. 800-733-2767.

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

Saturday, June 2

Brat & Burger Sale Fundraiser, sponsored by the American Legion Post 328 and SAL Squadron

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