

St. Joseph Newsleader

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018
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Town Crier

St. Stephen to host HHW event Aug. 25

A Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event will be held from 8- 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 25. Stearns County will provide local pick up at the St. Stephen City Hall/Fire Department at 2 Sixth Ave SE. Visit the city's website for a list of accepted items (www.cityofststephen.com). Note: The next collection will be in 2020 due to the increased use of the HHW Facility.

Fare for All set Aug. 13

Fare for All's next distribution will be from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 13, 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.

LSS seeks senior companions

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota provides trusted companionship through their Neighbor to Neighbor and Senior Corps programs. Both programs assist older adults to live in their homes longer, safer and healthier by providing weekly friendly visits. Senior Companions are at least 55 years old and volunteer 15 hours per week. Neighbor to Neighbor Companions are at least 18 years old and volunteer two or more hours per week serving one or more older adults. —Volunteers are eligible for a monthly or hourly stipend and mileage reimbursements. Contact Janel Heinen, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota at 320-241-5173 or janel.heinen@lssmn.org.

INSERT:
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on College Avenue

*Stories only on
thenewsleaders.com*

- Filing for offices without primaries opens July 31
- More hours added for absentee voting

Vandals cause costly cleanups at two parks

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

A recent run of vandalism at two city parks has cost the city of St. Joseph thousands of dollars for repairs and has led to a cutback in services.

Fixing damage to the restrooms at the Wobegon trailhead cost about \$8,000 to repair. Vandals damaged the fixtures, electric heater, a hand dryer and power outlets. The vandals struck before the building was locked for the night.

Public Works Director Terry Thene suspects the damage was done with some type of metal bar.

At nearby Centennial Park, vandals kicked in the doors, dumped sand in the toilets and urinals and spread feces around the room. Sand in fixtures damages the plumbing. The soffit on the outside was also damaged.

Thene said deadbolt locks were installed at Centennial, 205 Birch

St. W., to prevent further damage but vandals still damaged the locked doors.

Now the restrooms are locked except when the shelter is reserved.

"Parents go out there with kids," Thene said. "They have to use the restroom. It was an amenity that was put there for the public."

Thene estimated it cost about \$3,000 to clean up Centennial.

Thene is asking for the public's help to protect the facilities.

"I would like people to have their eyes open in the park," he said. "If they see something suspicious call police. Parents need to talk to kids so they understand this is not a harmless act. It costs money and you have to shut down amenities provided to the public. My goal is to open everything up to the public."

For pictures of the damage, visit www.thenewsleaders.com

Fun at the fair



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Mark Beeler, 9, (left) of St. Joseph, experiences the Benton County Fair for the very first time Aug. 1 with Boothe Town-er, 9, also of St. Joseph.

St. Joseph Council members heat up over cooling system

by Dave DeMars
news@thenewsleaders.com

The Aug. 6 meeting of the St. Joseph City Council started smoothly enough before Mayor Rick Schultz and Council member Bob Loso began questioning Public Works Director Terry Thene. At issue was the heating and cooling system in the new city office building in which they were conducting the meeting. The building, which houses council and city offices, opened for business a

little more than 18 months ago.

The new city hall at 75 Callaway St. E. was built according to plans of Design Tree Engineering, and according to Thene, all the work was completed to specifications. After moving in, city administration and police department personnel began to notice humidity problems in the offices, especially during the summer months. Papers in the offices were damp and sorting machines did not work properly because of the dampness in the offices.

The problem resulted because the building was designed for future full capacity, which included additional staff members. At present capacity, the number of staff members simply doesn't require the HVAC system to work at a maximum capacity level and it shuts down before removing dampness and humidity in the offices.

"We would need a full(y) occupied building in order to get it to work (correctly)," Thene said.

After consulting with engineers and contractors, Thene learned the solution to the problem was to add heat to the system so the system would work at capacity level and not shut down prematurely. The least expensive method uses natural gas and would cost about \$15,500.

"There's no other way to get around this," said City Administrator Judy Weyrens. "The humidity gets up to 80 or 85 percent some days."

Cooling • page 4

Primary ballot features races for sheriff, school board, state offices

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Local races on the ballot for the Tuesday, Aug. 14, primary election include choosing a new Stearns County sheriff and electing St. Cloud school district board members.

For the first time in 16 years, there's no incumbent sheriff on the ballot. Four men have filed for the office and the primary will narrow the field to two candidates.

The candidates are Dave Bentrud, Bob Dickhaus, Dwight Pfannenstien and Steve Soyka.

Pfannenstien withdrew from

active campaigning after he was appointed St. Joseph police chief in June but his name remains on the ballot.



Bentrud

Bentrud has been Waite Park police chief for 10 years and before that served in the St. Cloud police department.

Dickhaus is a lieutenant in the Stearns County sheriff's office. His law enforcement career began in 1990 as a Richmond police officer, before moving to Cold Spring and

then Stearns County.

Soyka's law enforcement career spans 27 years. He's a former commander of the Violent Offenders Task Force and currently a Stearns County sergeant.

Nine people have filed for three seats on the St. Cloud school board. The primary will narrow the field to six candidates.

The candidates are Scott Andreasen, Zachory Dorholt, Les



Dickhaus

Green, Peter Hamerlinck, Larry Hosch, Thomas Kufalk, Natalie Ringsmith, Beth Schlangen and Kathleen Steiner.



Soyka

Voters will find several state and federal offices on the partisan section of the ballot. In the primary, voters are limited to picking candidates in one party and cannot cross over from race to race.

Minnesotans will elect a new

Primary • page 9

People

Two St. Joseph students were recently named to the spring dean's list at St. John's University. They are **Jacob Hennigs**, son of Deann and Mark Hennigs, a junior education major, and **Ethan Novacinski**, son of Cheryl and Grant Novacinski, a sophomore biology and pre-physician's assistant major.

Gabrielle Martone of St. Joseph recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics and history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Erin Dwyer Trisko recently graduated with a degree in nursing from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

The Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls recently honored **Sister Rose Margaret Schneider**, originally from St. Joseph, who celebrated 60 years as a Francis-

can Sister, with a private celebration. She entered the novitiate at St. Francis Convent on July 31, 1958, and made her final profession of vows on Aug. 12, 1963.

Two St. Joseph students were recently named to the spring dean's list at the College of St. Benedict. **Leela Cofell**, daughter of Monica Cofell, is a senior political science major. **Jamie Muske**, daughter of Shelly and Tim Muske, is a junior elementary education major. To be included in the dean's list, students must earn a minimum 3.8 grade-point average.

Katrina Johnson of St. Joseph was one of 75 first-year medical students who began their studies to become physicians at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Boysen exceeds fundraising goal

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

St. Joseph's Gene Boysen finished the Habitat 500 on July 21 and raised more than \$3,200. The bike ride raises money for Habitat for Humanity and started and ended in Becker.

Before he left, Boysen had set a goal of raising at least \$2,000.

In an email, Boysen wrote: "The route from Pierz back to Becker was 55 miles with the wind at our back. It was a great way to finish. As the finish line appeared, I thought about all the people involved in making this ride possible. Countless volunteers and hours spent in preparation and of course the generous donations so many have made to Habitat for Humanity.



contributed photo

Gene Boysen crosses the finish line in Becker for the Habitat 500, a bicycle ride that raises money for Habitat for Humanity.

"It was a great experience and the feeling I got after listening to Habitat homeowners was inspirational. Being part of something big-

ger than yourself produces a high equal to no other. That is the drive and the fuel for many miles on the road."



contributed photo

Lee Eisenschenk built a flag drop box and recently installed it at the American Legion of St. Joseph.

Drop box built for used flags

A drop box for used American flags was installed on June 14, Flag Day, at the American Legion Club in St. Joseph.

The box for collecting used flags was built and installed by Lee Eisenschenk.

In 1937, the American Legion national convention passed a resolution encouraging the proper disposal of a flag that is no longer fit to be displayed.

Used flags are disposed of in a burning ceremony.

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News for Refugees

Ogeysiis! Importante para Usted, por favor léalo Please read!

Announcements brought to you by Cultural Bridges of St. Joseph, a volunteer-run organization and committee of Central Minnesota Community Empowerment Organization. We are dedicated to ease your transition into our community.

Check this space to make announcements that especially apply to our Refugee Neighbors in St. Joseph as well as those whose first

language is other than English. Please tell your family and neighbors about this information.

English as a Second Language

We are partners with the St. Cloud school district. Our volunteers offer English as a Second Language for anyone desiring to learn or improve their English skills.

Language assessment will be from 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 23, at Heritage Hall next to the Church of St. Joseph, 12 Minnesota St. Anyone in St. Joseph interested in taking a class must come to this assessment.

ESL classes will start on Monday, Sept. 10. Morning

classes will take place from 9-10:30 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at the Spirituality Center at the College of St. Benedict. Classes follow the St. Cloud school district calendar.

Evening classes will take place from 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in the lower level of St. Joseph Catholic School next to Heritage Hall.

We are excited to work with you and welcome you to our community. If you have any questions, please contact Dianne DeVargas at 320-345-0593. Please share this message with other refugees and immigrants you know who live in St. Joseph.

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Newsleader staff members have the responsibility to report news fairly and accurately and are accountable to the public. Readers who feel we've fallen short of these standards are urged to call the Newsleader office at 320-363-7741. If matters cannot be resolved locally, readers are encouraged to take complaints to the Minnesota News Council, an independent agency designed to improve relationships between the public and the media and resolve conflicts. The council office may be reached at 612-341-9357.

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Blotter

If you have a tip concerning a crime, call the St. Joseph Police Department at 320-363-8250 or Tri-County Crime Stoppers at 320-255-1301 or access its tip site at tricitycrimestoppers.org. Crime Stoppers offers rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for a crime.

June 9

10:16 p.m. Loud music. 13th Avenue NE. The loud music was coming from a block party outside the city limits.

11:33 p.m. Loud music. Iris Lane. The music was coming from a block party outside the city limits.

June 11

2:39 p.m. Collision. CR 75 and Fourth Avenue NE. Two vehicles were traveling east on CR 75. The second vehicle slowed as the light turned green and was struck from behind by the first vehicle. The driver of the first vehicle was transported by Gold Cross Ambulance.

June 12

5:24 a.m. Theft from vehicle. 10th Avenue SE. A woman reported documents including a license, insurance card and Powerball tickets were stolen from her vehicle. A neighbor noticed a door was open on the woman's vehicle.

11:45 a.m. Theft. Ash Street E. A man reported a chainsaw and gas can had been stolen from his yard after 9 p.m. on June 11. The chainsaw is a green Poulan valued at \$160. The gas can and contents were valued at \$15.

June 13

12:26 p.m. Accident. CR 175 and CR 133. The officer met with both drivers who were traveling east on CR 75. One vehicle stopped and the second vehicle, which was pulling a camper, rear-ended it. Both vehicles were damaged but no tows were needed.

Council denies Klein's benefits after resignation

The St. Joseph City Council vote unanimously July 16 not to pay former police chief Joel Klein for his unused sick leave or vacation.

The benefits payment would have been \$44,000. The decision was made based on the city's personnel policy.

Klein resigned May 31 amid an investigation into his conduct. The report from the city's investigation was delivered to Klein on May 23.



June 15

5:36 a.m. Stolen vehicle. 19th Avenue NE. Foley police reported a vehicle stolen from St. Joseph had been recovered. An officer met with the owner. A person was in custody in Benton County for possession of stolen property and other charges. The theft happened sometime in the last 30 days.

1:23 p.m. Theft. 20th Avenue NE. An officer went to Kwik Trip for a theft report. An employee said a man entered the store at about 10 p.m. June 14 and removed a light bulb valued at \$5 from its packaging and left without paying. Video showed him leaving in an older conversion van. Working with Albany police, the man was identified. He contacted police on June 25 and told them he did not recall the incident, but when asked why he would have taken a single light bulb, he said it was probably because he needed one.

4:01 p.m. Collision. Birch Street W. Two cars collided when one vehicle failed to yield. Both vehicles needed to be towed. Driver one said he stopped at the stop sign, but damage to his vehicle did not support this statement.

June 17

8:43 p.m. Collision. CR 133 and Elm Street E. Two vehicles collided at the intersection. There were no injuries and neither vehicle needed to be towed.

June 21

2:49 p.m. Stolen package. Iverson Street W. A package stolen from a mailbox was found inside a stolen vehicle. The package's owner had put it in her mailbox to be mailed on June 12 and or June 13 and did not realize it was stolen. The contents were valued at \$12.

3:48 p.m. Stolen package. Morningside Loop. The officer contacted a man to return a package that had been found inside a stolen vehicle. The man

said he had put the package in his mailbox on June 13.

June 23

12:08 a.m. Stolen bicycles. Minnesota Street W. Two bicycles were reported stolen from behind Sal's Bar. The complainants stated they biked to the bar about 11 p.m. on June 22 and left about midnight. When they returned for the bikes, they were gone. One bike was described as a black road bike, with drop bars and skinny tires valued at \$100. The second bike was a green beach cruiser, with a tall seat, crossbar and wire basket valued at \$300.

June 24

12:22 a.m. Theft. Minnesota Street E. 121 Minnesota St E. A woman reported she saw a man walk through her backyard and take wood from the pile. The woman was comforted a neighbor, who said the people who had taken the wood had left. After questioning neighbors, the officer determined the name of the suspected wood thief but was unable to verify the information or find the suspect. But the officer did cite one of the people he interviewed for underage consumption.

8:02 p.m. Counterfeit. CR 75 W. Taco John's reported a counterfeit \$100 bill that was received June 22 or June 23.

The front of the bill states "for motion picture use only."

June 25

2:49 a.m. Burglary. Minnesota Street E. The main maintenance building at Scherer Trucking was broken into. Nothing appeared to be missing, but there was damage to a door. Burglars may have been scared off by employees arriving for work.

11:30 a.m. Credit card misuse. Second Avenue NW. A person reported unauthorized use of their credit card number at Kwik Trip. The card was declined but other charges in Waite Park and St. Cloud did go through. Waite Park police are investigating.

July 2

11:07 a.m. Collision with injuries. Minnesota Street W. One vehicle was attempting a U-turn at the park-and-ride and collided with another vehicle. A citation was issued for failure to yield.

July 3

10:43 p.m. Collision. CR 75 and Eighth Avenue NE. While patrolling, an officer located a collision on CR 75 near Eighth Avenue NE. Driver one was driving east on CR 75 and a white truck stopped abruptly in front of him. Driver one swerved to the right as he stopped. Driv-

er two rear-ended driver one. There were no injuries.

July 5

11:31 a.m. Theft. Cedar Street E. A woman notified police she saw a woman take an item from outside a business without paying for it. From video of the event and a photo of the suspect's vehicle, officers identified the suspect and sent her a citation via mail. The suspect contacted police and said she left a check in the door. The officer said he did not see her place a check while watching the video. She offered to pay for the item, a garden decoration of a parrot on a swing, valued at \$29.99.

July 10

4:23 p.m. Collision. CR 133 and Elm Street E. Vehicle one was traveling south on CR 133. Vehicle two was traveling west on Elm Street. Vehicle two entered the intersection and was struck by vehicle one. There were no injuries.

6:07 p.m. Collision. Elm Street E. After a collision at the McDonald's drive-thru, one of the drivers later noticed damage to her vehicle. The officer helped connect the two drivers but because the event happened on private property no state accident report was required.

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Joes begin state baseball tournament run

by Dave DeMars

news@thenewsleaders.com

The St. Joseph Joes have not been idle these past few weeks. They have been swinging the bat well according to Manager Pat Schneider, and pitching has been in top form. And that helped to put them in the middle of the dogfight for a league title.

Joes take second-place honors in Sauk Valley league,

losing to Muskies 4-0

On July 28, Joey Atkinson

pitched almost five innings giving up seven hits and collecting four strikeouts and four walks. But the hits came in bunches and allowed the Sartell Muskies to put up seven runs.

Alex Kendall came in and allowed one hit and got three strikeouts allowing no runs. Atkinson was tagged with the loss.

It was an important game for the team, Schneider said.

"We hit the ball all over the place," Schneider said, "but we always seemed to hit it right to them. That makes it tough to score a run. Right now we are hitting it on the nose, we just

have to stay with it."

St. Joseph takes tough one from Foley 5-4

Schneider was more than a little pleased with the grit his team showed against the Foley Lumberjacks in their July 22 game at Foley. In a previous game the Joes (13-5) pretty good, so this was a chance for revenge.

Foley jumped out to a one-run lead in the the second inning and held on like pit bulls until the sixth inning when St. Joseph pushed four runs across to take the lead. But Foley wasn't finished and answered with two runs of their own in the bottom of the seventh. With only a one-run difference between them, St. Joseph managed to push across another run in the top of the eighth inning and the score stood 5-3. But Foley was not finished and scored one more run of their own. Going into the ninth inning the score was 5-4.

From there on, St. Joseph chomped down like a pit bull on a ham bone and held the Lumberjacks off to collect a 5-4 win. "All the games were good games especially these two," said Schneider referring to the

preceding game with the Stone Poneys. "We had late-inning rallies to win both these games."

St. Joseph smacked nine hits around the ballpark including three doubles.

Atkinson was the winning pitcher throwing for 5-1/3 innings, giving up three runs, striking out two. Alex Kendall finished out the rest of the game giving up one run and throwing four strikeouts.

St. Joseph wins a squeaker against the Stone Poneys 4-3

On July 21, the Stone Poneys of Sartell visited Schneider Field in St. Joseph and gave the Joes a tough game to remember. Matt Maurer of the Stone Poneys faced off against Greg Anderson of the Joes. It was a hare and hound kind of game with the Poneys quickly scoring two runs in the second inning and another in the fifth giving them a 3-0 lead in the top of the fifth. The Joes managed a run in the fifth to make it 3-1. and added runs in the sixth and eighth innings to tie the game going into the ninth inning.

The game came down to the last swing of the bat in the ninth when the Joes put to-

gether enough hits to push that fourth run across for a 4-3 win.

It was a hitters field day with the Poneys corraling 10 hits and the Joes gathering 13. The problem was trying to string together several hits in a row to push the runs across.

Poney Jake Light smacked one big bammer over the fence, and team mate Shawn Lindsay smacked a double, but mostly it was single after single for both teams.

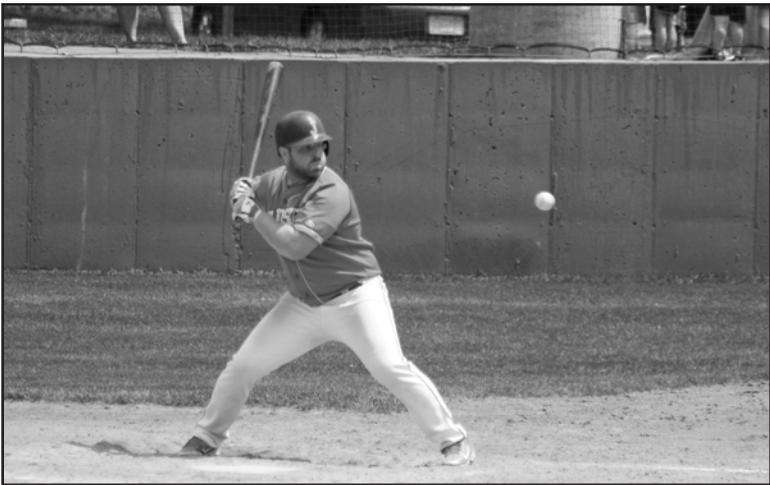
RJ Alpers of the Joes managed a pair of doubles.

11C tournament

In the first round of Region 11C Tournament at Watkins, the Joes lost to Kimball, 2-0.

The Joes play Foley this Saturday, Aug. 11 at 11 a.m. If they win they play again at 4:30 p.m. for a state tourney birth. Both games are in Watkins.

Other teams playing for a chance to move on to the next level include Luxemburg, Foley, Clear Lake, Pearl Lake and the Sartell Muskies. Check bracket for times and dates or go to <http://www.mnbaseball.org/page/sections-regions> for all the section and region brackets. Just click on 11C and the bracket and times should pop up.



contributed photo

Brandon Bloch eyes a fat pitch to drive somewhere they ain't during the game against the Sartell Muskies.

Cooling

from front page

To add a dehumidifier system to the present unit would not be possible because it's not set up to allow for the addition, Thene said.

"So there is no dehumidifier in the system?" Loso asked.

How many more people would you need to make the system work correctly, Schultz asked.

Thene said he didn't know

the precise numbers Schultz asked for, but added they had gone through the entire system, and had made some changes, but the problem still persists.

"I know the only way to take care of the humidity issue is to add heat to the system," Thene said, "and that's what it's going to take to repair the situation."

Both Schultz and Loso were astonished at the situation and said it didn't make sense to add heat in the middle of the summer to make the air-conditioning system work properly.

"I've worked in a lot of dif-

ferent offices, and I've never come across where they designed it so poorly they had to be at full capacity for an HVAC system to work," said a frustrated Schultz.

Even if the solution were to be applied, Schultz wondered whether that would solve the problem. There's no guarantee it would work, Schultz said.

Thene replied he felt the system would work better than at present.

Weyrens interjected and suggested perhaps they should look at the problem and consult with the engineers one more time in the hopes of finding a more viable solution.

"I'm not blaming anybody here," Schultz said, "it just to me seems illogical we have to

heat to cool. And I understand the humidity problem, but this seems like a short-sighted solution."

"Trust me it took me a while to wrap my head around it," Thene said. "And after going through everything, our options are limited."

After a few more comments, the council decided to table the matter until additional information is provided.

Other action items

The council took the following actions:

- Approved an early bond call. The intent for use of the bond has changed and made it necessary to call the bond early.

- Approved a police officer hire to bring the force to full status. The new officer, who has worked part time in the Becker police department, is scheduled to be sworn in at the Aug. 20 meeting and begin work on Aug. 21.

- Approved modifications to the Colts Academy property purchased from the St. Cloud school district. Items such as the card reader for building entrance, phone system and other minor modifications must be made before the building can be occupied. Cost will be about \$9,600.

- Approved authorization of an environmental assessment study for the development of property west of CR 2 and east of I-94. The study could be ready in 50 to 60 days.

- Approved modification of the purchase agreement of the old city hall. Because of financial delays, purchaser Aaron Rieland requested the closing date be moved back to no later than Sept. 20. The Bad Habit Brewing Co. agreed to increase mortgage payments to \$3,000 per month with a balloon payment in five years.

- Approved a feasibility study for a street maintenance plan for the city. Cost of the project is approximately \$21,000. This will facilitate starting the project in the spring of 2019.

- Approved by a vote of 2-1, to contract for lobbyist services to lobby for the city concerns with the state legislators. Cost of the lobbyist is \$12,500. Loso voted no.

St. Joseph Community Vacation Bible School

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Facebook: St. Joseph, MN Community VBS

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AA/EOE



contributed photo
 The St. Joseph Joes 2018 Baseball team. Kneeling (left to right): Manager Pat Schneider, Brandon Bissett, Burke Tagney, Willie Willats, Hunter Blommer, Tanner Aleshire, Brandon Bloch, Nick Gill and Peter Nelson; and standing: Craig Hern, Charles Vaughan, Caz Novak, Zach Overboe, RJ Alpers, Tanner Blommer, Alex Kendall, Isaac Holthaus, Ben Alvord, Joey Atkinson. Not pictured: Nathan Mohs, Jack Atkinson and Greg Anderson.



contributed photo
 Charles Vaughan stands at the edge of the infield looking in and waiting to spring into action if the ball should come his way.



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Waite Park Police Chief, Dave Bentrud

Candidate for Stearns County Sheriff



Krebsbach's childhood passion for horses continues

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

St. Joseph resident Sharon Krebsbach's passion for horses began when she was 9 years old and her father surprised her and her siblings with a horse named "Freddy."

Freddy was a paint horse who their family owned for 10 years.

Growing up on a farm outside of St. Ansgar, Iowa, her childhood revolved around Freddy as she rode, groomed and enjoyed his company.

Krebsbach and her husband, Mark, currently own one of the few Gypsy horse farms in Minnesota. Others are also in Elk River, Duluth, Hutchinson, Isanti, Melrose and elsewhere.

The Krebsbachs have two children, Vanessa and Travis, whom Sharon wanted to grow up with horses similar to how she did. When the couple was first married before the ranch was established, they purchased two Arabians, Zeb and Zel, and they have had a horse or two with their family ever since.

During Sharon's search for a good riding horse, she was introduced to the Gypsy horse breed. In 2006, the breed was still very new to the United

States and it was rare to see or hear much about them.

She said the Gypsy horse is a newer breed in the United States. The first Gypsy horses were imported from England and Ireland in 1997. They can be classified as a small draft horse and can be any height. Gypsy horses are known for their docile temperament and hair on their legs, also known as feathers.

Sharon was so charmed by the Gypsy horses' docile temperaments, trainable minds and a love for people that she abandoned her search for a riding horse and purchased a Gypsy horse named "Rosie's Latte."

"Latte began my passion for the breed," she said.

The Krebsbachs established "Rosie's Gypsy Ranch" 12 years ago. To honor her father, Raymond Rosenberg, and the passion for horses he inspired in her, Sharon named their horse farm "Rosie's Gypsy Ranch," after her father whose nickname was "Rosie."

The Krebsbachs currently have about a dozen Gypsy horses. They usually breed their horses in the 13-hand to 15-hand range measurement. Each hand equals 4 inches so a 13-hand horse is 52 inches tall.

The traditional color for Gypsy horses is known as a black-and-white tobiano that resembles a dairy cow. Rosie's Gypsy ranch specializes in solid in pattern with one color on body of colors such as silver dapple, buckskin, bay and black.

Katie Hembree, a trainer, runs "KD Performance Horses" and works out of Rosie's Gypsy Ranch. Hembree, who has been working out of their barn for six years, trains their horses and brings them to horse shows, county fairs, horse expos and other events around the state.

Rosie's Gypsy Ranch horses have won several major awards or placements including a five-star rating for their stallion, Gold Medallion, three belt buckles, several grand champion and reserve champion,

a gypsy mini vardo for the Vincent Gelding Program and others.

Because the Gypsy horse breed is smaller in numbers throughout the United States, the Krebsbachs, Hembree and the horses travel farther for Gypsy horse shows. They have traveled to shows in Florida, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas.

Sharon said they participate in the Minnesota Horse Expo the last weekend in April each year. They have also participated in the Draft Horse Halter competition at the Stearns County Fair, which is the last weekend in July.

They also plan to participate in a horse show in Minnesota run by Gail Shrine Events. These events take place throughout the country.

The Krebsbachs and their

horses will need to place in two shows to participate in January Nationals.

The Feathered Horse Classic North had its first show in September 2017 and will run again Sept. 1-2 at the Simons Arena, Cannon Falls.

"All of these events and shows are spectator friendly and we encourage those who are interested in the Gypsy horses to come, watch and meet our wonderful breed of horses," Sharon said.

Besides operating the ranch, the Krebsbachs also run a commercial painting business, "Mark's Wallcoating."

Rosie's Gypsy Ranch is at 12564 CR 160, St. Joseph. For additional information and to view more photos of Gypsy horses, visit the Facebook page Rosie'sgypsranch or call 320-363-4714.



contributed photo

Rosie's Gypsy Ranch (left to right) horse, Bo, with trainer, Katie Hembree, and owners, Sharon and Mark Krebsbach, and horse, Bailey, attend a Minnesota Pinto Show.

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Suspicious fire destroys family landmark

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

The little metal bridge over Watab Creek stood tall for 100 years.

It survived farm work and fun with four generations of Trauts but it didn't survive a suspicious fire that burned the beams and boards.

Early on the morning of July 24, Larry Traut was startled when a Sartell police officer drove into his yard west of Sartell.

The officer had spotted smoke and wondered what Larry was burning.

He stepped outside with the officer who saw flames rising from the one-lane bridge north of the house.

"What the hell, my bridge is on fire," Larry said.

Sartell firefighters struggled to extinguish the flames. Years before, metal sheets were installed to cover the planks when the bridge was on a snowmobile trail that ran from St. Joseph to St. Stephen.

Firefighters peeled back the metal sheets and put out the fire. Now, the charred beams and road boards tumble toward the water below.

A week after the fire, Larry,

81, gathered with his oldest brother Bill, 93, and their nephew, Ralph, to share memories of the family landmark.

The bridge found its second life on the property in the 1920s. It originally spanned Watab Creek on Riverside Avenue. When a new bridge replaced it, Larry and Bill's father salvaged it and moved it to their property.

The newly relocated bridge connected two sections of the Traut farm – the 40 acres south of the river and 60 acres north of it.

When the Trauts weren't crossing it to tend their corn and alfalfa fields, younger family members used the bridge for swimming and fishing.

"I can remember that bridge down there was a swimming hole for everybody in the area," Larry said. "At night, cars would come in and drive down there and go swimming every night in the summer time."

Bill's memories go back to the late 1920s. One of his earliest memories is of his dad watching him use a team of horses to grade the bridge approach.

"As soon as we were able to walk, our toes were pointed toward the river," Bill said. "The



photo by Mike Knaak

Larry Traut stands by the remains of a bridge destroyed in a suspicious fire.

sand was so nice and cool on my bare feet."

Ralph's family lived two miles down the river.

"Every day in the summer we'd get on our bicycles and ride over here to go swimming and jump off the bridge," he said.

Larry learned to swim under the bridge.

"My swimming lessons lasted 30 seconds to a minute," Larry said. "I have twin brothers a couple of years older than

me – Marvin and Melvin – and one day, one grabbed me by the legs and one grabbed me by the shoulders and threw me in. It's 8 to 10 feet deep. I don't know if they would have jumped in to save me. All of a sudden I started swimming.

"Nowadays people would not let kids our age run down there," Larry said. "Four or 5 years old and we'd be standing on the bridge fishing."

Larry, who worked for the Agricultural Stabilization and

Conservation Service until he retired in 1999, doesn't know what will happen to the damaged bridge. He's waiting to hear from his insurance company.

Larry rents out his corn fields. New homes, now part of the city of Sartell, occupy the land north of the river.

"The bridge has no use for farming any more but it certainly didn't deserve the demise it went through," Bill said.

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GNTC's 'Annie' shows through Aug. 12

"Annie," presented by Great Northern Theatre Company, opened Aug. 3, at the Glanville Smith Auditorium in Rocori High School, Cold Spring.

Show times are 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 10, and Saturday, Aug. 11. A matinee performance is scheduled at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 12.

Mitchell Brown from St. Joseph plays the role of Rooster. Other actors include Kate Lathe as the titular Annie, Holly Dahlinger as Lily, Sara McDonald as

Miss Hannigan and Mitchell Hurrle as Daddy Warbucks.

The musical takes place in the 1930s. Annie is a fiery young orphan who must live in a miserable orphanage run by the tyrannical Miss Hannigan. Her seemingly hopeless situation changes dramatically when she is selected to spend a short time at the residence of the wealthy munitions industrialist, Oliver Warbucks.



contributed photo

Holly Dahlinger (left) plays Lily, Sara McDonald plays Miss Hannigan and Mitchell Brown plays Rooster in Great Northern Theatre Company's production of "Annie."

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Primary

from front page

governor this year with Gov. Mark Dayton ending two terms.

On the Republican side of the ballot, endorsed candidate Jeff Johnson, who lost to Dayton in 2014, is being challenged by former two-term governor Tim Pawlenty. Mathew Kruse is also on the Republican ballot. Pawlenty has chosen former state Sen. Michelle Fischbach as his lieutenant governor. Fischbach represented the Sartell, St. Joseph, Cold Spring and Paynesville areas in District 13 before resigning. Her replacement will be chosen in a special election on Nov. 6. District 13 Senate candidates are Democrat Joe Perske and Republican Jeff Howe.

On the Democratic Party side of the ballot, endorsed candidate Erin Murphy faces challenges from Tim Walz, who represents Minnesota's First Congressional District, and Lori Swanson, current state attorney general. The DFL ballot also lists Tim Holden and Ole Savior. Three people are running for attorney general on the Republican side of the ballot. They are Sharon Anderson, Robert Lessard and Doug Wardlow, who is the party-endorsed candidate.

Five Democrats are running for attorney general. They are Keith Ellison, Tom Foley, Debra Hilstrom, Matt Pelikan and Mike Rothman. The DFL endorsed Pelikan. Ellison currently represents Minnesota's Fifth Congressional District.

Minnesota's two Democratic U.S. Senators, Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, are up for election in 2018. Dayton appointed Smith, who was lieutenant governor, after Al Franken resigned his senate seat, triggering an election this fall for the last two years of Franken's term.

Klobuchar faces four challengers: Steve Carlson, Stephen Emery, David Groves and Leonard Richards.

Smith faces five challengers: Ali Chehem Ali, Gregg Iverson, Nick Leonard, Richard Painter and Christopher Seymore Sr. Painter,

a former Republican, served as President George W. Bush's ethics lawyer and is currently a law professor at the University of Minnesota.

Klobuchar and Smith are the party-endorsed candidates.

On the Republican side, four people are running to face Klobuchar. They are: Merrill Anderson, Rae Hart Anderson, Roque De La Fuente and Jim Newberger.

Three people are running for the two-year seat: Bob Anderson, Nikolay Nikolayevich Bey and Karin Housley.

Republicans endorsed Newberger and Housley.

In Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District, Republicans will choose from incumbent Tom Emmer, Patrick Munro and A.J. Kern for who will face Democrat Ian Todd in November.

If you can't make it to the polls on Aug. 14, Stearns County has added hours for casting absentee ballots at two locations.

The Stearns County Auditor's Office and Stearns County Service Center will be open on Saturday, Aug. 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and until 5 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 13.

The auditor's office is in the Stearns County Administration Center, Room 148, 705 Courthouse Square, St. Cloud.

The service center is at 3301 CR 138, Waite Park.

Candidates for offices that do not conduct primaries won't be on the Aug. 14 ballot. The filing period for those offices runs until 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 14.

The Sartell-St. Stephen school district will elect three board members to serve four-year terms.

In St. Joseph, voters will elect a mayor and two city council members.

The city of St. Stephen will elect two council members to serve four-year terms, one council member to serve a two-year term and a mayor to serve a two-year term.

For sheriff candidate profiles and more political news stories, head to www.thenewsleaders.com/election-2018.

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, Aug. 10

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, 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.

Monday, Aug. 13

Hiring an Immigrant Workforce, 2-4:40 p.m., Recource Training and Solutions, 137 23rd St. S., Sartell. Hosted by Immigrant Employee Connection Group, 320-308-5749.

St. Joseph Planning Commission, 6 p.m., St. Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. 320-363-7201. cityofstjoseph.com.

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

Tuesday, Aug. 14

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

National Alliance on Mental Health, 7-8:30 p.m., Calvary Community Church, 1200 Roosevelt Road, St. Cloud. 320-259-7101.

Wednesday, Aug. 15

Free immigration services, 9 a.m.-noon, Discovery Community School,

700 Seventh St. S., Waite Park.

St. Cloud school board meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, 400 Second St. S., St. Cloud.

Thursday, Aug. 16

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.

Nordic walking, 9:30 a.m., meet at the granite fountain at Lake George in St. Cloud. Call Linda at 952-475-0891.

Friday, Aug. 17

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.

Monday, Aug. 20

St. Joseph City Council, 6 p.m., council chambers, St. Joseph Government Center, 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.

Parkinson's disease treatment options speaker, 1 - 2:30 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids.

Tuesday, Aug. 21

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

St. Cloud Area Parkinson's Disease Support Group, 1 to 2:30 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive

N., Sauk Rapids.

St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club, 7 p.m., American Legion, 101 W. Minnesota St., St. Joseph.

Memory Writers group develops topics and turns in stories. 10 a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S, St Cloud.

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

St. Joseph Economic Development Authority, 5 p.m., council chambers, St. Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. 363-7201. cityofstjoseph.com.

National Alliance on Mental Health, 7-8:30 p.m., Calvary Community Church, 1200 Roosevelt Road, St. Cloud. 320-259-7101.

Wednesday, Aug. 22

Free immigration services, 9 a.m.-noon, Community Outpost, 600 13th St. S., St. Cloud.

Thursday, Aug. 23

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.

Nordic walking, 9:30 a.m., meet at the granite fountain at Lake George in St. Cloud. Call Linda at 952-475-0891.

Friday, Aug. 24

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, Aug. 25

Go Far Together, run walk and picnic, check-in at 8:30 a.m. Lake George, St. Cloud. Register by Aug. 20, St. Cloud school district 320-200-3600 or isd742.ce.eleyo.com.

Shoe Bus joins Fare for All

The Shoe Bus will be part of the Monday, Aug. 13, Fare for All program. The event runs from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2.

Fare For All has teamed with Good in the Hood to support its Shoe Away Hunger Campaign. Gently used shoes will be available for purchase. Adult shoes cost \$5 and children's shoes go for \$2. Everyone is welcome. All proceeds go directly to the purchase of food for food shelves. Shoe donations are also welcome.



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Opinion

Our View 'Nobody' wins when you don't vote

Do you want to overthrow the government? Or maybe you think things are going just fine.

Either way, Tuesday's primary election is the time to take a stand.

Midterm elections generally attract a low voter turnout. Primary election turnout is historically even lower.

Voting is always the most important action of civic engagement, but because of a unique set of circumstances this year, voters must participate, starting with the primary.

Statewide, voters will elect a new governor. Mark Dayton is ending two terms so Minnesotans will have a new administration regardless of which party wins.

Party endorsements don't mean much this year.

On the Republican side, endorsed candidate Jeff Johnson, who lost to Dayton in 2014, is being challenged by former two-term governor Tim Pawlenty. Pawlenty's opponents are already running ads against Pawlenty, assuming he will beat Hennepin County commissioner Johnson. The ads remind voters of Pawlenty's cuts to education and health funding while he stresses job creation.

Democrats endorsed Erin Murphy. She's a former state House majority leader and represents the Summit Hill neighborhood of St. Paul. She faces challenges from Tim Walz, who represents Minnesota's First Congressional District, and Lori Swanson, current state attorney general.

Walz is to the right of Murphy and his ads stress his background as a teacher and his rural roots. The TV ads don't mention he's served in Congress since the 2007 election. Swanson joined the governor's race late after she failed to get the DFL endorsement for attorney general because DFLers didn't like her A+ rating from the National Rifle Association.

The Democrats also have a hot race for attorney general. The five candidates are Keith Ellison, Tom Foley, Debra Hilstrom, Matt Pelikan and Mike Rothman. The DFL endorsed Pelikan. Ellison currently represents Minnesota's Fifth Congressional District and is giving up his increasingly larger role in Congress to run for state office. Analysts think Ellison is trying to build his resume for bigger things such as U.S. Senator or governor.

Both U.S. Senators, Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, are running for re-election. Klobuchar should have no trouble with her four challengers, but Smith has an interesting contest. You've probably seen Richard Painter on cable TV pushing for Trump's impeachment and calling him a crook. Painter was ethics lawyer during George W. Bush's administration but he's running as a Democrat. He's taken some positions to the left of Smith, including opening up mining in northeastern Minnesota.

Locally, Stearns County will have a new sheriff. The candidates are Dave Bentrud, Bob Dickhaus, Dwight Pfannenstein and Steve Soyka. Pfannenstein withdrew from active campaigning after he was appointed St. Joseph police chief in June but his name remains on the ballot. All the candidates have extensive law enforcement experience backed up by strong academic preparation.

Showing up on Tuesday is important. We keep hearing Donald Trump won the electoral vote while Hilary Clinton won the popular vote in 2016. But the real winner was nobody. Trump's 63 million votes and Clinton's 66 million came in behind the 111 million people who did not vote. Nationwide, 55.5 percent of eligible voters showed up. Minnesota again led the nation with 74.16 percent turnout.

Let's do better.

If you want to overthrow the government, the time is now.

Trump brings back memories of Piggly Wiggly

Donald Trump's recent speech in Tampa got me thinking about Piggly Wiggly.

Trump again argued for requiring voters to show a photo ID to guard against voter fraud – one of the many myths Trump likes to rant about.

Photo IDs are required for many transactions, even buying groceries, Trump trumpeted.

"You know, if you go out and you want to buy groceries, you need a picture on a card, you need ID. You go out and you want to buy anything, you need ID and you need your picture," he said.

Critics mocked him for being out of touch and obviously not being a regular grocery buyer.

Critics compared his groceries-with-a-photo ID comment to George H.W. Bush's visit to a supermarket where he marveled over the not-exactly-cutting-edge technology of a price scanner. Bush's awkward moment didn't help his campaign when "It's the economy, stupid" ruled the 1992 presidential race.

Trump's grocery comment reminded me of my days at Piggly Wiggly, a grocery chain with stores across Minnesota in the 1950s, '60s and '70s. There were two Piggly Wigglys in St. Cloud and while in high school, I worked at the Sixth Avenue store, now a

Trump's groceries gaffe makes point

At a campaign rally in Florida, President Trump made a claim that you need an ID to buy groceries, but not to vote. While you do not need an ID to buy groceries in most cases, in our country you are not required to have an ID to vote in almost any cases. With the widespread distrust in our voting system in the wake of allegations of Russian meddling in the 2016 election and complaints about the Electoral College system, it should be imperative we take all steps we can to ensure the integrity of our electoral process. These steps should include implementing common sense Voter ID laws.

After working as a student election judge in my hometown of Sauk Rapids in the 2016 election and researching other nations around the world, I've found the United States severely lags behind many other countries. Norway and Israel are among a large number of nations that explicitly require a form of photo ID to be presented at the polls. Others, like our northern neighbors Canada, will also take documents like utility bills that can prove your residency or citizenship status.

By contrast, here in the United States, voters must merely state their name to an election judge, who then will find the name in the voting register and have the voter affirm they are indeed the person they claim to be. Voter ID is not required, and people who mistakenly pull out their driver's license or other identification to show it to us are told it's not needed. This system is based massively on trust, as

**Mike
Knaak**
Editor



Perkins restaurant.

Sadly, there are no more Piggly Wigglys in Minnesota, but you'll find a few stores in Wisconsin and there are more than 600 Piggly Wiggly stores in 17 states, primarily in the Midwest and Southeast.

Commonly in the late 1960s, people paid for groceries with paper checks. Not only did they write checks for the amount of purchase, but they used the Piggly Wiggly as their bank. For example, a shopper would buy \$20 worth of groceries and write us a check for \$50, collecting the difference in cash.

We'd also frequently get payroll and other two-party checks. On payday, a shopper would present us with a \$250 or \$300 payroll check to cover \$50 worth of groceries and we'd give them cash back. (Keep in mind an average worker's yearly pay in 1969 was less than \$6,000 and \$50 would buy a heaping cart of groceries. An annual average salary is 10 times as much today.)

On paydays at big employers, such as the railroad car shops in

**Connor
Kockler**
Guest Writer



without party challengers or a person who recognizes someone claiming a name that is not theirs, there is no way to verify whether each person who votes is telling the truth.

Various opinion polls put support for Voter ID laws among Americans at around 60 to 80 percent, with majorities of Republicans, Democrats and independents in favor. So what is the holdup? Voter ID opponents argue these laws present a barrier to voting for poorer people and minorities, whom they say cannot access IDs as easily as other groups. They also claim voter fraud is not a large problem, with a few dozen or hundred cases reported each election cycle around the country.

On the issue of barrier to access, a photo ID is required for many tasks in everyday life. Though you do not need one to buy groceries, you do need a photo ID to complete many of these tasks:

- Buying alcohol and cigarettes
- Opening a bank account
- Applying for a job or government benefits
- Renting/buying a house or car
- Plane travel
- Purchasing a firearm

For those who do not have a type of photo ID, it's fairly straightforward

Waite Park, we'd load up on extra \$20 and \$50 bills.

Before the ubiquitous ATM, the Pig was the cash machine.

Our Sixth Avenue location near the St. Cloud State campus attracted loads of student shoppers, especially on Monday night. Students would return from the weekend at home with a \$10 two-party check from mom or dad and stock up on a few bucks worth of macaroni and cheese and take the change in cash.

Maybe the last time Trump bought groceries was during his college days. Because when people paid with a check, we'd often require a photo ID such as a driver's license.

I knew the regular customers who paid by check and I didn't ask for ID. But for people I didn't know, who presented two-party checks or a check with a low sequence number, the customer did need a photo ID for the transaction.

Perhaps Trump is among the 4 percent of shoppers who still buy groceries with a check.

If Donald Trump walked into my Piggly Wiggly with a check from Deutsche Bank and signed by Viktor Vekselberg, I'd definitely make him show an ID to buy his macaroni and cheese.

to acquire one from your state. Minnesota for instance, offers State IDs to those who do not have driver's licenses for a maximum of \$17.25, with options to apply online, by mail or in person.

With regards to voter fraud not being a major problem, I would pose this question. Is any amount of crime acceptable? Much like with other crimes, it would be impossible to completely eliminate all cases of voter fraud, but when the choices of the electorate can hinge on a few votes, do we want to take the risk some of them could be fraudulent? It would be hopeful at best and negligent at worst to not take voter fraud as the hazard it is.

We need not look too far from home to see the potential dangers. After the 2008 election for Senate in Minnesota where Al Franken beat Norm Coleman by 312 votes, Ramsey and Hennepin counties brought voter fraud charges against more than six dozen people.

I would encourage our local, state and federal lawmakers to take a look at common-sense, effective Voter ID laws that provide opportunities to all citizens to easily access a Photo ID and verify voters at the polls in order to insure the accuracy and integrity of our electoral process. In a partisan age, that's something we should all be able to get behind.

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

Opinion

And all I got was this lousy T-shirt

Summer is beginning its wind-down, and I scream at the fading light. I love summer so much so that perhaps I am in love with summer, but that's a different column. Instead, I wish to ruminate some fine local summer vacation activities my family and I have enjoyed this year.

My family and I haven't taken a proper vacation in four years for a variety of reasons. Instead, we try to just have fun around here, or at least within an easy(ish) two-hour drive. Central Minnesota actually has quite a bit to offer a family with kids ranging from 2 to 13.

Our first stop this year was Como Zoo. For those of you who haven't been there lately (or ever!), Como Zoo is a must-see for every Minnesotan. There is no strict fee to enter the zoo,

rather a suggested donation, which is nice for families with every budget. In years we do better, we try to give more when we visit, and in years where we can't give as much, we try not to feel too bad about it.

There is a wide variety of animals at Como Zoo, from apes and monkeys, to big cats, giraffes, wolves and even my family's favorite, the polar bear. This year, Como Zoo is also under massive construction to redesign its seal habitat, so there is definitely a reason for us to go back in 2019.

Outside of the animals at Como Zoo, there is also a section with ticketed theme-park rides. This is a bit spendy, but I am a sucker for the Tilt-a-Whirl, as are my 4- and 6-year olds. My 2-year-old enjoys the train, and my 13-year-old doesn't care for

Patric Lewandowski
Guest Writer



rides at all.

Of course, we must exit through the gift shop, which has amazingly low-priced stuffed animals. It's very easy to get nice souvenirs for all the kids for under \$50.

One last must-see at Como is the historic Cafesjian's Carousel, which was built in 1914, and still functions for kids to ride today. It makes for a nice family tradition I was able to go on as a child and share with my kids.

The other daycation spot we love to visit every year is just to the north in Brainerd. I can only be referring to the beloved Paul Bunyan Land of course. There is

nothing more Minnesotan than a theme park for the giant lumberjack responsible for so much of Minnesota's topography (according to legend). Sure, there's the typical rides (more Tilt-a-Whirl), but the main attraction is Paul himself! Yes, Paul is now retired from his lumberjack days and the giant sits just inside his theme park, towering over all. But, Paul is friendly, saying hello to all and welcoming each child by name as they enter. My own children have met Paul's welcome with both terror at the giant talking to them (he is 26 feet tall), and amazement. It's, again, a proud tradition to share with my children the fear I felt at their ages.

Of course, PBL (as we cool kids call it) has more to offer than animatronics and rides. There is the Ghost Mine, the

Magnetic Mine Shaft and the historical Pioneer Village to see. The petting zoo is fun as well, but my favorite thing will always be the bumper cars. Now that my boy is 13, he's really ready to help me Malachi Crunch (for you Happy Days super fans) any and all foolish to ride against us. Paul Bunyan Land is fun because you pay once and ride all you want, plus there's enough other things to see before you (once again) exit through the gift shop.

There's still a few weeks left to see these uniquely Minnesotan attractions before summer's last gasp and kids head back to school. As for my family, we'll be heading next for the last of three summer daycations to one of the best Renaissance festivals in the nation, which just happens to be here in Minnesota.

Letter to the editor

Reader encourages to vote Bentrud for sheriff

Lowell Nielsen, St. Cloud

We are having a primary election on Aug. 14 for Stearns County sheriff. We really need to have citizens get out to vote because like all mid-term election years, people have a tendency to believe these times are less important. However, in the primary election on Aug. 14, we have Dave Bentrud as our Stearns County sheriff candidate who wants your vote in order to move on to the general election on Nov. 6.

This candidate – our can-

didate – is presently Waite Park Police Chief Dave Bentrud, who wants to be your next Stearns County sheriff. We need a sheriff in Stearns County for the whole county not one that shows up throughout the county only at election time or remains primarily near the county seat. Counties like Stearns, which have the seat of the county in the corners and edges of the county, require a sheriff who is cognizant of this dilemma and reacts accordingly by reaching out to the out-county citizens – continually, throughout the

year. Remember this, if you are not satisfied with a status quo sheriff's department, you must vote for change with Bentrud. This change also comes with his designs to collaborate with other county and state agencies making sure all avenues are covered in the course of providing for the safety needs and protection of all our county's citizens, young and old.

I have known Bentrud for more than four years, ever since joining the church where he serves as chairman of the Elder board. As the chair, Ben-

trud is a discerning, stable listener and thinker who does not react with a knee-jerk attitude. He is a God-fearing husband and father who is genuine and forth-coming whenever one speaks with him. He is a great teacher with a plethora of knowledge to add to the office of Stearns County sheriff, as a teacher in church classes and someone who has a lengthy tenure at St. Cloud State University as an adjunct instructor in Criminal Justice. As a former county probation supervisor in the 1990s, when Bentrud was a St. Cloud po-

lice officer, it became quickly evident to me of how important and necessary sound leadership in management was required at a police chief or sheriff's position. Bentrud's the man for the job.

Please vote and tell all your friends to simply vote for (one) person who really can make a difference in the way the Stearns County Sheriff's Department is managed; vote "BENTRUD" on Aug. 14 because we believe he and his record rise far above his opponents in this election.

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Lions clubs donate to Stearns County Dive team

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

The St. Joseph Lions and St. Joseph Y2K Lions both recently donated to the Stearns-Benton County Dive Team to help fund the purchase of a Side Scan Sonar.

After hearing of the need for funds, the St. Joseph Y2K Lions members voted unanimously to contribute the proceeds of their recent brat sale to the effort. Their donation was \$1,728.82.

"It's a very important piece of equipment and it will help the community," said Y2K president Kay Lemke.

The St. Joseph Lions donated \$1,000. Immediate past president Lion Joe Bechtold said he likes to refer to the equipment as the "little sub."

"We thought it was a worthwhile project and it is good to see so many organizations taking part," he said.

The Stearns-Benton Dive Team launched a fundraising drive in March to purchase the equipment. The unit and associated equipment can cost up to \$100,000. So far, the team has received more than \$10,000 in donations from various sources.

The dive team consists of licensed deputies from both the Stearns and Benton county sheriffs' offices who give their time and service as an extra-duty assignment. The team, which has operated for more than 30 years, consists of many certified divers who respond to water emergencies across the two counties, often at a moment's notice.

The mission of the team is to rescue when possible, but to always bring a lost person back to their family even in situations of a loss of life.

The dive team's current equipment is not adequate for bodies of water that contain a lot of debris and obstructions, or murky

waters such as the Mississippi River. In rivers, it can be very difficult to search the waters depending on the time of year, water levels and the current.

Some of the most experienced operators of equipment such as the Side Scan Sonar may be hours away and it routinely takes as long as 24 hours to send a unit. This time spent waiting can be heart-wrenching for those who are waiting to find missing family or loved ones.

When drownings are not witnessed, it can be difficult to quickly and accurately define and search areas where victims may be located.

The Side Scan Sonar is pulled by a boat and remotely operated with a video screen. The new sophisticated technology of the equipment can see into the depths of rivers and lakes and through dark muddy water such as in the Mississippi River. The Side Scan Sonar can map the



contributed photo

St. Joseph Y2K Lions members Ginger Meier (left) and Kay Lemke (right) present a check to Lt. Bob Dickhaus (center) from the Stearns County Sheriff's department to help fund the purchase of a Side Scan Sonar for the Stearns-Benton County Dive Team.

bottom of an entire lake in a few hours and produce real-time images for rescuers to see and evaluate before risking the safety of divers in fast moving or murky waters.

Anyone who wishes to donate to the effort to fund a Side Scan Sonar should contact the Stearns County Sheriff's Office at 320-259-3702 and ask to speak to Lt. Bob Dickhaus.

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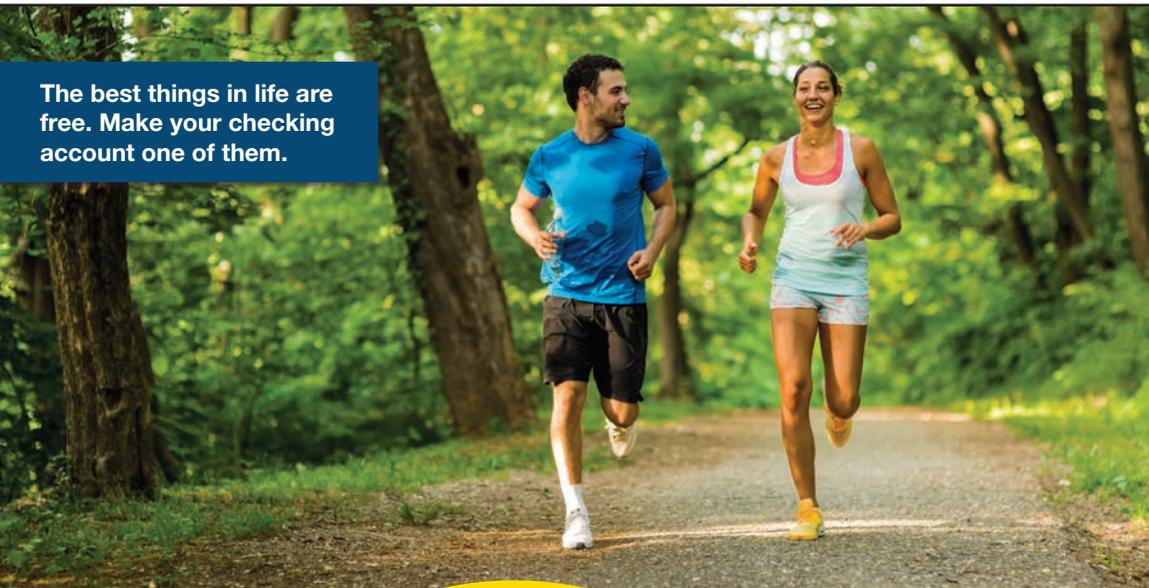


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