

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Sept. 21, 2018
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Est. 1989

Town Crier

Millstream Arts Fest to be held Sept. 30

Millstream Arts Festival will offer free, supervised bike-corral services by St. John's Preparatory National Honor Society students for those who wish to cycle to the festival. The corral will be located near the information booth. The event will be held from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 30 and includes juried art, music, food and activities for all. Food-shelf donations welcome at the info booth. For more information, visit millstreamartsfestival.org.

St. Stephen Citywide Garage Sales set Sept. 27-29

The citywide garage sale weekend has been set for Sept 27-29. Individual sales are marked. Stop by Howie's Corner Bar, The Rusty Nail or Trobec's Bar for lunch!

Frantober Fest set Sept. 22, 23

Frantober Fest, hosted by St. Francis Xavier Catholic Community, will be held starting at 8:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 22 and 23 at the church at 219 Second St. N, Sartell. The event features Franny Flyer Walk and Run, live music by Radio Nation, Dad's Belgian Waffles, a silent auction, bake sale, games, food, inflatables and more. For more information, visit frannyflyer.eventbrite.com.

Candidate Forum: ISD #742 set Oct. 2

A forum featuring school board candidates for the St. Cloud School District, conducted by the League of Women Voters, St. Cloud area, will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 2 in the new District Administration Offices, 1201 S. Second St., Waite Park. Six candidates are running for three open seats: Zachary Dorholt, Les Green, Peter Hamerlinck, Larry Hosch, Natalie Ringsmuth and Beth Schlangen. Forums are open to the public and candidates respond to written questions from the audience. The DAO is located in the former Minnesota School of Business, west of Menard's on the north side of the street.

INSERTS:
Howe and Demuth
Rep. O'Driscoll
Woodcrest of
Country Manor

*Stories only on
thenewsleaders.com*

- St. Joseph residents injured in motorcycle crash
- St. Joseph man involved in 2-vehicle crash

Sweet syrups bring sweet honors to Carlsons

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Despite a rough winter that threatened never to end, spring and summer were sweet, sweet seasons for Shelly Carlson and her family, who live in rural St. Joseph.

In spring, the sap from their maple trees was low in water content but very high in sugar density. And in summer, during the recent Minnesota State Fair, the family members' hard work paid off when their Wildwood Ranch Pure Maple Syrup won first-place ribbons in two categories and then one of the syrups went on to win Best of Show.

Shelly said she was so happy about the news. "It was quite a surprise," she said. "We never expect to win, but it sure is sweet when you do."

And the state fair honors followed two first-place wins

earlier this summer in Aitkin at the Minnesota Maple Syrup Producers Association competition. And the year before that, one of the Carlsons' syrups was named Best of Show by the MMSPA.

Carlson explained the procedure for the state fair contest:

Maple syrup entries are part of the Creative Activities division, along with canned produce, jellies and jams. For the maple syrup contest, there are four categories that can be entered: Golden, Amber, Dark Robust and Very Robust. Carlson entered two bottles of her syrup, one in the Amber category, the other in the Dark Robust category. Those two both won first-place ribbons.

Judges then take the first-place syrups in each of the four categories and compare them to determine Best of Show. Carlson's Dark Robust was the

Syrups • page 5



contributed photo

Happy family members smile about their first-place and best-of-show awards at the Minnesota State Fair's maple-syrup judging contest. From left to right are Shelly Carlson, husband Tom Carlson and daughter Maddie Carlson. Just to the left of Tom's right arm can be seen one of their two first-place blue ribbons at the State Fair display.

Two veteran candidates vie for Stearns sheriff

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Two men, each with nearly three decades in law enforcement, are competing to be the first new sheriff elected in Stearns County in 16 years.

Dave Bentrud, Waite Park police chief, and Steve Soyka, a Stearns County Sheriff's Office sergeant, are on the ballot

Nov. 6. One of them will replace Don Gudmundson who was appointed to fill out the term of Sheriff John Sanner after

Bentrud

Sanner retired in 2017. Both candidates stress the need for better cooperation and



Soyka

With a population of more than 155,000 people, deputies patrol a county that stretches more than

60 miles from metro St. Cloud to the farms and fields at the western end of the county.

The two candidates diverge over the value and significance of their considerable professional and academic experiences.

Bentrud, 60, is the "outside" candidate. Before serving as chief in Waite Park for 10 years, Bentrud was a sergeant in the

Sheriff • page 9

Workers uncover mural during church renovation



contributed photo

While working on a renovation in the Church of St. Joseph vesting Sacristy area of the church, workers uncovered a painting that was part of a mural when the area was previously used as a winter chapel.

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

It's always fun to uncover buried treasures, but for Andy Loso, president of the St. Joseph Historical Society, a recent discovery of a buried church mural was especially interesting.

While renovating the vesting Sacristy, workers uncovered a painting that was part of the mural at the St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Loso, who is the church's facilities manager, said he had heard about the "Purgatory" painting that was painted by renowned artist Johann Schmitt. Many older parishioners had told him about the beautiful painting that once hung on the east wall of the vesting Sacristy which was originally built as a smaller chapel to be used for daily Mass in the winter months because it was much smaller and less expensive to heat.

After Loso started working for

the church 17 years ago, he kept his eyes open for interesting artifacts as he was working in different areas of the church.

His first discovery was two stained-glass windows that originally were located on each side of the church's high altar.

With help from Nick Studer, the windows were saved for a future use. After Heritage Hall was built, the windows were restored by Studer and installed on the inside entrance doors of the parish center.

Loso said he continued to search for the Purgatory painting, hoping it had been painted on canvas and had been removed and stored away.

At the time of the church's sesquicentennial, he discussed the mural with a man named Albert Schindler.

Schindler informed Loso he had helped remove the mural from the wall. He also told Loso it was in two pieces and they had rolled it up

and given it to the church pastor at that time.

This information encouraged Loso and he continued to search for it.

Loso said the winter chapel space became necessary to update so bathrooms could be handicapped accessible and the area could be accessible to anyone with mobility issues. The construction updates were included as part of a church renovation project.

He said similar to when the church was built, parishioners stepped forward to do the demolition of the space to help the church save money.

At the end of August, Dale Sand, and his crew of Dave Sand and Joseph Loso, began the removal of the interior of the winter chapel. On the third day, Dale Sand showed Andy Loso a wooden door behind the east wall of drywall. On the door was a painting of what Loso

Mural • page 4

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, Sept. 21
St. Joseph Farmers' Market, 3-6:30 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, under the water tower near the Wobegon Trail Center, CR 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. Music by Artisan. \$6 admission for nonmembers. 320-339-4533. stcloudsingles.net.

Saturday, Sept. 22
Rock 4 Alzheimer's fundraiser, 1-8 p.m., parking lot behind Bad Habit Brewing, St. Joseph.

Sunday, Sept. 23
Joe Town Table, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., American Legion, 101 W. Minnesota St., St. Joseph.
Quarry Park Interpretive Session, Birding with a Smartphone, 5 p.m., meet at the Quarry Park information kiosk, 1802 CR 137, Waite Park. Advanced registration and parking pass required. Contact the park office, 320-255-6172.

Monday, Sept. 24
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave. NW., St. Joseph.
St. Joseph Park Board, 6 p.m., St. Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. 363-7201. cityofstjoseph.com.

Tuesday, Sept. 25
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, Sept. 26
Free immigration services, 9 a.m.-noon, Community Outpost, 600 13th St. S., St. Cloud.
Daily passenger train forum, 6:30-7:30 p.m., sponsored by All Aboard Minnesota, St. Cloud Public Library, 1300 St. Germain St. Discussion of additional passenger train service through St. Cloud connecting to the Twin Cities and Chicago.

Thursday, Sept. 27
Rummage sale, 7 a.m.- 7 p.m., St. John the Baptist Church, 14241 Fruit Farm Road.
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave. NW, St. Joseph.
Family Farmers' Market, 2-6 p.m., River East parking lot, CentraCare Health Plaza, 1900 CentraCare Circle, St. Cloud. 320-252-2422
Sauk Rapids Farmers' Market, 3-6 p.m., Coborn's parking lot, 110 First St. S., Sauk Rapids.

WACOSA fundraiser, 4-8 p.m. Panera Bread, St. Cloud. Bring the WACOSA-specific flier.

Friday, Sept. 28
Rummage sale, 7-11 a.m., St. John the Baptist Church, 14241 Fruit Farm Road.
Brat sale, sponsored by St. Joseph Y2K Lions, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., St. Joseph Meat Market, 26 First Ave. NW. Tips, profit and donations will fund local Lions projects.
St. Joseph Farmers' Market, 3-6:30 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, under the water tower near the Wobegon Trail Center, CR 2.

Saturday, Sept. 29
Brat sale, sponsored by St. Joseph Y2K Lions, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., St. Joseph Meat Market, 26 First Ave. NW. Tips, profit and donations will fund local Lions projects.

Sunday Sept. 30
Burger sale, sponsored by American Legion Post 328, 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Millstream Arts Festival.
Millstream Arts Festival, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. featuring artists, musicians and food vendors. downtown St. Joseph.
Quarry Park Interpretive Session, Plant Identification 101, 5 p.m., meet at the Quarry Park information kiosk, 1802 CR 137, Waite Park. Advance registration and parking pass required. Contact the park office, 320-255-6172.

Monday, Oct. 1
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 Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. 320-363-7201. cityofstjoseph.com.

Tuesday, Oct. 2
Memory Writers group, develop topics and turn in stories, 10 a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S, St Cloud.
Central Minnesota Market, 3-5:30 p.m., VA Hospital, 4801 Veterans Drive, St. Cloud. 320-251-2498.
St. Joseph Lions Club, 7:30 p.m., Millstream Park Pavilion, 101 Fifth Ave. NW., St Joseph. Joanne Bechtold, 320-363-4483.

National Alliance on Mental Health, 7-8:30 p.m., Calvary Community Church, 1200 Roosevelt Road, St. Cloud. 320-259-7101
Candidate forum for St. Cloud school board, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, 7-8:30 p.m., District Administration Office, 1201 Second St. S., Waite Park.

Wednesday, Oct. 3
Free immigration services, 9 a.m.-noon, Discovery Community School, 700 Seventh St. S., Waite Park.
Advocates for Independence, 2-4 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 N. Benton Drive, Sauk Rapids.
St. Cloud school board work session, 6:30 p.m. St. Augusta City Hall, 1914 250th St., St. Augusta.

Thursday, Oct. 4
Nordic walking, sponsored by Independent Lifestyles, 9 a.m., Lake George St. Cloud. 320-529-9000.

Blood drive, sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary Post 328 of St. Joseph, noon-6 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2. For an appointment or information, call 800-733-2767 or visit red-crossblood.org enter sponsor code St. Joseph.

St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave. NW., St. Joseph
Family Farmers' Market, 2-6 p.m., River East parking lot, CentraCare Health Plaza, 1900 CentraCare Circle, St. Cloud. 320-252-2422.
Sauk Rapids Farmers' Market, 3-6 p.m., Coborn's parking lot, 110 First St. S., Sauk Rapids
Great River Regional Coin Club, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Miller Auto Marine Sports Plaza, 2930 Second St. S., St. Cloud. 320-241-9229.

Friday, Oct. 5
Post-polio support group, 10:30 a.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 N. Benton Drive, Sauk Rapids.
St. Joseph Area Historical Society, open 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave. NW. stjosephhistoricalmn.org.

Sunday, Oct. 7
Coin Expo, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuscan Center, Midtown Square, Mall, 3333 Division St., St. Cloud.

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Guerrero reunites nun with her lost ring

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

A sense of quickening excitement overcomes Jerry Guerrero of St. Joseph when his metal detector tells him there is something under the dirt right in front of him.

When he digs into the ground, he is always surprised and excited about his “finds” even if they are ordinary objects like old toys, old tools or cast-off items of no particular value. But his excitement really rises, his heart pounds, every time he uncovers an old coin or a gold ring or a necklace pendant.

“I love the surprise element of this hobby,” he said. “It’s thrilling because you never know what you’re going to find.”

One of Guerrero’s recent happy finds is a gold ring belonging to Sister Tamra Thomas, who lives in a rental house in St. Joseph along with other nuns, one of them being 92-year-old Sister Phyllis Plantenburg.

One day, Guerrero stopped at the house and asked if he could do metal detecting in that yard. Sister Phyllis said yes, of course he could. He didn’t find much of anything noteworthy. But weeks later, Sister Phyllis saw Guerrero metal detecting in a nearby yard and walked over to talk with him about the “lost ring.”

It happened last fall just before an overnight snowstorm

was predicted. Sister Tamra decided to remove the little wire fence in a strip of butterfly garden behind the garage so no shovelers would damage it. On a cold evening, she did the task. But later that night, she noticed her special ring was missing from her left hand. It must have come off in the butterfly garden, she thought. She and others scoured the garden, even uprooting some of the plants and another small picket fence closer to the garage. She put all the debris on the lawn, raked through it, looked closely, scrutinizing every bit of the garden and the lawn. Alas, no ring.

It was very disappointing because the ring was given to Sister Tamra as a token of appreciation for joining the St. Benedict Monastery at a final profession ceremony just last year. The gold ring has a black signet with the letters IHS on it, the Latin initials for a phrase for “Jesus Savior of Mankind.”

When Sister Phyllis asked Guerrero if he and his detector could help pinpoint the lost ring, he said yes, of course. Within minutes, passing his detector over the soil in the butterfly garden, a signal was emitted. Guerrero brushed off a thin layer of dirt and “voila!” there was a sparkle of gold – the ring.

Sister Phyllis – and Sister Tamra, of course – were elated by the find and most grateful to Guerrero for his kind help.

It’s the second ring Guerrero found via special request. Last year, he found a young man’s wedding band.

However, it’s old coins – not so much rings – that give him a special thrill every time he spies a glint of silver or copper in the ground. His precious coin collection now includes the following stunning finds, most of them retrieved from the ground right in St. Joseph:

- An 1875 Liberty half-dollar and a 1911 quarter, both found the summer before last at an excavation site on College Avenue in downtown St. Joseph.
- A 1903 Barber half-dollar, found in a yard on Minnesota Street. (The coin and others are known as “Barber” because of Charles E. Barber, an engraver of coin designs for the U.S. Bureau of the Mint. His designs were minted in the millions on nickels, dimes, quarters and half-dollars from 1892 to 1916).
- A 1904 Barber half-dollar and a 1906 Barber half-dollar, found in the same yard of a house in St. Joseph.
- A 1907 Indian-head penny in a St. Joseph yard.
- A 1943 Walking Liberty silver dollar found at Benton Beach on Little Rock Lake near Rice.

Most really old coins are found typically from 5 to 8 inches below the ground surface. Guerrero has a knack for retrieving them without damaging a lawn. He makes a horse-shoe-shaped cut into the soil,



photo by Dennis Dalman
Benedictine Sister Tamra Thomas and Jerry Guerrero point to the spot where Guerrero, with the aid of his metal detector, found a gold ring that Thomas had lost.

then, once the object is retrieved, the dirt and grass can be placed back perfectly.

He has three detectors, which work via electromagnetism. An electromagnetic field is emitted by the detector’s bottom coil, which in turn sets off an electromagnetic response from a metal object, thus alerting the presence of a metal object in the ground.

Guerrero started his metal detecting hobby just three years ago. It is, he said, a most relaxing, interesting hobby that also is a form of exercise.

Born in Hutchinson, Guerrero moved to St. Cloud in 1979, then he and his wife, Lucy, moved to St. Joseph in 1988. He is the owner of Brush and Roll Painting, (interior/exterior painting); and of E-Z Clean

Pressure Washing Service. He also does deck refinishing upon request. The couple has two children – Lorena of St. Cloud; and Jeremiah, 37, Sauk Rapids. They have two grandchildren (Jeremiah’s children Daren, 15; and Brenna, 11). Darren likes to go on metaldetecting expeditions with his grandfather.

Guerrero is careful always to ask permission before treasure-hunting on private property. He is more than willing to help people, free of charge, to help locate lost rings or other precious-metal jewelry. If he finds unexpected gold objects, however, he shares half the price of the gold with the lot’s owner.

To contact Guerrero, call 320-420-2625 (cell) or (home) 320-363-4260.

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 tricountycrimestoppers.org. Crime Stoppers offers rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for a crime.

Aug. 31
11:11 p.m. Suspended license. Sixth Avenue S. The St. Joseph officer was working a Toward Zero Deaths special assignment in St. Cloud. A vehicle turned left from the right lane of traffic from Fifth Avenue to Hwy. 23. The vehicle was stopped. The driver was cited for driving after

suspension and improper left turn.

Sept. 1
12:44 p.m. Vehicle collision. CR 75 and Eighth Avenue NE. Driver of vehicle one thought the driver of vehicle two was going to pull onto CR 75 from a stop sign at Eighth Avenue NE. Driver one did not see driver two hesitate and the two vehicles collided.

Sept. 4
1:56 a.m. Dispute. 512 Schneider Drive. When officers responded to an argument, they heard yelling between a man and a woman inside the mobile home. The woman said she was

afraid of the man. He was arrested and could be charged with domestic assault.

12:38 p.m. Vehicle crash. CR 75 and CR 133. A van was in the left turn lane facing east on CR 75 when the driver decided to go straight instead. Vehicle one was in the left lane and attempted to avoid the van and collided with vehicle two. The driver of the van did not stop and no one involved had a license plate number for the van that caused the collision.

Sept. 4
7:37 a.m. Collision with a fire hydrant. Elm Street E. A single-axle truck rolled off the parking lot behind Coborn’s and

stopped after over running over a fire hydrant. After the truck was towed, the hydrant was usable although the fixtures underneath needed repair.

12:55 p.m. Vehicle crash. 29055 CR 121. The driver jerked the steering wheel, spun out and rolled over a couple of times. The driver said he had looked at his phone for the time and overcorrected. The officer advised the driver that vehicles had clocks so he wouldn’t have use his phone. The driver said the vehicle clock was broken. The vehicle was traveling south on CR 121. The driver was cited for failure to drive with due care. He was examined at the scene by Gold Cross personnel.

Sept. 10
11:44 a.m. Theft. Jade Road. A woman dropped her wallet in the parking lot but didn’t notice it missing. When the wallet was turned in, \$400 in cash and some gift cards were missing. The woman who found it said that she did not examine the contents of the wallet before turning it in.

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Mural

from front page

describes as an “angel, monk and sister behind the gates of Purgatory trying to help others rise from the flames of hell and ascend into heaven.”

Loso was very interested in the

painting.

“It was a great feeling to finally see that a piece of this mural still resided in this space,” Loso said. “The next thing was to decide what is to be done with this piece of history. The remodel called for a closet over this space. We went from revision four to revision six of the design of this space quickly. Currently, we are hoping to leave

(the painting) in this space as it was found and encase it so everyone can see it once again.”

The Rev. Jerome Tupa, an artist himself, gave the mural a light cleaning and Loso said the vibrant colors are once again popping off the door.

Because the door is in the mural, Loso believes previous parishioners and others decided it was easier to

leave the door where it was.

“I wish they would have just left the entire mural on the wall, but it didn’t remain,” he said. “There are remnants of canvas still tacked to the wall, but it appears they may have used a knife to cut along the tacks and just removed the pieces as they fell. On the ceiling of the space, you can see the clouds that were painted (on) the ceiling panels. One of those remains.”

When writing about the parish’s history in the book “Rooted in Christ the Living Stone, The Story of St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph, Minnesota A Sesquicentennial Celebration 1856-2006,” Sister Owen Lindblad described the mural as follows.

“Inside the winter chapel hung a

large canvas mural entitled ‘Purgatory.’” It was painted by a renowned Catholic, and deeply religious artist, Johann Schmitt. Schmitt was born in 1825 in Heinstadt, Baden, Germany. He studied art in Munich, Germany and New York. His rise to fame was phenomenal. His paintings, especially murals, were found in many older churches of the Midwest. His work breathed deep religious thought – fresh in color, chaste in design. Considered the finest painter in America at the time, Schmitt introduced a more religious note into devotional art which preserved a part of the history of Catholic art in America.”

A photo of the complete mural can be found in Lindblad’s book.

Holan named director of supportive services

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

A St. Joseph woman, Betsy Holan, has been named the new director of supportive-living-service programs at Catholic Charities, headquartered in St. Cloud.

Holan will lead the programs that provide housing and daily-living assistance to people with developmental disabilities and long-term mental-health challenges. She was previously program manager of the in-home and residential programs for persons with developmental disabilities.

Holan earned her bachelor’s degree in social work from Concordia College, Moorhead.

“For almost 25 years, I’ve had the privilege to serve persons who have made my workdays rich with amazing experiences while working alongside dedicated, committed co-workers and supervisors who have shared their wealth of knowledge and experience with me,” Holan said. “I look forward to leading the supportive-living service programs, building on the talent and experience we

possess, to continue providing quality services and looking for new ways to serve central Minnesota.”



Holan

Steve Pareja, executive director for Catholic Charities, praised Holan for her extraordinary dedication to those she helps.

“We are extremely blessed to have Betsy join our leadership team,” he said. “Her devotion to our clients, outstanding abilities, and past experiences will have a great impact on both our organization and the community.”

Catholic Charities is a non-profit organization that advances the charitable and social mission of the Catholic Diocese of St. Cloud. It builds communities, promotes family life and enhances human dignity by providing quality services to meet the physical, social, emotional and spiritual needs of individuals and families of all faiths and beliefs.

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Syrups

from front page

judges’ favorite.

Judges give points for varying aspects of maple syrup: light transparency (how light shines through the bottled syrup), sugar density, clarity (no sediment) and fourth – and last but certainly not least – taste, which can be scored anywhere from zero to 50 points.

Carlson is not sure of her winning scores because she hasn’t received the score sheets yet from the judges, although she was present at the fair, on Aug. 29, when the winners were announced.

There were 70 entries in the maple-syrup competition.

Many local people who have enjoyed Carlsons’ maple syrup for years will not be surprised at the first-place and best-of-show wins. They love the sweet, sticky stuff, which they buy at area farmers’ markets, as well as at the Carlsons’ home. This year, Shelly is selling the syrup only at the St. Joseph Farmers’ Market, from 3-6 p.m. every Friday by Resurrection Lutheran Church near the Lake Wobegon Trailhead.

Each bottle of syrup is labeled with Wildwood Ranch Poor Maple Syrup over a logo of a horseshoe and four-leaf clover.

“We’ve been blessed by our local customers,” Shelly said, “and also blessed by the Minnesota Street Market in St. Jo(seph) and the St. Joseph Meat Market (those businesses also sell the syrup).”

The Carlsons live about two miles west of Kraemer Lake Wildwood County Park. Their maple syrup operation is dubbed Wildwood Ranch, and the family lives four miles from it.

The family is comprised of Shelly, a part-time events coordinator for St. John the Baptist Parish in Collegeville; husband Tom, a veterinarian who works in St. Joseph, Cold Spring and Paynesville; son Ben, 27, who works for the Nature Conservancy in North Dakota; and daughter Addie, 24, operations manager for the Minnesota Street Market on St. Joseph’s main street. Shelly’s brother, Fred Honer, who lives nearby, also helps with the maple syrup production, including using sap collected from his own maple trees.

On a 30-acre area, the Carlsons and Honer have a total of 1,800 taps, two for each maple tree – 220 taps placed by Honer, 2,580 by the Carlsons.

“A lot of family relations, including several brothers, also help out,” Shelly said.

The maple-syrup making was started in the late 1970s on the same property by Shelly’s parents, Wally and Dorothy Honer, now both deceased. Shelly and Tom took over the operation in 2000.

Making maple syrup is very much a touch-and-go operation because it’s at the mercy of fickle weather. This past spring was highly unusual, more so than most springs, because there just wasn’t enough sap. Production was only about two-thirds of an average year, Shelly noted.

“What saved us is the high sugar content (of the sap),” she added.

Last spring, the Carlsons bottled 335 gallons of syrup, two-thirds of the production the year before. On an average spring, it takes about 40 to 50 gallons of sap to produce one gallon of maple syrup. This past spring, Shelly noted, it took only 32 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup (less water content, more sugar content in the sap).

“Every year is different, but the past one was very difficult because of all the snow and the extreme cold,” she said. “It was hard to empty buckets and bags, and some of the lines would freeze up.”

A perfect stretch for maple-syrup making is a temperature between 20 and 40 degrees. In 2016 and 2017, the Carlsons began collecting sap toward early February and were finished by the end of March. This past spring, because of the freaky cold weather and snow, they didn’t finish until the end of April.

This is how the Carlsons make maple syrup:

Sap is collected by taps in the maple trees. A vacuum tube system brings the sap to the sugar shack where it’s boiled down. A reverse-osmosis machine removes some of the excess water from the sap. A wood-fire condenser then boils the sap down to its delicious syrupy consistency before the bottling and labeling begin.

Do the Carlsons enjoy their own syrup?

“Oh yes!” Shelly said. “We use a lot of it in our coffee –



contributed photo

The bottle of syrup far left has its first-place award tucked beneath it. It is just one of two blue ribbons the Carlson family won at the Minnesota State Fair. One of the two categories of syrup they submitted not only won a blue ribbon but was named by judges as “Best of Show.”

milk and maple syrup with coffee. It’s very good.”

Anyone interested in maple-syrup making is welcome to attend a meeting at St. John’s University campus of the Minnesota Maple Syrup Producer’s Association. It’s scheduled for 8:30 a.m. (registration) Saturday, Sept. 29, at the Peter Engel

Science Center on the campus. There will be tasting and evaluation of syrups at the meeting. And then participants will tour the Carlsons’ sugar shack, the sugar shack of another maple-syrup producer, Randy Zimmer, and a final stop at the Milk and Honey Apple Cidery – all in the St. Joseph area.



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Klobuchar, DFL candidates visit St. Joseph

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

Sen. Amy Klobuchar visited campaign headquarters (the former Newsleaders office building) of Minnesota Senate candidate Joe Perske in St. Joseph the morning of Sept. 15 to help rally democratic volunteers.

They were joined by Minnesota House of Representatives District 13B candidate Heidi Everett and 13A candidate Jim Read, former House Representative Bill Luther, senators Kari Dziedzic, Chuck Wiger and Carolyn Laine and other volunteers to help kick off a door-knocking campaign.

Perske spoke about how fighting and bickering needs to end to ensure the legislature is focusing on the needs of the people and making their lives better. He hopes to make a better Minnesota and believes legislators need to work together to do that.

“It’s about a better future for the people of Minnesota,” he said.

As a runner, he said he feels this is a last big marathon he is running in his life and he is in it to win for the people of



photo by Cori Hilsgen

Sen. Amy Klobuchar (front center) visits the campaign headquarters of state Senate candidate (back right) Joe Perske Sept. 15 to help kick off a door-knocking campaign. They were joined by (front row, left to right) House of Representative District 13B candidate Heidi Everett, Sens. Kari Dziedzic, Klobuchar, Chuck Wiger and Carolyn Laine; and (back row) House of Representative District 13A candidate Jim Read and former House of Representative member Bill Luther and Perske.

Minnesota.

Klobuchar spoke about what the state needs is the bread-and-butter, no-nonsense politics right now and that, she added, is what Perske brings as a candidate.

She also spoke about how important it is to protect the Constitution of the United States and standing up for civility.

She discussed what she feels are some of the bread-and-butter issues for central Minnesota

such as rising health-care and prescription-drug costs, infrastructure and local roads, tariffs such as those local farmers are facing and filling local manufacturing jobs.

With manufacturing being an important part of Central Minnesota, she said there are many pathways to success and there are many jobs available.

Klobuchar shared how she visited with former Sen. John McCain and his wife, Cindy, at their home shortly before he

died. When McCain was finding it difficult to speak, he had pointed to a written passage about living for something bigger than yourself and how that is worth fighting for and that is what matters.

Both Everett and Read spoke about how important issues are to voters and how they hope to represent those needs. As a professor in the political science department at the College of St. Benedict/St. John’s University, Read encourages students to

get out and vote.

Klobuchar is from Plymouth where she attended public schools and later Yale University and the University of Chicago before practicing law in Minnesota. She was elected as Hennepin County Attorney in 1998 and served there until she was elected to the U.S. Senate.

Her grandfather worked 1,500 feet underground in northern Minnesota iron ore mines, her father was a newspaperman and her mother was an elementary school teacher. In 2006, Klobuchar was the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate from Minnesota. Medill News Service reported she ranked first in the Senate with the most bills she led or cosponsored enacted into law in 2016.

She visits all 87 counties in Minnesota each year and promotes rural America in the Senate.

Klobuchar is married to John Bessler from Mankato. They have a daughter, Abigail.

For additional information visit amyklobuchar.com, PerskeForSenate.com, jimreadforrep.com and heidimn13b.com websites.

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photo by Dennis Dalman

Dog-owners line up to sign in for the 30th annual pet/people walk sponsored by the Tri-County Humane Society that took place Sept. 8 in St. Cloud’s Wilson Park.

‘Bark to Future’ raises record amount

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

The staff and friends of the Tri-County Humane Society are ecstatic about the resounding success of “Bark to the Future,” the biggest annual fundraiser for the organization.

The walking event for both people and their pets came within a hair’s breadth of its goal – \$60,000, with \$55,500 raised at last count, said Kate Kompas, volunteer and events coordinator for the TCHS.

“We were pleased as punch,” she said. “It’s a new record for us.”

The \$60,000 goal was the highest set in the 30-year history of the annual walkathon

fundraiser. The money will be used for day-to-day general operations, Kompas noted. More fundraising efforts are ongoing with hopes of raising money for a TCHS shelter expansion project.

This year’s event, which took place Sept. 8 once again at Wilson Park in St. Cloud, was dubbed “Bark to the Future,” a nod to the popular 1980s movie “Back to the Future.” In the park, there were many 1980s-themed games and the presence of two vintage DeLorean cars, like the one used in the famous movie.

Kompas noted the turnout for both people and dogs was exceptional this time, with 655 people participating along with

361 dogs. That’s 200 more people than last year and 100 more dogs.

The TCHS adoption rate has steadily increased throughout the years and now hovers in the mid-90 percent range. In 2017, the organization, staffed mainly with volunteers, adopted out 2,746 animals. It placed 1,208 animals with foster-care volunteers, and it spayed/neutered 1,699 animals. It also hosted 45 spay/neuter clinics in the area, not to mention many educational outreach programs.

For more information about TCHS, how to adopt, how to donate or how to volunteer, visit to tricountyhumanesociety.org.

Stock playing his baseball dreams

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

Young boys who play T-ball and baseball often dream about how far they will go in the sport of baseball. In St. Joseph, many of them dream about when they might play for the St. Joseph Joes, St. Cloud Rox or the Minnesota Twins.

Joey Stock grew up to be a young man that is getting to fulfill some of those dreams by spending time pitching with the St. Cloud Rox in the Northwoods League, a college summer baseball league, this year.

“Ever since I can remember, I’ve always loved playing baseball,” Stock said.

His experience with the St. Cloud Rox began in mid-July.

While working in the St. John’s University alumni relations office, where his father, Tom Stock, also works, Stock got called to speak with Al Newman, who at the time was the manager for the St. Cloud Rox. Newman also formerly played for the Minnesota Twins.

Stock believes Pat Schneider from the St. Joseph Joes amateur baseball team spoke with Newman. His father, Tom, was then the catalyst for setting up his experience to meet with Newman.

After speaking with Newman, Stock joined the team.

Stock is a pitcher who has hit a speed of 94 mph a couple of times.

“That’s the fastest I’ve ever seen myself throw,” he said.

Stock usually throws a four-seam and two-seam fastball as his primary pitches. He also has a curveball and has been developing a changeup since he joined the Rox.

“My favorite or go to pitch is my two-seam fastball,” Stock said. “It’s two to three miles an hour slower than my four-seam, but has a little more movement.”

Stock shared an experience he had while playing at his first game with the St. Cloud Rox. In the sixth inning of the game, he was in the bullpen with all the other relief players getting loose, getting mentally prepared and stretching by the fence next to the first base line bleachers when a young boy



contributed photo

Joey Stock pitches for the St. Cloud Rox baseball team against Rochester this summer.

asked him for a baseball. Stock flipped the boy a baseball and said he could tell from his facial reaction when he caught it that he had just made the boy’s day.

“That was a great feeling,” Stock said. “I grew up cheering for the St. Cloud River Bats and when I would go to games I was one of those kids who would go stand next to the bullpen and watch guys get their workouts in and yes, ask for a ball or two. I just always dreamed of being one of those guys on the other side of the fence and to actually get that opportunity is a dream come true.”

Stock started playing baseball in Cold Spring when his family moved there when he was 7 years old. He later played in Cold Spring little leagues and travel leagues.

He also played Legion ball in St. Joseph from eighth grade until he graduated high school.

He didn’t really get a lot of attention from college scouts while playing in high school while attending St. John’s Prep School which is a Class 1A. He had a few discussions with other colleges but played for St. John’s University, a National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III school.

When he was 17, he was asked to play amateur baseball for the St. Joseph Joes team for three seasons with coach Pat Schneider.

Stock says he learned a lot from that experience and had a lot of fun.

This year, he was asked to pitch for the Cold Spring Springers amateur baseball team. He said he “had a blast playing ball for his home town again.”

His plans were to originally also play for the Bismarck Larks Northwoods League team with college roommates, but that didn’t work out when an injured player was able to return sooner than expected.

Stock is not sure where his baseball career will take him, but he is still dreaming.

“I hope I can just become the best ball player I can be, work as hard as I can while I can, and just see how far I can go,” he said. “I never thought I would ever make it to the Northwoods League and am just excited to see what else my career has in store.”

Stock attended St. Joseph Catholic School and St. John’s Prep school from sixth grade until graduating high school.

He is currently a junior at St. John’s University and is majoring in communications.

His father, Tom, played baseball for North Dakota State University and amateur baseball for St. Joseph and Regal. His mother, Lori, graduated from the College of St. Benedict with a nursing degree. Stock’s brother, Jake, graduated from St. John’s University in 2017 and is attending graduate school at New York University.

“My grandparents, Dick and Joyce Stock, live in St. Joe and are my biggest fans and have never missed a game,” Joey said.

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‘Rock 4 Alzheimer’s’ event set for Sept. 22

(Editor’s note: An incorrect version of this story was published in the Sept. 7 edition. Here is the corrected version including dates and performers.)

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

With an increasing number of people being diagnosed with the illness, local performers

once again will offer music enthusiasts some entertainment while helping raise awareness of and funding research for Alzheimer’s disease. These performers will gather for the third annual Rock 4 Alzheimer’s event from 1-8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22, in the parking lot behind the Bad Habit Brewing Co. in St. Joseph. The event will immediately

follow the Alzheimer’s Association/Walk to End Alzheimer’s that morning in St. Cloud. The Rock 4 Alzheimer’s event will include performances by “Slip Twister,” “Collective Unconscious,” “Walter’s Wheelhouse,” “The Future,” and “The Killer Vees.” In addition to the outdoor main stage, the event will also include a youth talent stage

where younger area musicians can showcase their talents. Organizers of this year’s Rock 4 Alzheimer’s event include Jeff Vee and Tommy Vee, of Rockhouse Productions, The Bad Habit Brewing Co. and the St. Cloud chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association of Minnesota and North Dakota. Local volunteers Jeny Meyer, from St. Joseph, and Mary Kelm, from Sauk Rapids, also help with the event. Meyer handles sponsorships and day-of-show coordination and Kelm coordinates the youth talent stage. Kelm joined the team with “School of Rock” coordinating experience. “This is now the third annual ‘Rock 4 Alzheimer’s’ and we are excited to see how fast the event has grown,” Jeff Vee said. “After having traveled the difficult and heart-breaking Alzheimer’s road with our dad, Bobby Vee, Tommy and I are determined to raise awareness and do what we can to combat this horrible disease. More than anything, we want to support the local efforts that help people in our community and let people know they are not alone. All of the proceeds stay right here in Central Minnesota, which has always been important to our family in any fundraising we have ever been a part of.” Jeff said the event name, “Rock 4 Alzheimer’s,” has a tagline that says, “What’s Your Story?” “When you have been down this road, you realize just about everyone has been touched by Alzheimer’s and has a story to

tell,” he said. “The very first year we did this, it was the sharing of stories and visible support in the room that was the most rewarding aspect. This event is as much or more for caregivers as anyone. Get out, take a break, blow off steam and feel support. It is so easy both as a caregiver, and the loved one inflicted, to isolate in a whirlwind of healthcare fire drills, sometimes shame, and ultimately the frustrating life challenges that evolve by the day.”

The Vees come from a music background and supporting music and art in Central Minnesota, especially for young people, has been very important to their family. From the “Rock Around The Clock” Cathedral High School fundraiser for 24 years, “School of Rock” shows for 14 years to Joetown Rocks for the last 12 years, bringing the area together around a “rock and roll” music event for a good cause has been a passion for them.

That is why a portion of the proceeds from the Rock 4 Alzheimer’s event will go to “The Bobby and Karen Vee Scholarship for Youth Arts and Music in Central Minnesota.”

The event was originally created by Jeff and Tommy Vee, sons of music legend Bobby Vee, and the family of Irene Linn, in conjunction with the St. Cloud Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association of Minnesota and North Dakota and Bad Habit Brewing Co. Both Bobby Vee and Linn are now deceased.



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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 easing 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 classes are from 9-10:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday mornings and from 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Call for location in St. Joseph.

If you have school-aged children, they can get help at Homework Helpers from 4:30-6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday

at Henrita Academic Building on St. Benedict’s Campus.

Volunteers from the food shelf on First Street are there to help you from 1-3 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays. You may shop once a month. Be sure to bring a photo ID and proof of residency (utility bill or rental lease) with your name on it.

Transportation: Tri-Cap is there to help you. If you have a medical appointment, call Tri-Cap at 888-765-5597 at least 24 hours in advance. They will pick you up at the curb closest to your address and drop you off at your doctor’s office. The cost is \$3 one way.

The Millstream Arts Festival will be held from 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 30 on Minnesota Street in downtown St. Joseph. Come see paintings, photography, handmade jewelry and other items. This is a local artist festival – maybe you will have a booth next year.

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.

Sheriff

from front page

St. Cloud Police Department. He touts his experience leading an entire department and his familiarity with management issues such as budgeting, technology and recruiting officers.

Soyka, 48, has spent his entire career in sheriff’s departments, first as a deputy in Benton County and for the last 22 years in the Stearns County Sheriff’s Office. Soyka emphasizes his experience with a sheriff’s wider responsibilities such as running a jail, 911 dispatching and civil-process service.

The sheriff manages an annual budget of more than \$20 million – half of it to operate the jail. The sheriff supervises more than 200 employees including deputies, dispatchers, correctional officers and support staff. The dispatch center answers more than a quarter-million phone calls a year. The jail booked 7,785 prisoners in 2017.

The county board will set the starting salary for the new sheriff in January. After that, the sheriff will be on the county’s pay grid and he will get increases the same as other county employees. Gudmundson’s pay was set at about \$158,000 this year.

Bentrud calls the relationship between the sheriff’s office and the county’s 12 police departments “strained.”

“I’ve been outside the agency

and seeing how it interacts,” Bentrud said. “I understand the issues and see how I can address them. There’s a sense of disconnect east end vs. west end. The county line doesn’t end just west of St. Joseph.”

Soyka offers a similar observation. “When I started campaigning, I talked to city councils and police chiefs. They want to talk about how we are doing as a sheriff’s office,” Soyka said. He stressed direct communication with citizens and leading deputies who want to stop and visit with residents and business people. “Go in there, introduce yourself and say ‘hi,’” Soyka says.

Both men have their own plans on how they would improve communication.

Soyka says he’d visit town board and city council meetings, continue the sheriff’s office weekly newsletter, improve the website and personally conduct town-hall style meetings to answer questions.

“I want to be out there with the people,” Soyka said.

Bentrud suggests a deputy or supervisor attend every township or city council meeting once or twice a year. Setting up substations in the west side of the county would allow citizens to meet deputies there to report crimes and complete paperwork instead of driving into St. Cloud. Years ago, there were substations in several western cities, but those facilities closed.

Bentrud also offered a technological solution of having

deputies muster remotely via computer instead of driving into St. Cloud to begin their shifts.

Beyond the communication and cooperation issue, Bentrud and Soyka offer different visions of being sheriff.

Both men have degrees in criminal justice; Soyka graduated from St. Cloud State University in 1992 and Bentrud graduated from the University of St. Thomas in 1991 and later completed a master’s at St. Cloud State in 1996.

Soyka’s 27 years in law enforcement have all been in a sheriff’s department, including getting his start as an Explorer. As a result, he says, he’s familiar with responsibilities beyond patrol including the jail, communications and special services such as water patrol.

“I can take off on Day One,” Soyka said.

Bentrud wants to promote more effective cooperation between the sheriff’s office and local police departments.

One way to help city cops and police work together is to replace the 20-year-old records system to make sharing crime data easier and bring more focus to patrolling.

“We’re after the same bad guys,” Bentrud said. “There can’t be a data island.”

Right now, the St. Cloud Police Department and the sheriff’s office work on two separate computer records systems. Bentrud wants a regional system to replace the current system he calls “archaic” that costs the

city and county \$300,000 per year to operate.

“New systems are more affordable and cheaper to maintain and allow us to be more focused on where we patrol and how we investigate,” Bentrud said. “Stearns County is way too big for randomly driving around.”

Soyka zeroed in on the personnel issue: recruiting deputies and correctional officers.

“We need to hire the right people who can adapt to different worlds” of addressing the diverse law enforcement issues in rural and urban areas of the county, Soyka said. “There are not as many people interested in law enforcement careers.”

He wants to set up a recruitment team to visit schools with criminal-justice programs.

“I want to get our sheriff’s office to a place where we have 400 people applying for jobs,” Soyka said.

Both candidates said recruiting and retaining jail staff is a problem that affects employee morale, costs overtime and leads to employee burnout.

“The No. 1 issue is staffing of jail officers,” Bentrud said.

Once hired, Soyka wants employees to find a “change in philosophy” with more teamwork and more interaction between deputies and correctional officers and supervisors.

“I’m here to listen, but to be honest with people,” Soyka said. He wants employees to offer up what he calls “real-life solutions” to problems.

Soyka’s leadership roles include team commander for Benton-Stearns SWAT and commander of the Central Minnesota Violent Offenders Task Force. The task force investigates narcotics, prostitution, gangs and other violent offenses. The team is made up of deputies from Stearns, Sherburne, Benton, Morrison and Todd counties as well as officers from Sartell, St. Cloud and Little Falls.

Bentrud has been instrumental in a multi-jurisdictional effort to stem sex trafficking that started about eight years ago. With Stearns County Attorney Janelle Kendall, Bentrud has spoken to public officials, educators, business people and advocates to “pull back the curtain” on the sex-trafficking problem.

“As a region we need to come together to address this,” Bentrud said. “We were able to show it’s a big deal.” Funded by grants, the sex-trafficking task force has hired two investigators to focus on the crimes and started a shelter for women.

If Soyka is elected, he wants a more community-oriented sheriff’s office that connects with the citizens.

“We need to let people know what we’re doing,” he said.

Bentrud says he enjoys being a problem-solver and he wants to address the issues of collaboration and cooperation.

This fall’s election will determine the mission and strategies for at least the next four years.

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Opinion

Our View

Census, redistricting questions are hidden election issues

The future of Minnesota’s representation in the next decade will be decided with this fall’s elections and with decisions being made now about how Census 2020 will be conducted.

How many members of Congress Minnesota will have and how their districts will be drawn will be determined by the census. The decennial count also affects drawing boundaries for other elected offices too, such as the legislature and county and city government.

The key census issue, should there be a citizenship question, is being debated now. Who draws the lines for congressional and legislative districts will be decided by which party controls the governor’s office and the legislation.

Although these issues are not on the ballot this fall, they will be decided by who gets elected.

Republicans have proposed a citizenship question on the census form. That question hasn’t been asked since 1950 when it was followed by a question asking if the person was naturalized. The census is supposed to be a head count....how many people live here...not a count of citizens. The count is used to determine many government policies and funding as well as the number of congressional seats.

Because of national population growth and shifts, Minnesota is in danger of losing one of its eight congressional seats. There are 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and each state is allotted a portion of these seats based on the size of its population relative to the other states.

Opponents of the citizenship question also assert it might scare off legal immigrants and new citizens who are distrustful of government. That’s a very legitimate fear considering Donald Trump’s deportation obsession.

The first of six potential lawsuits about the citizenship question is scheduled to start Nov. 5 in New York, the day before the general election. Three other cases are scheduled for January. With expected appeals, the legal battle could run right up to census time.

The citizenship question should not be on the 2020 form.

Closely linked to the census is redistricting. Based on the head count, governments draw boundaries for representation.

In Minnesota, the state legislature has constitutional responsibility for redistricting congressional districts, as well as Minnesota Senate and House districts. Local governments are responsible for redistricting other election districts. Those lines are drawn based on census data which shows how many people live where.

The Supreme Court set down rules for interpreting the provisions on redistricting: equal population; contiguous and compact districts; no attempts to either congregate or divide minority groups; and keeping cities, towns and communities of interest together.

Under the Minnesota Constitution and past practices, the state Legislature — which in reality means the party in the majority — gets to decide where the lines are drawn. If there is partisan advantage to be taken, the majority party will take it. When power is divided, as it was during the last two census cycles, the court has had to step in and play mapmaker.

The website fivethirtyeight.com offers a look at what Minnesota’s districts would look like without overt political interference.

In a perfect world, the lines would be drawn so no party has an unfair advantage. Several cases challenging district maps that unfairly favor one party or the other have reached the U.S. Supreme Court. The problem would be solved by each state appointing a bipartisan commission to draw the lines.

In a less-than-perfect world, if control of the governor’s office and the legislature is split between parties, we’d end up with a bipartisan or judicial solution.

When you vote this fall, you are voting for more than candidates. You’re voting for how Minnesota will be governed for the next decade.

Should sheriffs be elected or appointed?

Mike
Knaak
Editor



Twenty-seven men – yes, they’ve all been men – have served as Stearns County sheriff. On Nov. 6, Stearns County voters will elect the 28th sheriff.

In recent times they’ve been elected, but the job didn’t start that way.

On March 3, 1855, three Stearns County commissioners appointed Luther B. Hammond as the county’s first sheriff.

The three commissioners were appointed by territorial Gov. Willis A. Gorman, a Democrat. Gorman was appointed by President Franklin Pierce, also a Democrat.

Stearns County had its first appointed sheriff, three years before Minnesota became a state.

Hammond was a busy guy. He was also appointed an election judge. Three months later, on June 14, 1855, Hammond resigned when he and three other men were granted a license to run a ferry on the Mississippi River.

Henry Witzheimer replaced Hammond until Joseph Edelbrock was appointed in 1856.

During Edelbrock’s tenure, Stearns County’s first murder occurred on July 5, 1856. A fight with racial divisions about who should control a dance broke out. In the melee, Henry Becker was struck in the head. He died two weeks later and a man identified in William Bell Mitchell’s “History of Stearns County” as “Clemens, the sailor” was charged.

What could go wrong? Lots.

Because Stearns County didn’t

have a jail, Sheriff Edelbrock took the prisoner to the Hennepin County Jail. Clemens the sailor escaped and in Stearns County’s first case of getting away with murder, he was not recaptured. But even though Hennepin County lost the prisoner, Hennepin County commissioners found the nerve to bill Stearns County for his room and board.

This past week, I interviewed the two men running this year for Stearns sheriff. Dave Bentrud and Steve Soyka offer voters years of law enforcement experience along with different visions for leading the sheriff’s office.

Our conversations covered topics ranging from human relations to technology to budgeting in addition to basics of law enforcement.

Their impressive knowledge and experience reminded me that we haven’t always elected sheriffs. During the interview, Bentrud and Soyka displayed a depth and breadth of knowledge required of few other elected officials. And despite the rapid turnover and early management issues in the 1850s, perhaps we should return to appointed sheriffs.

Most elected officials deal with setting policies and strategic goals. They don’t need a deep education and experience to serve because they hire

staff with special expertise to execute the policies.

Mayors hire city managers and police chiefs. School boards hire superintendents. Governors appoint experts in finance and transportation. Members of Congress hire staff with expertise in intelligence, defense and foreign affairs.

Just having good ideas for policy doesn’t guarantee you’d be a good sheriff. A sheriff needs academic training and experience on the street to do the job.

Since 1973, Minnesota Statutes allow a county to appoint an auditor, treasurer, sheriff or recorder if approved by voters in a referendum.

Maybe it’s time to consider an appointed sheriff.

Electing a sheriff gives voters a voice in their government, a connection to law enforcement and a way to hold law enforcement directly accountable that is deeply rooted in Anglo-Saxon tradition.

The role of sheriff began in England and moved across the Atlantic to the colonies.

Americans continued the practice of electing sheriffs and affirmed the common-law powers of the sheriff, especially autonomy and independence. In 1878, Congress passed the Posse Comitatus Act, setting down the rules of law enforcement.

Legally, little has changed since then. So maybe it’s time to return to the pre-statehood practice and take advantage of the provisions in the 1973 law to appoint a sheriff.

All work and no pay makes Jack a dull boy

Patric
Lewandowski
Guest Writer



can’t tell you how many times I’ve been offered a job that wouldn’t pay me actual money, but promised to be a “great learning experience,” or a “fantastic portfolio piece” and even “a labor of love” and “good exposure.”

As acclaimed cartoonist Rich Stevens has said, “people die of exposure.”

The creative professions require training and skill as much as any other, so why do people think they don’t need to pay for the fruits of that labor? The people who do these jobs need to eat, pay bills and live. Creating art and content is a job. We don’t ask any other profession to do their work for free, so why the creatives?

Recently, *The Newsleaders* has begun providing small daily news stories on its website for a nominal fee. These are stories that are unlikely to reach the print edition because of timeliness. We will also start providing more rich multi-me-

dia content on our site, such as more photo galleries and video. *The Newsleaders* has been a free news source for nearly all of its 30-year history, but that doesn’t mean the people who create it work for free. This is our job. Just like you go to work, we come to work and make a newspaper. It’s distributed to you for no cost because our business model so far has been to generate revenue solely through ad sales. All of us who work here do it to support our families just like you work to support yours. We want to provide you with more news more frequently, but we need to get paid to do that, hence our new subscription content.

It should be reiterated that all the usual free content is still free online; all the stories that appear in the paper, obituaries, blotter and public notices. Besides the more frequent daily news and multi-media content, subscribers also can download a PDF of the paper, something we haven’t provided for nearly a year.

Work has value. Your work has value and so does mine. Art is a “real job” as much as being a teacher, lawyer or a factory worker is. Still, I’d love a third story on my house... no pay, but great exposure.

GOT AN
OPINION?

Please include your full name for publication (and address and phone number for verification)

The Newsleaders
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Rediscovering the thrill of driving at 19

This past weekend, I was able to head back home for the first time after moving into college almost a month ago. The time has really flown by, and it sometimes still feels odd to have been living in a new place for a while. I didn't bring a car with to campus, and so my dad picked me up outside the dorm before handing over the keys. Taking the wheel, I realized I hadn't driven in almost a month. That was a shocking realization, considering how constant driving has been to me since I turned 16.

It's been three years now since I obtained my driver's license, in September of 2015, and I remember that feeling of nervousness turned to excitement as the DVS tester announced I had passed the road test. Months of classes and logging driving hours had finally paid off, and that freedom of

driving a car that people here in the United States always talk about was finally accessible to me.

This is not to say I was going to go crazy with this newfound privilege. Driving is a serious matter, especially considering the prevalence of car accidents. I made sure to always know where I was going, obey speed limits and stay aware when dealing with other drivers. My phone, as common sense dictates, would stay in my pocket.

Covering for safety, the possibilities and autonomy allowed by driving were endless. There was no more having to rely on a parent for pickup following an extracurricular activity after school. I could get a regular job and have a schedule of my own to follow to get there on time. I could run errands if I needed to without asking for someone to drive me there. It was a truly

Connor Kockler
Guest Writer



liberating feeling.

Since this is so ingrained into our culture, the driving age of 16 and ensuing freedom that results through the end of high school, I think we can almost take it for granted. When I visited Germany last summer, I experienced a very different world than what we have here. To start, their driving age is 18, and their hour and monetary commitments are much heavier than ours. This includes a first-aid course, required class time instruction, theory and road test, and an average cost of almost \$2,000 U.S.

As a result, and since Germany is in many ways a more ur-

banized, compact country than us, many young people have little to no need for driver's licenses. Especially in the big cities, many options of public transportation are used instead. Many never get that "joy of the open road" early in life and some don't even purchase a car.

And that might be a growing trend here, as some studies have shown the number of high schoolers getting driver's licenses has fallen during the last few years. That's a statistic that really stood out to me, considering my own feelings about driving. I suppose some might say lazy young people may be blamed, but the requirements and cost of obtaining a license have gone up steadily throughout the years, and so it might no longer be practical for some, especially with alternatives growing in many places.

From my point of view, driv-

ing, ever since Henry Ford put in within reach of the masses with the Model T, is a quintessentially American tradition. It extends from our national character. We are ambitious, fun-loving and adventurous people, and so being able to go from place to place made us even more autonomous than before. Traditions such as road trips and camping were developed from those first cars, and have been a part of the national fabric ever since. So the next time you turn those keys into the ignition, be sure to remember your first experience behind the wheel, that thrill of newfound freedom. I do, and it's a memory I will always have with me.

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

Letters to the editor

Former chief endorses Bentrud for county sheriff

Bob Ringstrom, St. Joseph

My name is Bob Ringstrom, retired Police Chief of Sartell. I strongly endorse Dave Bentrud to be elected as the Sheriff of Stearns County.

I first met Dave when he was a St. Cloud police patrol officer. He was promoted to sergeant in

the St Cloud Police Department where I had the opportunity to coordinate with him professionally on criminal and social challenges common to both of our jurisdictions. As the police chief of Waite Park, his reputation is one of open honesty. Dave is highly principled and entirely above reproach. You

can trust this guy to do the right thing.

Since his early childhood in Central Minnesota, Dave has been on a path of continuing personal and professional growth. He has performed well as a patrol officer, supervisor, trainer, coach, academic instructor, innovator and social

advocate for crime victims as well as for the misdirected violators. As sheriff, Dave Bentrud will be able to bridge relationships across organizational and bureaucratic boundaries. He has polished his personal and professional talents across all spectrums and levels of educational achievement.

Join me in supporting Chief Dave Bentrud to be our Stearns County sheriff. His qualifications run deep with critical experience and professional character. Dave Bentrud has the traits of a proven leader and the capacity to serve Stearns County law enforcement at the highest level.

Soyka has sheriff's department experience

Richard Soyka, Sauk Rapids

The primary voting is over. Steve Soyka was first for Stearns sheriff. Only one candidate remains for Stearns County sheriff who has sheriff-department experience.

That is Patrol Sgt. Steve Soyka. He previously had four years with the Benton County Sheriff Department and currently has 23 years with the Stearns County Sheriff Department.

His opponent has NO coun-

ty sheriff department experience. As a retired Benton County commissioner, I know the Sheriff Department experience counts heavily for someone to be sheriff. In the upcoming general election, who would you rather have as your

sheriff – someone without any sheriff-department experience or someone with 27 years of sheriff department experience?

Patrol Sgt. Steve Soyka is the obvious choice to be your Stearns County sheriff. Re-

member the three S's when you vote for Stearns County sheriff in the upcoming general election: Stearns, Sheriff, Soyka.

As Steve's dad, I thank you, in advance, for voting for Steve Soyka as Stearns sheriff.

Perske has experience needed for state Senate

Jim Graeve, St. Joseph

We in Senate District 13 have a golden opportunity to elect Joe Perske to the Minnesota Senate on Nov. 6.

Joe proves his electability by

being the former mayor of Sartell and our current county commissioner. These two jobs give him hands-on experience of the needs of our communities.

Joe knows how to save a buck. Many of the many Perske

signs you see are recycled from Joe's previous campaigns where he ran for Congress and county commissioner.

Joe Perske is a very personable guy – he will listen to your concerns. He has a deep sense of

service to people and youth exemplified by his previous teaching and coaching job.

Joe Perske will hit his new job as our Minnesota senator from Senate District 13 "running," something he is very

good at, having run many, many marathons.

We are very fortunate to have a candidate with the experience and enthusiasm Joe Perske has for service to our communities, county and state.

Opioid tax a bad idea, reader says

David Forbes, St. Cloud

St. Cloud area businesses are the backbone of our community and our economic force. And as any good businessperson knows, businesses need a healthy and productive employee base to flourish and grow. Unfortunately, the opioid ad-

diction crisis is putting a significant strain on our economy and damaging communities nationwide.

Minnesota continues to be a leader in its efforts to combat drug overdoses and our lawmakers are working overtime to ensure our communities are free of prescription-drug addic-

tion. But recent legislative efforts to fund our fight against opioid abuse through a tax on all opioid-containing medications was very misguided.

While seemingly well-intentioned, this tax wouldn't have done much to stop prescription opioids from falling into the wrong hands. Instead, it would

have stripped licensed hospitals and care providers of an affordable ability to treat and care for patients with actual pain needs. That means fewer patients with chronic conditions and traumatic injuries would have access to affordable medications, hindering the healing process.

The Minnesota Legislature

was right to let the opioid distribution tax fail. Hopefully, as they reconsider ways to fight the opioid epidemic in the months to come, they will look into more efficient solutions, including increased opioid education, addressing over prescribing and supporting more non-opioid treatment alternatives.



photos by Carolyn Bertsch
Brenny Transportation employee Randy Rittenhouse, of Motley, with wife Candie and grandson Kai, 9, look out from their truck Sept. 14. Rittenhouse has driven in all 48 continental states, many with Candie at his side.



Brenny drives to educate at Experience Trucking

Mascot Teddy B. Truckin' dabs Sept. 14 in front of a Brenny Transportation truck. Teddy was one of many attractions at the Experience Trucking event in St. Joseph. To see Teddy dancing, visit thenewsleaders.com.



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