

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Oct. 5, 2018
Volume 30, Issue 30
Est. 1989

Town Crier

Former Obama aide to speak at SJU

Former White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough will speak at the Eugene J. McCarthy Lecture at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 15, at St. John's Abbey and University Church. McDonough graduated from SJU in 1992 and served as President Obama's chief of staff from 2013 to 2017. The event is free, but tickets are needed to attend. www.csbsju.edu/fine-arts/performances. Call the box office at 320-363-5777 for additional information.

Stearns auction to sell surplus items

Stearns County will hold a fall auction to sell seized and surplus property on Saturday, Oct. 13 at the Stearns County Public Works building, 455 28th Ave. S., Waite Park. Site opens at 8 a.m.; auction begins at 9:30 a.m. A list of auction items can be found at midwestauctions.com or auctiondigz.com and click on Benoit Auction Service.

Market Monday open til Oct. 15

Sartell Market Monday is open until Oct. 15. Come check out the last two outdoor markets of the season. Many great items still available including breads, squash, meat, eggs, apples, raspberries, potatoes, onions, pumpkins, canned goods and much more. We are open on Monday, Oct. 8 and Monday, Oct. 15 from 3-6 p.m. in Coblorn's parking lot on Pinecone Road.

'Stop the Bleed' workshop scheduled Oct. 15 at Legion

A "Stop the Bleed" hands-on workshop, sponsored by St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club and CentraCare, is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 15 at the American Legion, St. Joseph. Contact Bernie Imholte for more information and details at 320-363-4728 or 320-291-2216. The workshop is free to all attendees.

Pumpkinfest set Oct. 19 at Lake George

Join us for the annual Pumpkinfest from 4-7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 19 at Lake George in St. Cloud. The spine-tingling event for children ages 12 and under and their families includes trick-or-treat stations, petting zoo, pumpkin patch, face painting, hayrides and so much more. New this year: get lost in the hay maze or bust a move at the screamin' dance party on the mainstage with DJ Monster Bash Mash. Fun is lurking around every corner during this FREE, safe, family-friendly event!

Council candidates answer tough questions

by Dave DeMars
news@thenewsleaders.com

There are three people running for election to the St. Joseph City Council in the coming Nov. 6 election. They are Dale Wick, Brian Theise and Anne Buckvold. Wick and Buckvold are both incumbents while Theisen is running for election for the first time. Wick has served for 16 years on the council. Buckvold was appointed to the council and sworn in at the June 4 meeting. All parties have a keen interest in serving the public. The Newsleader put several questions to each of the candidates. The following is an edited version of their responses to those questions.

House 13A, Senate 13 candidate forum set Oct. 18

A candidate forum featuring House District 13A and Senate District 13 will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18 at Avon City Hall, 140 Stratford St. E. The League of Women Voters, St. Cloud area, has invited candidates running for House District 13A Lisa Demuth and Jim Read, along with candi-

What qualities/skills do you possess that would make you an ideal City Council member for the city of St. Joseph?

Wick: I feel my ability to ask the right questions and my capacity to work with others has served the city well over the last 16 years. In the number of years I have served on the Council, I have been fortunate to be a member or officer on a number of city and regional committees. Being a manager for a global company has taught me how to facilitate very diverse groups of people with different end goals in mind. Using different project-management techniques, I have been able to successfully meet very tight timelines and budgets on a regular basis while pro-

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dates running for Senate District 13 Jeff Howe and Joe Perske. The Senate race is a special election to complete two years of a four-year term ending in 2020. District 13A includes St. Joseph, Avon, Cold Spring, Kimball, Paynesville and Rockville.

Bungled Wetterling investigation went 'off the rails' from the start, sheriff says

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

The investigation of Jacob Wetterling's 1989 abduction and killing "went off the rails" from the beginning and the sheriff at the time, Charlie Grafft, lost control of his investigation to the FBI in the first few weeks.

That's the judgment of current Stearns County Sheriff Don Gudmundson. Before releasing more than 47,000 documents on Thursday, Sept. 20, Gudmundson

presented a summary of the documents that in his view revealed 20 clues bungled by investigators that should have led them to Danny Heinrich.

On Sept. 6, 2016, Heinrich confessed to kidnapping and murdering Jacob Wetterling. Gudmundson asserted the clues that should have led investigators to Heinrich actually where there as far back as Jan. 13, 1989, nine months before Jacob's abduction on Oct. 22.

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photo by Cori Hilsgen

Judy Meemken, 90, has sewed more than 400 dresses for children of Haiti in the last year.

Millstream drums up fun

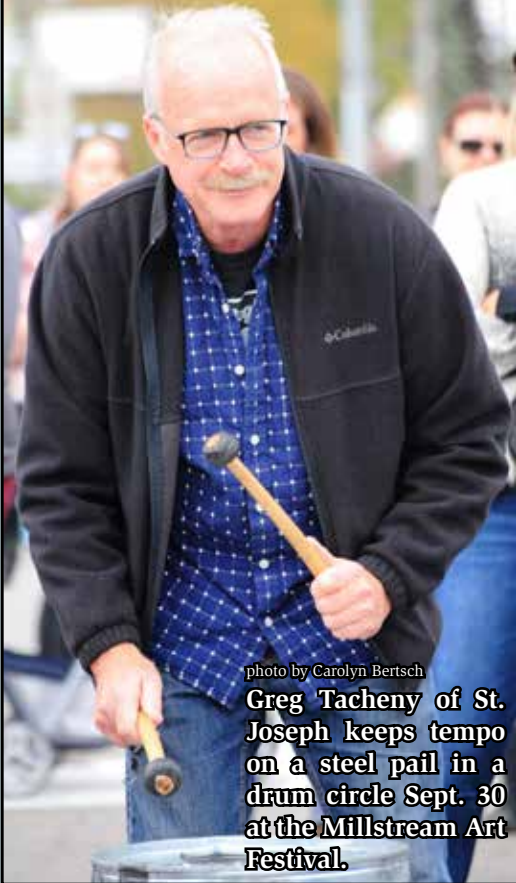


photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Greg Tacheny of St. Joseph keeps tempo on a steel pail in a drum circle Sept. 30 at the Millstream Art Festival.



photo by Mike Knaak

Sheriff Don Gudmundson summarizes the Wetterling documents on Sept. 20.

Meemken still going strong at 90

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

If 70 can be considered to be the new 65, then Judy Meemken, 90, could be an example of the new 85.

Meemken, who turned 90 Sept. 6, continues to stay very active with various projects she is involved with.

She is a Sacristan and sings in the choir at the St. Joseph Catholic Church. Meemken pre-

viously also helped serve funeral dinners for 20 years, as well as cantor.

She said she has sung in church choirs since she was in fourth grade and sang in the choir with every church she belonged to.

"It was a joy and I loved doing it," Meemken said.

She helped sew quilt tops for the church's parish festival for 34 years before retiring. Cur-

Meemken • page 12

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, 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.

Saturday, Oct. 6
Craft fair, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., St. John's Catholic Church, Swanville.
Craft-vendor sale, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., American Legion, 17 Second Ave. S., Waite Park.

Sunday, Oct. 7
Breakfast, sponsored by Knights of Columbus, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Church of St. Joseph Heritage Hall. A homemade breakfast of sausages, eggs, hash browns, pancakes, fruit and caramel rolls will be served.

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

Monday, Oct. 8
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE.

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

Meet candidates Jeff Howe and Lisa Demuth, 7 p.m., St. Joseph Township Hall, 935 College Ave. S.

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

Tuesday, Oct. 9
Holistic Moms Network, 7-8:30 p.m., Good Earth Co-op, 2010 Veterans Drive, St. Cloud. 320-252-2489.

"The Plummer Boys: Five Brothers in the Civil War;" a Central Minnesota Civil War Roundtable, 3 p.m. Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud.

Conversation on Race, 5-8:30 p.m. River's Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud. Presented by Create CommUNITY, a community initiative of organizations, businesses, schools and individuals. The event is free and open to all. **Register by Oct. 5** at: www.Createcommunity.info.

Wednesday, Oct. 10
Breakfast Club, John Thavis, author of "The Vatican Diaries" and "The Vatican Prophecies," immediately following the 8 a.m. Stearns History Museum annual meeting, 235 33rd Ave. S.

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

St Joseph Y2K Lions Club, 6:30 p.m., St. Joseph Community Fire Hall, 323 Fourth Ave. NE. Kay Lemke 320-

363-8663.

Thursday, Oct. 11
Nordic walking, sponsored by Independent Lifestyles, 9 a.m., Lake George St. Cloud. 320-529-9000.

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

St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE., St. Joseph.

St. Joseph Action Group quarterly meeting, 7 p.m., American Legion. 101 W. Minnesota St., St. Joseph. 363-7666..

Saturday, Oct. 13
Central Minnesota Chapter of the Federation of the Blind of Minnesota, 12:30 p.m., American Legion, 17 Second Ave. N., Waite Park.

Sunday, Oct. 14
Collegeville Colors, 1-4 p.m., St. John's Abbey Arboretum. walk a 3-mile loop on the arboretum's Chapel Trail while enjoying various activities and presenters along the way.

Monday, Oct. 15
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE., St. Joseph.

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

St. Joseph City Council, 6 p.m., council chambers, St. Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. 363-7201. city-ofstjoseph.com.

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

Stop the Bleed workshop, sponsored by the St. Joseph Rod And Gun Club and CertraCare, 7:30 p.m., American Legion, 101 W. Minnesota St., St. Joseph.

Tuesday, Oct. 16
Memory Writers group develops topics and turns in stories. 10 a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S, St Cloud.

St. Joseph EDA, 5-6 p.m., St. Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. 363-7201. cityofstjoseph.com.

St. Cloud Area Genealogists, 7 p.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. stearns-museum.org.

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

Wednesday, Oct. 17
Anna Marie's Alliance Breakfast, 7:30-8:30 a.m., Kelly Inn, 100 Fourth Ave. S., St. Cloud. Call 320-251-7203 for reservations by **Friday, Oct. 12**.

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

SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together), 9 a.m., Sartell Police Department, 310 Second St. S., Sartell.

Advocates for Independence, 2-4 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids. 320-529-9000.

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

S., St. Cloud.

Thursday, Oct. 18
Curbside refuse collection, 6 a.m. for customers enrolled in the city of St. Joseph refuse program only. The police department will cite persons who haul in refuse.
Nordic walking, sponsored by Independent Lifestyles, 9 a.m., Lake George St. Cloud. 320-529-9000.

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

St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE., St. Joseph.

Candidate forum for Senate 13 and House District 13A, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, 7-8:30 p.m., Avon City Hall, 140 Stratford St. E., Avon.

Friday, Oct. 19
St. Joseph Area Historical Society, open 4-7 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave NW. stjosephhistoricalmn.org.

St. Cloud Singles Club Dance, 8 p.m.-midnight, American Legion, 17 Second Ave. S., Waite Park. 320-339-4533. stcloudsingles.net.

Saturday, Oct. 20
Halloween Historia, 12:30-3:30 p.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. Nominal fee.

Sunday, Oct. 21
Breakfast, 8 a.m.-noon, American Legion, 17 Second Ave. N., Waite Park. Nominal fee.

CRAFT-VENDOR SALE

Saturday, Oct. 6

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

American Legion - Waite Park
17 Second Avenue North

CRAFT-VENDOR BAKE SALE

Saturday, Oct. 27

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Community Center - Freeport
307 Seventh St. SE

CNA POSITION

Saint John's Abbey invites applications for a part-time, benefit-eligible position, three days per week, in the Abbey Retirement Center.

NIGHT SHIFT 11-7

APPLY ONLINE ONLY AT:
employmentosb.csbsju.edu

OKTOBERFEST

St. John's Parish Center
14241 Fruit Farm Road, Collegeville


German Dinner, Silent Auction & Bake Sale
Friday, Oct. 5 from 4-7 p.m.

Live Music by Nathan Neuman's Old Time Band!

German Meal including: pork and kraut, St. Joseph Meat Market sausage, squash, German potato salad, beans, dinner roll, pickled beets, dessert, coffee and water.

Tickets will be sold at the door
Adults: \$12
Children (ages 5-10): \$5

Stearns Electric Association's recently retired CEO Dave Gruenes was recently honored for his 19 years of service to the cooperative and its members.



Gruenes

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's CEO Jim Matheson presented Gruenes with the NRECA Regional Award for Outstanding Service on Sept. 18 during the group's meeting in Minneapolis.

The award is presented to individuals who have a proven record of promoting cooperative values and working tirelessly to serve members. Gruenes' leadership at the utility in the areas of demand-side management, economic development and member-empowerment were cited as a few of the many reasons he was bestowed this honor.

Independent insurance agent **Deborah Krump**, Waite Park, attended AFLAC's 2018 National Con-

vention Oct. 3-7 in San Francisco. She earned her spot by selling \$252,316 in annualized premium of supplemental insurance during AFLAC's 39-week qualification period Nov. 11, 2017, to Aug. 10, 2018. This achievement marks the fourth time Krump has qualified for the convention during her 15-year affiliation with AFLAC. She is one of nine to qualify from a field of 109 Minnesota agents.

The **Central Minnesota Arts Board** awarded \$10,012 in Arts Legacy funds in support of artist residencies.

The Artist in Residency program is designed to enhance education through the arts with supportive grants to schools and nonprofit organizations. The intention of any residency proposal must be to increase interaction between students, community members and professional artists.

The **College of St. Benedict** received \$3,500 for guest choreographers Desiree Clark and Samantha Collen who will each conduct a residency with student dancers, one focused on African-based modern

dance and the other on classical ballet culminating in a public performance in the Gorecki Theater.

The **Central Minnesota Arts Board** awarded \$77,929 in support of 15 regional arts projects. Criteria used in evaluating applications includes: Artistic quality and merit, demonstrated need, outcomes and evaluation, and ability to complete the proposal.

St. John's University - Fine Arts received \$7,000, to present Nobuntu, a female a capella ensemble from Zimbabwe, for three days of residency and outreach and a public performance on Oct. 19 at the Stephen B. Humphrey Theater.

The **St. John's Boys' Choir** received \$3,649 to present "A Ceremony of Carols" that will feature seasonal selections with orchestra and harp. Guest performances by the Bell Ringers of Salem Lutheran Church, Rachel Brandwein and a special SJBC Alumni Chorus will join the choir for a concert Dec. 15 at St. Mary's Cathedral in St. Cloud.

Sartell-St. Stephen • St. Joseph

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Volunteers, donations help restore historic fire bell



photo by Cori Hilsgen

Several generous St. Joseph residents helped restore the fire bell in front of the St. Joseph Community Fire Hall this summer. The bell was purchased in 1885.

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 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.

If you are at least 17 years of age and are not currently enrolled in a regular **English as a Second Language (ESL)** class, call Quarryview Education Center at 320-370-8220 or e-mail them at abe@isd742.org. Adult Basic Education is in Quarryview Education Center, 800 Seventh St. S., Waite Park (next to Discovery Community School). Once you are signed

up at Quarryview, St. Joseph offers ESL classes in two different locations, one in the morning and the other in the evening. Ask at Quarryview, and they will give you directions.

If you have school-age children, they can get help at **Home-work Helpers** Tuesday through Thursday from 4:30-6 p.m. at Henrita Academic Building on St. Benedict's Campus off College Avenue.

The **food shelf** has moved to a new location. The new address is 124 First Ave. SE. Go south on College Avenue past Minnesota Street toward the college and turn left at Callaway (right if you are going north). Make the first left after passing the government building. It will be straight ahead once you turn (near the field). Volunteers from the food shelf are there to help you on Mon-

days and Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. You may shop once a month. Bring a photo ID and current proof of residency (utility bill or rental lease) with your name on it as well as birth certificates for each of your children under 18 the first time you shop. Once you have signed up, you only need your photo ID.

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.

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.

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

If you are driving past the St. Joseph Community Fire Hall and happen to notice that the fire bell looks a little shinier, you would be correct.

With help from some generous people, the bell got a facelift this year.

St. Joseph Historical Society president Andy Loso said the bell was in great condition, but the bell wheel had a broken/missing spoke that disappeared years ago. Sunset Manufacturing Co. of St. Joseph fabricated a new wheel spoke and welded it back on with no charge to the project and Oso Handy Restorations (Loso) donated the labor to remove the bell.

The frame which the bell had been mounted to had rotted after decades of being outdoors, so Oso Handy Restorations created a new base.

The St. Joseph Historical Society donated the cost of the sandblasting and powder-coating portion of the project.

City of St. Joseph assistant public works director Jim Marthaler helped remove the bell and reinstall it.

The bell was purchased in 1885. St. Joseph resident Ellie Studer remembers after the bell was no longer needed as a fire bell it was used as a curfew bell before the city siren was used. When the bell was rung at 9 p.m., children were expected to head home.

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at thenewsleaders.com which hyperlinks to each business' website.

Wetterling

from front page

That’s when a 12-year-old Cold Spring boy was kidnapped and sexually assaulted. In 2012, examination of DNA evidence from the boy’s clothing ultimately connected the crime to Heinrich.

In the years between, the files reveal missed clues, turf battles and inexperience.

A report less than 48 hours after Jacob’s abduction from a Paynesville victim to a task force deputy advises that eight abductions between 1986 and 1988 in Paynesville and Jacob’s case were perpetrated by the same person because it was “quick, military and proficient.”

“This tip was followed up on Jan. 5, 1990, more than two months after it was received. The young man’s assessment was absolutely spot on,” Gudmundson said in his presentation.

The files reveal a Dec. 16, 1989, teletype from the task force that the two abductions are believed to be the same.

“There are thousands of pages of unnecessary, redundant, detailed and ultimately meaningless reports about trivia like the kind of pizza ordered, movies watched or large amounts of toilet tissue ordered. The reports have been described as more detailed versions of who didn’t do it. There was huge wastes of time and manpower particularly in the beginning. Essentially, there was a lot of manpower, but most of it was squandered,” Gudmundson said.

“We also would say that you know your investigation is already off the rails when you are dealing with psychics Oct. 24, less than 48 hours after the abduction” Gudmundson said. “There was a lot of contact with psychics in the case. They are right about precisely nothing.

“Investigators are dealing with psychics before an excellent neighborhood canvas is ever done. There are also clairvoyants, tarot cards, Indian medicine men, witching rods, satanists, voodoo, witchcraft, hypnosis, premonitions, dreams and repressed memories reports in the file.”

Meanwhile, real evidence goes nowhere.

On the morning after the abduction, Stearns County Investigator Steve Mund makes plaster casts of tire tracks and shoe prints from the crime scene. Three months later, while interviewing Heinrich, Mund concludes that casts of the tires and shoes match the tires on Heinrich’s car and shoes.

On Jan. 12, 1990, Mund writes that a polygraph exam given to Heinrich by



Stearns County Sheriff's Office
Tire tracks at the abduction scene.



Stearns County Sheriff's Office
Danny Heinrich included in a lineup.

FBI agents registered deceptive answers to questions about the Cold Spring incident and Jacob.

When investigators ask the Cold Spring victim to view a lineup on Jan. 26, Gudmundson said the exercise was not well planned and should have included all the Paynesville victims as well as Aaron Larson and Trevor Wetterling. Lineup participants should also have asked to speak the words common in all the abductions. Heinrich was not picked out of the lineup by the Cold Spring boy.

On Feb. 9, Stearns officers arrest Heinrich at a bar in Roscoe. Gudmundson described Heinrich’s interrogation as a “fatal flaw.”

“It’s pretty hard to get a statement out of drunk people,” Gudmundson said.

The files indicated agents from the FBI interrogated Heinrich and the interview was monitored by the FBI’s Behavioral Science Unit. The records indicate the profilers didn’t think Heinrich did the crimes.

“We regard the interrogation as the most fatal flaw in the Wetterling investigation. The BCA supplied their most experienced homicide special agents.... and up until April, they were running meaningless leads,” Gudmundson said. “There was no one in the sheriff’s office with extensive homicide investigation experience. The

FBI are not trained homicide investigators.”

The files show on Feb. 9, Stearns County Attorney Pat Strom orders Heinrich’s release.

On the same day, more evidence linking Heinrich to the crime falls victim to an apparent turf battle.

According to the files, an FBI agent writes on a Stearns County Sheriff’s Office supplemental report on Feb. 9, 1990. “The information provided to (FBI agent Al) Garber (the task force commander) was that the FBI lab had made a positive match between a fiber taken from the carpet of Danny Heinrich’s former vehicle, a 1987 Mercury Topaz and a fiber found on the victim, the Cold Spring boy’s snowmobile suit, and this writer was not to inform anyone in the Sheriff’s Department about the match.”

The thousands of files released by Stearns County leave gaps in the narrative because more than 12,500 FBI files have not been released.

There’s no mention of Heinrich for almost 20 years.

On July 18, 2012, DNA evidence on the Cold Spring boy’s snowmobile suit and sweatshirt link Heinrich to the crime.

The statute of limitations expired for the Cold Spring kidnapping, meaning Heinrich could not be arrested and charged with that

crime. A search of Heinrich’s residence turned up child pornography and he was arrested on Oct. 28, 2015.

Heinrich decided to cooperate with authorities as part of a plea bargain and, on Sept. 1, 2016, led investigators to Jacob’s burial site near Paynesville.

The Stearns officers involved in the initial investigation have died, retired or moved on. But Gudmundson said there are lessons to be learned from failures 30 years ago.

“We have assigned a permanent lieutenant to be in charge of investigations and ordered a detective to be at death scenes,” Gudmundson said. “We also have extended them as detectives longer than four years. They were transferred out after a four-year period in the past.”

Gudmundson, who was appointed sheriff in May 2017 after John Sanner retired before the end of his term, said he’s directed his officers to look at the department’s other cold cases.

“Read the reports. Read every bit,” he said of records of unsolved crimes.

The investigators’ defenders say the Wetterling case was so big the clues that lead to Heinrich were “like a whisper in the crowd,” Gudmundson said. “(But) it should have been a persistent whisper in the crowd.”

Gudmundson listed 20 reasons why Heinrich should have been the main suspect:

- He was in the military and wears camo around Paynesville. He lies and says he never does that.
- In the military, he would have learned to use mud or face paint to disguise himself.
- The Mercury Topaz used in the Cold Spring abduction matches the description given by the Cold Spring boy and the boy rates it an eight or nine out of 10 to be the car he was kidnapped in.
- A fiber found on the Cold Spring victim’s snowmobile suit is consistent with fibers found in Heinrich’s Mercury Topaz.
- The Sears Superguard Radials match tire prints left at the Wetterling scene. Suspects are most often eliminated precisely because they do not have the tires. He has the tires.
- His shoeprints correspond to shoe prints at the Wetterling scene mixed in with Nike shoe prints worn by Jacob Wetterling. He has the shoes.
- It is the detective who spots this who takes the casts and knows those prints better than other officers.
- Heinrich fails a polygraph examination given by an FBI agent as to whether he was involved with either the Cold Spring abduction or the Wetterling kidnapping.
- He has photos of children seen during the search warrant in his possession and lies about how he obtained them and who they are.
- He has no known adult girlfriends or boyfriends.
- He has the portable police scanner mentioned by the Cold Spring boy and confiscated in an earlier DWI arrest, (mentioned in) the search warrant and seen by Duane Hart, an acquaintance and another suspect.
- He uses every means to evade the surveillance by officers and agents.
- In two assaults, he asks victim’s age and grade. (Paynesville and Wetterling)
- All across each of the three cases, he says the same types of things.
- His voice is described by multiple victims as deep, raspy and is very distinctive.
- Duane Hart describes the black ninja suit described by a Paynesville victim.
- He has a handgun as seen by Duane Hart.
- In the same month where he loses his job and when he kidnaps and kills Jacob Wetterling, he asks Duane Hart how to get rid of a body.
- His overall physical description fits Paynesville, Cold Spring and Wetterling cases.
- He fits the composite almost to a “T.”

To view the entire presentation, go to this story at www.thenewsleaders.com.



contributed photo

St. Joseph Catholic School students listen Sept. 27 to Bishop Sebastian Thekethecherial from Kerala, India.

Bishop from India visits St. Joseph Catholic School

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

Bishop Sebastian Thekethecherial from Kerala, India, visited students at St. Joseph Catholic School on Sept. 27.

For the past few years, fifth- and sixth-graders at the school have sponsored a family from India through the WE SHARE program run by Dave and Kathy Rennie from Bloomington. Kathy Rennie is originally from St. Joseph.

This year, the family sponsored by fifth-graders has five members including a father who works as a coolie (does day labor work), a mother who has some significant health issues and three daughters, one of which has a heart condition. Twenty-two fifth-graders donated \$225 to the family.

The family sponsored by sixth-graders has four members including a father, mother and two sons. Ten sixth-graders donated \$100 to sponsor the family.

During the school year, the students write letters to the adopted family and receive letters back.

Fifth-grade teacher Tess Koltes said through this sponsorship, students are living their Catholic Social Teaching of feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked and sheltering the homeless.

During his visit, Thekethecherial spoke about finding joy.

JOY, Jesus is first, Others are second and Yourself is last."

Thekethecherial, who is from the Diocese of Vijayapuram, spoke about an unusually high amount of rainfall during the monsoon season that caused extreme flooding in the state of Kerala, which is known as the land of coconuts. Because of this, many people have lost their homes and are in need of basic necessities of food, clothing and shelter.

After the bishop's presentation, fifth-grader Cecelia Weldon commented she thought his discussion was "pretty cool."

"Bishop Sebastian and Kathy and Dave Rennie were able to meet Mother Teresa before she died," Koltes said. "I think all three of them are living saints for the people of the Diocese of Vijayapuram."

Kathy Rennie's mother sponsored Thekethecherial as he was going through the seminary to be a priest. Rennie and Thekethecherial consider each other spiritual brother and sister.

The Rennies and Thekethecherial thanked Koltes, sixth-grade teacher, Susan Huls, and their students for the visit.

"It was a very moving experience for us," they said. "Thank you so very much for what you are doing to help the children understand the plight of the poor and especially for helping the poor families in Bishop Sebastian's diocese."

The WE SHARE program



contributed photo

Kathy Rennie (left) and Bishop Sebastian Thekethecherial from Kerala, India, visit students at St. Joseph Catholic School Sept. 27. Fifth- and sixth-graders at the school have sponsored a family from India for the past few years through the WE SHARE program run by Dave and Kathy Rennie from Bloomington. Kathy Rennie is originally from St. Joseph.

was started in 1994 to help the Vijayapuram Diocese which is the poorest Catholic Diocese in Kerala, India.

In India, law denies government benefits to Christians who are poor, and they don't have welfare or food shelves. People who practice Christianity are dependent on the Church when they become desperate.

The government will provide benefits to poor people who practice Hinduism. If Christians become too desper-

ate and cannot survive on the finances they have, it is often a temptation for them to revert back to Hinduism.

Many poor people cannot afford medical insurance and must pay their medical expenses.

People often cannot work because of high unemployment, sickness or the monsoon season. The monsoon season which normally lasts from June through August destroys poorly built huts and homes

and reduces food supplies.

It can also be costly for children who are poor to attend school because they must pay for their books, uniforms and other fees.

Various ways people can help include sponsoring a family, building a house, sponsoring a seminarian, or supporting the Vijayapuram Diocese.

For additional information about the program, visit the WE SHARE website at <http://weshareprogram.net>.

Council

from front page

viding excellent customer service and meeting the needs of our internal clients. My engineering background has taught me how to break down diverse subjects, to find the root cause of situations and successfully evaluate the different options presented and even determine other possible solutions.

Theisen: I think being on the City Council is solving problems for the city. I've been in law enforcement for 18 years, and basically what I do every day is to problem solve. I think with my law enforcement background I have a different perspective on things. The other thing is that I have been on the fire department for five years, and I see how things are going in the city.

Buckvold: I really love St. Joseph. I'm a good fit for the council because I'm pretty friendly and relatable and I can work well with other council members, city employees and citizens. I'm pretty open to problems and finding solutions to problems. I want people to see me as a person who they can call whenever they have a problem and know I will get them answers or help figure out a solution to the problem.

In your opinion, what are three of the most important issues facing the city of St. Joseph at this time, and why are those issues so important? How would you suggest dealing with these issues?

Wick: Managing the equipment needs of a growing city and balancing the need for replacement versus repair through implementing an asset tracking system. Finding the right mix for a Community Center. Not everyone in the city thinks it is needed, and we need to continue those discussions in order to find out the long-term costs. Managing growth. Residents want to keep our small-town feel while we grow, but growth also brings in more tax revenue. We need to keep an eye on how those dollars are spent or not spent.

Theisen: One thing I know I would be against is the underpass on CR 75. It's supposed to cost millions. I think those funds can be used elsewhere or for other things that are needed. Another thing I would like to see – St. Joseph does not have crime-free housing. Even though St. Joseph is one of the safest cities in the state, I would like St. Joseph to continue in that status. Crime-free housing is a three-step program offered through the state for landlords and homeowners. It's a program to help keep the city housing safe especially with the number of apartments in the city. Finally, I would like to act as the liaison between the city and the St. John's students especially relating to homecoming and other events where there is a lot of partying. A better system needs to be



Buckvold

found to please students and citizens.

Buckvold: One thing is in the financial management. I think a lot about taxes and efficiency.

I don't have all the money in the world. I want to make sure our city government is working well, that it is using resources – local, or state – as efficiently as possible. One of the items that got me involved was transportation. People still have lots of needs in transportation. The underpass on CR 75 is a great idea and is funded largely with state dollars. I am interested in making sure we have the money we need for our roads and bridges. We have a lot of students and aging seniors moving to the area and they will need public transportation.

What do you hope to accomplish in the future as a City Council member?

Wick: As I look at future goals, I do the same thing as I do at work...look at the plan. For the city we have just renewed the Comprehensive Plan. This plan has hundreds of goals and items to work on. A subset of those goals I want to work on would be to retain, attract and grow business and to provide facilities that support the community's values and needs while maintaining a proactive, responsive and accessible government.

Theisen: I like to know what



Theisen

is going on in town and I would go out and walk around town, and solicit ideas and issues from businesses and people in the community rather than simply relying on my own ideas. I would rather know what the people want.

Buckvold: I believe we are at a point where we will either become more disconnected in our city government or we start to build a cohesive city identity. I am really concerned and thoughtful about building trust in our community and our leaders. As we grow, we need to grow a city that has a common identity and common values.

How can the city better support small-business development and expansion? Has enough been done in the past to solicit businesses and industry to move to St. Joseph?

Wick: The EDA has implemented a few programs to help small businesses. The Demolition Grant, Building Facade Grant and our revolving-loan funds help new or existing businesses with certain costs at either no or low cost to the business. We have also implemented a lodging tax that will be used for a convention visitor bureau. The CVB will have these dollars available to them for marketing the city and its amenities. More people coming into the city means more opportunities for small-business development.

Theisen: I think the city can do more with the funds they have to try and invite some of those businesses. I think St. Joseph has the potential to grow as far as



Wick

business is concerned. With the annexation, we have the land. With Waite Park kind of creeping from behind I think St. Joseph has the opportunity to grow and encourage more business. That is something I would be in favor of. I would support some sort of tax break. There has to be some sort of incentive to get those businesses to want to come into St. Joseph. I think there is more room for more expansion with other businesses and to draw more people to come to St. Joseph rather than going to St. Cloud or Waite Park. At the same time I wouldn't want to see smaller businesses hurt by something like the big-box stores.

Buckvold: Our downtown is healthy, but I think we can do more in that area. I think we want to make sure we have a steady and successful growth. We need to reach out to businesses that fit with the character of St. Joseph and that we think will be successful in St. Joseph. It should benefit both the business and St. Joseph. As far as what we are doing now, it's OK but we have room for improvement. We need to get more people to come in to the community to see all the good things we have here. There have to be more ways we can build on to attract people and businesses. We do raise money through a lodging tax and we haven't used that money for any particular purpose, but we should absolutely bring more people into the community. I'm a particular fan of small business in the downtown area that will increase walkability and create a sense of connectivity. But it really is a balancing act between bigger businesses and smaller businesses.

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Holiday Cooking Safety

Holidays are a wonderful reason for loved ones to gather over a home-cooked meal. Unfortunately, these events invite the threat of fire. Whether you are cooking inside or outdoors, it’s important to do so with care.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency urges Americans to practice safety measures when preparing holiday feasts.

INDOOR SAFETY

When cooking inside, it is crucial to be aware of your surroundings. FEMA urges us to keep anything that can catch fire away from the stove top. Preparing large meals for the holidays invites chances of potholders, oven mitts, food packaging or paper towels to be lit when too close to burners. Never leave the room while you are cooking on the stove.

If you must bring in additional cooking appliances to complete your feast, never plug them in with extension cords. Most are not rated to run microwaves and other cooking appliances and can overload a circuit, resulting in fire.

Consider hiring an electrician to install more outlets in your kitchen if you regularly need more. The task is typically simple and affordable, but should be trusted to a professional.

OUTDOOR SAFETY

A growing trend in America is serving deep-fried turkey for a Thanksgiving feast. Fryers are one of the common reasons fire departments are called on



© ADOBE STOCK

Thanksgiving. If you plan to prepare your meal using this type of equipment, consider these safety tips from the United States Fire Administration.

- Make sure your turkey is completely thawed, even a partially frozen bird causes hot oil to splatter.

- Monitor the temperature of your fryer's oil to prevent overheating and risk of fire.
- Only use your equipment on a level and sturdy surface

as they can easily tip over. Instill a three-foot rule and make sure children and pets keep a distance from your cooking area.



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Crever and Oppel help a senior citizen inside at Peace United Church of Christ. The meetings are held in the basement of the church, accessible by a handicap ramp on the outside and an elevator on the inside.

Informative Medicare meetings to help transition to new plans

When it comes to Medicare, you have choices. Laurie Oppel and Jackie Crever, licensed agents in the state of Minnesota, are ready to help. Their goal is to help you understand and get the most out of your Medicare benefits. Their office is located in St. Joseph.

If you or a loved one is getting ready to enroll in Medicare this year, you have a lot to consider.

No matter your situation, Laurie and Jackie can help you get answers to your Medicare questions. Questions to think about: How's your current health? Do you take any prescription drugs? Do you have a preferred doctor, hospital or clinic? Are you on a

fixed budget or do you expect changes to your finances in the coming year? Are benefits like vision, hearing or dental important to you? Do you have plans to travel for an extended period? Do you have any wellness goals you want to achieve?

You can explore your Medicare plan options and learn how Medicare works at the meetings that Laurie and Jackie will host at Peace United Church of Christ (402 Eighth Ave. S., St. Cloud). The meetings will be held at a variety of times and dates throughout October and November. Please see the meeting schedule below.

These meetings will have a UCare sales person present with informa-

tion and applications. The church is handicapped-accessible with both a ramp from the outside and an elevator on the inside. The meetings will take place on the lower level of the church. Please park on the street or in the parking lot on the back side of the church.

Meetings are open to the public. Please RSVP to either Laurie or Jackie to let them know which date fits your schedule best. You can also schedule a complimentary appointment today. Both Laurie and Jackie can provide this personalized service in the comfort of your own home or at their office in St. Joseph at no cost to you.



Jackie Crever and Laurie Oppel prepare for their meetings at Peace United Church of Christ.

Explore Your Medicare Plan Options Come to a free informative meeting.



Questions to think about

- How's your current health?
- Do you take any prescription drugs?
- Do you have a preferred doctor, hospital or clinic?
- Are you on a fixed budget or do you expect changes to your finances in the coming year?
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December will be by appointment

Please RSVP for a meeting time that works with your schedule by calling: Laurie Oppel 218-343-4702 or Jackie Crever 320-293-9660

Not connected with or endorsed by the United States government or the federal Medicare program.

Schedule of Meetings

Location
Peace United Church of Christ
402 8th Ave. S
St. Cloud, MN 56301

October

- 10-8, 10 a.m.
- 10-10, 1 p.m.
- 10-16, 10 a.m.
- 10-18, 3 p.m.
- 10-22, 1 p.m.
- 10-26, 10 a.m.
- 10-30, 3 p.m.

November

- 11-1, 3 p.m.
- 11-5, 10 a.m.
- 11-7, 1 p.m.
- 11-13, 10 a.m.
- 11-15, 3 p.m.
- 11-19, 1 p.m.
- 11-20, 10 p.m.
- 11-27, 3 p.m.
- 11-29, 1 p.m.

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Meemken

from front page

rently, Meemken still helps set up lunches for the quilters.

Last fall, Joyce Stock, a St. Joseph resident who has been actively sewing dresses for Haiti brought lunch for the quilters and brought some of her dresses along.

Meemken studied them and thought she could probably help out with sewing some dresses since she had retired from making quilts.

She likes creating the dresses because she isn't on any time frame and can sew them when she wants to. Meemken feels she can pick up and leave them at any time and doesn't feel any pressure to get them finished.

In the last year, this 90-year-old woman has sewn more than 400 dresses. She said she has been able to do so because people continue to generously supply her with all the materials she needs.

People have dropped off new material, lace, elastic and other items. Sometimes they find them at garage sales or from people who don't need the materials anymore.

The St. Joseph Y2K Lions also donated money for her to buy thread and other necessary supplies.

"People are really good-hearted," Meemken said. "I couldn't afford to do this otherwise. It is a labor of love and is just plain fun. When I stopped making quilts I was looking for something to do."

She makes her own binding from material she gets donated to her, which she says is the hardest part of creating the dresses.

For many years, Meemken sewed on a Singer Talent machine until she wore it out. Her daughter recently bought her a Singer Tradition machine that she now uses.

Stock says she will sometimes get a call from Meemken who says she is walking some dresses over. The distance between their houses is about three and one-half blocks. Other times, Meemken's daughter will drive her to deliver the dresses.

"Each dress is a work of art," Stock said of Meemken's dresses.

Stock said she is very impressed how tall and straight Meemken still walks and that she couldn't believe she was 90.

Meemken has also been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 328 for 25 years and donates her time calling Bingo every fourth time they have it at the American Legion in St. Joseph.

This year, for her 90th birthday, her family surprised her with a secret they had been keeping for almost a year.

For 27 years, her daughter



photos by Cori Hilsgen

Judy Meemken, 90, sews one of her dresses for children in Haiti on her new Singer Tradition sewing machine. She enjoys working in the well-lit area in her Millstream Lofts residence.

Joyce Bauers, and she have attended a Minnesota Twins baseball game for Meemken's birthday.

At the Sept. 9 game against the Kansas City Royals, Meemken was surprised to learn that her daughter had worked with team management to make arrangements to have Meemken throw out the first pitch of the game.

"It was a fabulous day for me," Meemken said. "The whole day was so cool. It's something at my age. How many people at 90 get to do something like this? You couldn't ask for anything better."

She said it was a complete surprise for her. Everyone that knew about it ahead of time, kept it a secret from her and she is glad they did.

"Man alive," Meemken said. "I got to be down there. I was nervous and excited until I started walking out on the field and then I was so calm. I thought to myself 'this is my chance'."

Her family had reserved the Kirby Puckett suite for her and it was filled to the maximum number allowed in the suite. Her son, Bob Meemken, traveled from Florida and her other daughter, Jean Pogatshnik, came from Nevis.

Meemken loves baseball. Her favorite player is Eddie Rosario and she wore her new Rosario shirt to the game.

Meemken was able to keep the baseball she threw out and also received a cap from organizers.

"I'm not down from the high yet," she told her friends at quilting lunch the following week.

Meemken has lived in the Millstream Lofts for 10 years and her entrance into her residence includes 25 steps with a landing area in between.

Meemken says she usually takes a break in the landing area and then continues up the rest of the steps.

About three years ago, her car stopped running and she decided not to replace it. She said it is so convenient where she lives that she is able to walk almost everywhere she needs to. Meemken especially enjoys walking in the evening when it is cooler.

Her daughter drives her to purchase groceries and she tries to schedule whatever else she needs on the same day.

"For my age, I've had very few health problems and I can't complain at all," Meemken said.

Meemken was born and grew up in St. Cloud. She had eight brothers and three sisters. A younger brother and sister are still living.

Meemken was married to her husband, Cyril, for 39 years. For 26 years, they farmed on land between Sartell and St. Stephen, which his parents had also farmed before them.

Meemken said she helped with the farming, including milking the cows and driving tractors. She didn't always enjoy driving some of the tractors but she did it.

The couple moved to St. Joseph in 1978 and Meemken has lived there since then.

Besides her three children, she also has five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

In her 80s, she sewed quilts for each of the grandchildren and wrote cards to put with each one to be given at their graduation parties, never thinking she would attend their parties.

She has attended two of those parties and hopes to attend more in the next couple of years.



photo by Cori Hilsgen

The dresses Meemken creates are sewn from materials donated by others.



Judy Meemken, St. Joseph, creates her own binding from materials donated to her, to be used on dresses she creates for children in Haiti.



With her face freshly painted, Ellie Gucinski, 4, of Sartell, enjoys the petting zoo Sept. 21 at the St. Joseph Farmers' Market Harvest Festival.



Lydia Beirne, 4, of St. Joseph, perches above her dad, Matt, as he chooses a juice sample from Emalee McCain of St. Cloud Sept. 21 at the St. Joseph Farmers' Market Harvest Festival.

Happy faces at Harvest Festival



photos by Carolyn Bertsch

Tomoko Rebeck of Sartell and her daughters Sara, 7, and Aki, 11, work together on a pumpkin craft Sept. 21 at the St. Joseph Farmers' Market Harvest Festival.

Letters to the editor (To page 4)

Volunteering can help relieve sadness, depression

Bentrud's experience, leadership needed

Sara Heurung, area supervisor, Foster Grandparent Program

With the cooler weather and shorter days this past week, I find myself getting ready for another Great Minnesota Winter.

When we think about Minnesota winters some talk of the bitter cold and shorter days, while others talk about the beauty of the falling snow and hoarfrost. What many don't talk about is Seasonal Affective Disorder

SAD is a form of depression that cycles with the seasons, and although it can happen with any season, it's most common during the winter months because of the shorter days and the lack of time spent outdoors.

Those who are clinically diagnosed with SAD may be prescribed antidepressants or advised to partake in light therapy. But, what else can people do to combat the symptoms of SAD? Volunteer.

Studies have found those who volunteer report shorter periods of sadness and depression than those who do not. When one volunteers, they are guaranteed to get out of the house and meet other people. Volunteering can boost self-esteem and expand connections in a community, which has been linked to longer life expectancy and better health. Volunteering has been known to give one a sense of purpose and makes one feel good about themselves (www.nonprofithub.org).

Kris Dickhaus, Melrose

I am a business owner with a degree in education, looking for the sheriff candidate that will best serve and enforce the law in Stearns County. Dave Bentrud has the knowledge, commitment and experience to do just that.

As a former educator, I can't even fathom the thought of moving from classroom to superintendent position without proper training, education and experience. As a business owner for over 20 years, I could offer the same argument. To become a successful business owner, you typically work as an understudy in every area of the business. My point being, Dave has worked his way up through the ranks of law enforcement, giving him credibility to become an excellent sheriff. He has shown his dedication by earning his master's degree, his commitment by becoming an adjunct instructor at SCSU and his leadership skills as Waite Park's police chief.

Furthermore, Dave truly cares about the entire county. He has asked Bob and I several times what the west side of Stearns County needs and wants to improve our communities and to feel safe. Dave has a wife and school-age children which keeps him relevant when it comes to schools, students and teacher's needs.

As a business owner and wife of Lt. Bob Dickhaus I am certain that the sheriff's office needs a sheriff that can manage all the departments within the

sheriff's office, assign tasks and have control over the employees along with making crucial decisions. The only candidate qualified, responsible, committed and experienced to take on this task is Dave Bentrud. Join me in voting for Dave Bentrud for Stearns County sheriff on Nov. 6.

Crime rates matter in sheriff's race

John Justin, Sartell

Crime and crime rates matter, and numbers don't lie.

As a Stearns County and Sartell resident and a Minnesota certified crime-prevention specialist, I am supporting Steve Soyka for Stearns County sheriff. Here's why. Law-enforcement agencies in Minnesota report their crime information to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. That information is then provided to the FBI. Both agencies publish annual Uniform Crime Reports. They are easily viewable online. The UCR program's primary objective is to generate reliable information for use in law-enforcement administration, operation and management; throughout the years, however, the data has become one of the country's leading social indicators.

People decide where to live, raise and educate children, work, open a business, vacation, shop or obtain lodging when traveling based on crime and crime rates. One individual city's high crime rate can impact the entire Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Twenty years ago, my decision to

buy a home and reside in Sartell was foremost based on low crime and crime rates. The UCRs for the last 10 years reflect Sartell has consistently maintained low crime rates. Conversely, Waite Park's crime rates have been the highest in the area and in the top five or 10 every year for cities of all sizes in Minnesota; and very high for cities of similar sizes nationwide. In cities with low crime rates, residents, their elected officials and police administrators rightfully take pride in and highlight their crime-rate information. In cities with the highest crime rates public discussion is avoided and crime-rate relevance is downplayed. Crime, crime rates and facts matter to me more than good-old-boy endorsements and campaign signs placed on vacant lots. That is why I will be voting for Steve Soyka for Stearns County sheriff.

Perske is a 'true conservative'

Gerry Feld, Sauk Rapids

Minnesota Senate District 13 deserves an honest, strong, hard-working, dedicated leader, willing to go the extra mile. That is why I am endorsing Stearns County Commissioner Joe Perske for the job.

As District 13 grows, we need a senator who understands the problems and has worked with them from the ground level. As mayor of Sartell, Joe worked with members of the community to solve problems and prepare the city for future growth. He recognized the St. Cloud metro

area was rapidly growing, and it was necessary for Sartell to be prepared to meet future challenges.

As a Stearns County commissioner, Joe had to work with issues regarding both rural and urban affairs. While dealing with these issues and people, Joe never forgot the basic principles he was taught as a child. Always treat others as you would like to be treated.

Joe has kept those principles alive as he worked with the youth of his community. As an athletic coach, Joe not only taught his players sportsmanship, but he became a guiding hand in the lives of his players. He was never too busy to talk with his players about life and being good citizens.

Of course being married for 39 years, Joe understands the challenges of raising a family on a budget that sometimes does not leave much for many luxuries. As a husband and father, Joe deals with the same issues every family in Senate District 13 faces on a daily basis.

By electing Joe Perske to the state Senate, we will have a man in St. Paul who has already worked hard in city and county government to solve problems and face tough issues head on.

As an independent conservative, I believe Joe is the true conservative in this race. His lifestyle and work ethic has proven this time and again. Please join me in sending Joe to the state Senate. He is a good man, with an honest forthright outlook on life, that can make a huge difference in the state Capitol, where he will work hard for Senate District 13.

Opinion

Our View

Keep it local during Oct. 18 trash pickup

“If you see something, say something.”

That admonition usually applies to airports and other potential terrorism targets.

But on Oct. 18, in St. Joseph, those words will apply to refuse.

That’s when the city has scheduled the next curbside rubbish pickup and the city is as serious about the warning as any airport security officer.

During the last pickup in May, Republic Services collected 77 tons of refuse and suspected some of the mountains of trash may have come from outside the city.

Those 77 tons translates into hundreds of pounds of trash per household and at some point the extra hauling expenses may be picked up by St. Joseph residents.

At a May 17 City Council meeting, members discussed the issue with Republic staff. The council did not make any rate changes under the current contract with Republic. But the council decided to use enforcement and public awareness to solve the abuse during the fall pickup before considering any changes.

Possible solutions to the out-of-town dumpers include raising collection rates or ending curbside pickup. Instead of curbside pickup, residents would need to haul their discarded items to a central location where IDs would be checked for residency.

Of course, that would make the service far less useful for residents who don’t have vehicles or who don’t have vehicles large enough to accommodate larger discarded items.

So the pickup will go ahead on Oct. 18. Residents need to place their items on the curb by 6 a.m.

St. Joseph residents will have an additional opportunity to clean up their homes when there’s an appliance and electronics collection from 8 a.m.-noon on Tuesday, Oct. 30, behind the former Colt’s Academy building. There’s a limit of two items for patrons of the city’s refuse program.

In both cases, be ready to show an ID. The police department will write tickets to people who live outside the city.

So, tell your friends to leave their trash at home.

And if you see anyone dumping off trash at someone else’s curb, say something.

Otherwise, the convenient curbside program might end or the price could go up.

Wetterling files close case, but memories of missed clues remain

The green numbers on the digital clock flip over to 10:00 a.m.

Six minutes to go.

More than 40 journalists jam a basement meeting room at the Law Enforcement Center and sit in silence waiting for Stearns County Sheriff Don Gudmundson to walk to the podium.

It’s been 10,561 days since a man with a history of sexual assaults on young boys snatched Jacob Wetterling as he returned home from a convenience store with his brother and a friend.

Now the digital clock clicks to 10:03 a.m. Gudmundson steps to the podium, shuffles his papers and waits for the clock to roll to 10:06 a.m., the announced start time for the meeting.

As I look around the quiet room, I notice many of the reporters gathered to write the final chapter in the story that has haunted Central Minnesota for 28 years, 10 months and 29 days weren’t even born on Oct. 22, 1989.

We gather because two years after Jacob’s killer Danny Heinrich goes to jail, after legal battles over the files, Gudmundson is going to release almost 42,000 pages of investigation files.

In the back row of reporters, in front of more than a dozen television cameras set up to record Gudmundson’s words, is Jerry Wetterling, Jacob’s dad.

For all those years, Jerry has been the always-seen-but-seldom-heard parent. While Jacob’s mom, Patty, was interviewed thousands of times and gave hundreds of speeches advocating for child safety, Jerry was there, watching, listening, but speaking sparingly.

Jerry is here again. To listen.

Only two people in the room have been part of the story since the very first day, a Sunday night in 1989. Jerry and me.

I was working as photo editor at the St. Cloud Times on that October night when I heard the call on the newsroom scanner about a missing boy in St. Joseph.

Mike
Knaak
Editor



Missing children calls aren’t terribly unusual and most times the parents’ panic ends quickly when the child is found at a friend’s house or a similar innocent explanation.

But not this time. As radio activity picked up, I decided it was time to head to St. Joseph where I found deputies blocking traffic near what turned out to be the abduction site.

Now, years later, the story is about to end. Rather than just dumping the thousands of files, Gudmundson wisely chose to set the scene with his own narrative of the case revealed in the files. We all know the ending but the files document why the case remained unsolved for decades.

Gudmundson launched his 135-slide PowerPoint by detailing his resume of more than 40 years of homicide investigations, setting up his standing to back up the statements he’s about to make.

After reading the files himself, Gudmundson concludes investigators missed 20 clues that would have helped solve the case, the first ones beginning 10 months before Jacob’s kidnapping. (Details of Gudmundson’s presentation appear in this week’s Newsleader.)

As Gudmundson flips through his slides I relive covering the story as it unfolded each day nearly 30 years ago.

The morning after the kidnapping, I returned to St. Joseph, first taking photographs at the Wetterling house and then at the crime scene. My photos at the scene recorded what would turn out to be one of the missed clues on Gudmundson’s list.

I photographed Detective Steve Mund making plaster casts of tire and shoe prints. I had known Mund

for years since we both worked on the high school newspaper. He was a meticulous and detailed-focused guy, even in high school.

On Jan. 12, 1990, Mund writes in a report after photographing Heinrich’s tires “Photographs were taken of the tires which were consistent with those tires found at the (Wetterling) scene by gross tread design.”

And on the same report, Mund writes “It should be noted during the interview, writer observed Mr. Heinrich’s soles of his shoes. Found them to appear to be consistent with the footprint pattern found at the scene of Wetterling abduction.”

Those words, written by the investigator most familiar with the evidence, end up on Gudmundson’s summary of missed clues.

Gudmundson wraps up his presentation by taking questions and talks about what his department has learned. He mentions returning to two other unsolved homicides and making sure investigators read every word of those files.

His words fly by the gathered reporters but to me the victims were real people and stories I had covered – the 1974 killing of the Reker sisters whose bodies were found in a quarry and Mrytle Cole, an 81-year-old Fairhaven woman stabbed to death in her home in 1981.

As Gudmundson ends his presentation, Al Garber, a retired FBI agent who worked the case, challenges the sheriff’s conclusions. Gudmundson suggests Garber take his assertions outside.

Moments later, reporters surround Garber on the sidewalk in front of the Law Enforcement Center.

My friend and former colleague, Dave Schwarz, captured the day’s most powerful moment in his photo for the St. Cloud Times.

Standing away from the gaggle, there was Jerry Wetterling, leaning against the building, watching and listening. Again.

No, boys won’t be boys

Patric
Lewandowski
Guest Writer



Like many these days, I am filled with rage. Your rage may vary from mine, but the particular nature of my rage is coming from all the sexual assault stories. The thing that makes me the maddest in these stories is the men in them and the men reacting to them.

Men, we need to chat. If you have a Y chromosome, you need to listen up. First off, there is a good chance if you’re reading this, you have never committed a sex crime. In fact, that should be the norm. Furthermore, let’s just say this right now, anyone who has ever assaulted a woman is a piece of dirt who is not worth our time.

Men, we need to be harder on our fellow testicle-Americans. For the past year, we have seen #metoo far too much. Are you listening? I’m telling you now that even if you don’t realize it, someone you know has been assaulted. That’s just the truth. We are morally obligated to not only listen to women, but to take action.

To be fair, lots of action is being taken, even if it’s the simple action of listening to women and some people finally losing the positions of power that enabled their abuse. But, I think we can do better. I think there is a simple action the rest of us men can do to help.

We need to point out that this is not normal behavior. It is not acceptable. It is not “boys will be boys” or “locker-room talk.” I know not all men act this way because I didn’t. I think there’s a lot more men *like* me out there than *not* like me.

Men, we need to shame those guys. You know the ones. Many of the same ones who assaulted women bullied other men. There are a number of men who have been afraid as

well, and that fear is the bullies’ tool.

No more.

The women have a hashtag and it’s great. I propose another hashtag for those of us who are allies. It’s a simple hashtag to throw around when anyone tries to tell you such misogynistic behavior is normal, because treating anyone as less than human for any reason is not normal.

#Ididn’t.

If someone says, “that’s just how men act,” you respond #Ididn’t. If someone says “boys will be boys,” you tell them they are wrong. Yes, people should lose careers and positions of esteem for things they did. It’s called “consequences for your actions” and it happens to us all.

Men, we have a moral obligation to ostracize these animals in our gender. It’s not all men, and we need to speak up and let those criminals know just how small, pathetic and alone they are in their evil.

Join me and tell those who say, “men always acted that way” #Ididn’t.

GOT AN
OPINION?

The Newsleaders
P.O. Box 324
St. Joseph, MN 56374
Email: news@thenewsleaders.com
Please include your full name for publication (and address and phone number for verification) only).

Kids ripped from parents, then and now

The following words should remind us all of an outrage that demands immediate attention:

“My mother and I were separated when I was but an infant – before I knew her as my mother. It is a common custom in the part of Maryland from which I ran away, to part children from their mothers at a very early age . . .”

That was written by the great abolitionist orator Frederick Douglass, former slave, in his powerful memoir, “Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass,” published in 1845.

His words should remind us of what happened at the U.S.-Mexican borders months ago when children were taken from their parents and placed in caged detention centers far and wide.

The perpetrators, in this case, were not slaveholders of yore. This modern separation scheme was devised by Attorney General Jeff Sessions, President Donald Trump and White House advisor Stephen Miller, perhaps the most vociferous of the anti-immigrant bigots in the West Wing.

Their vicious policy puts themselves on par with those slave dealers who ordered blacks up on the auction block,

who bought and sold separated family members as if they were cattle.

And this is how those cruel separations were rationalized, justified by both slaveholders and – now – by Trump & Co. For hundreds of years, slave owners de-humanized blacks who were snatched from Africa and elsewhere. They were treated as animals, as objects, as “the other” so they could be exploited to toil on white plantations. Some of the most sadistic owners, who frequently tortured and whipped slaves, sometimes to death, often used religion to justify their “mastery” over others.

In his “populist” rallies, Trump has de-humanized immigrants (especially Mexicans and Muslims), using words such as rapists, animals, drug smugglers, killers, users and deadbeats, thus tarring all immigrants with the same fear-mongering brush.

Trump warned of a “caravan” on its way to the border from Central America, and he couched the impending

Dennis Dalman
Reporter



“invasion” in terms of “infestation” (cockroaches, rats, nasty intruders). He and his anti-immigrant minions decided to do something about it – something drastic to “send a message” back home that those trespassers had better think twice about seeking applications for immigration to this country – otherwise, their kids will be snatched away.

About 3,000 children were separated from mothers and/or fathers. Thanks to public outrage and a judge’s decision, reunification was ordered. However, many of the parents had been deported – without their children – and were not even given a fair hearing. Some were bamboozled into signing papers they didn’t even understand.

The most sickening aspect is there was absolutely no plan for reunification – no plan to track the whereabouts of deported parents and no plan to keep track of the children who were suddenly stranded alone, many of them under the age of 5.

Granted, we need a strict-but-fair immigration policy so everyone involved knows the rules and what’s expected. But has this Congress, this president, even attempted such reform? Of course not.

This Tweeter-in-Chief has lost all moral authority, not that he had much to begin with. His unspeakably cruel separation policy, which he first tried to blame on the Democrats, will go down in history as a national disgrace. We must not forget; we must demand reunification now for every child, no matter how much time or expense it takes. Republicans in Congress should stop enabling a president who has no clue about the U.S. Constitution or the Rule of Law. Their spineless inaction will come back to bite them. When will we stop being shocked (or pretending to be shocked) by Trump’s dangerous, erratic behavior?

Just imagine the more than 300 children, still detained somewhere, who are crying, lonely, dejected and wondering if they will ever see their mommies and daddies again. And imagine the parents, somewhere far away, longing for their abducted children forever lost to them.

Letters to the editor (Continued from page 13)

Bentrud brings a fresh look to fighting crime

Steve Vincent, St. Cloud

We all want a sheriff who is effective at fighting crime. But fighting crime means more than just enforcing laws and arresting criminals. Fighting crime also means preventing crimes from happening. Anyone who has been a crime victim knows it would have been far better if the crime had never happened.

I am supporting Dave Bentrud for Stearns County sheriff because I have worked with Dave on projects to reduce crime and I have seen his skill and dedication. With 26 years of law-enforcement experience, including 10 years as Waite Park’s chief of police, Dave has a proven record as an effective crime fighter. With his commitment to collaboration among law-enforcement agencies and with the public, he is a leader who builds a safer and stronger community by bringing people together.

As sheriff, Dave will bring his experience, and the connections he has built across the county, to create partnerships that give the sheriff’s department a fresh look at fighting crime. His open communication within the department, with other departments and with average citizens will be a solid foundation for a safer community.

Join me in voting for Dave Bentrud.

Perske is an ordinary guy with passion

Tom and Sandy Cordie, Sartell

If you are looking for a candidate who has some common

sense, tireless energy and experience – vote Joe Perske for State Senate. Perske’s dedication to workers, education, families and retirees is evident by his To Do list:

- Support and protect area jobs;
- Maintain quality roads and bridges;
- Make Vo-Tech and college affordable;
- Control rising health care and prescription drug prices.

Perske is a former teacher and coach. He has firsthand experience as a council member and former mayor of Sartell. He is currently a Stearns County commissioner. Perske serves on several boards and committees. He is a husband, father and grandfather. He repairs their cars and loves to hunt.

You see, Joe is an ordinary guy with passion to see the right things done for the right reasons. Joe listens and knows the issues surrounding the people of our communities. He will be a true advocate for the most reasonable solution to these and other issues. He will listen to all sides and work with both parties to move forward. Join us on election day and cast your vote for Joe Perske for Minnesota State Senate.

Soyka has experience to run sheriff’s office

Ron Schmidt, St. Joseph

With the Stearns County Sheriff election taking place this fall, I want to remind everyone that your vote matters. Please make sure you exercise your right and get out to vote. I have had the pleasure to know and work with each of the candi-

dates running for sheriff. With that being said, I have decided to cast my vote for Steve Soyka for the following reasons:

Steve has worked a combined 27 years in sheriff’s offices in Central Minnesota and for the past 22 years at the Stearns County Sheriff’s Office. He has worked for the past nine years as a sergeant. Steve is well liked throughout the Sheriff’s Office and respected by his fellow deputies. Throughout the years, Steve has worked his way up in the department to include becoming commander of the Stearns-Benton County SWAT team, and commander of the Central Minnesota Violent Offender Task Force, an eight-agency, five-county cooperative effort to combat illegal drugs and violent criminals.

The position of sheriff takes knowledge of running a large department from the patrol division to the jail and dispatch. Steve has the qualities and experience to run such a department as he has proven during the past several years in taking on demanding roles. Steve conducts himself in a professional manner on or off duty working hard to better the community around him. I have witnessed Steve in some of the most intense high-stress moments and he has always conducted himself in a calm manner that not only creates a calm environment but allows the task at hand to be executed in the safest manner possible.

Please join me on Nov. 6 in casting your vote for the candidate that has you, the public, as his priority. Please vote for Steve Soyka for Stearns County sheriff.

Howe will maintain a ‘pro-life’ majority

Nick Overby, Sartell

I know Joe Perske and Jeff Howe, and consider both of them friends.

They are both very decent men, but I can only vote for one for the state Senate this year. The right-to-life issue is important to me and both of these candidates are pro-life. So which one do I vote for in November?

Minnesota currently has 33 Democrat and 33 Republican senators. Whichever party wins this special election will have a majority and control the senate. Since the leaders of the Democrat Party are pro-abortion liberals, what kind of chance do you think pro-life legislation will have if they take control? My guess is it will have no chance.

Meanwhile, Jeff Howe has a 100-percent rating from Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life because he has a proven record of defending life at the state Capitol. That is why I am voting for Jeff Howe and a pro-life Republican majority, and I encourage you to do the same.

Look beyond party to vote for Walz

Phil Ringstrom, Sartell

Recently, I was explaining to an acquaintance my support for Tim Walz for governor of Minnesota. My friend asked, “What Party?” I explained Congressman Walz is from the 1st Congressional District and is currently the top Democrat on the Veterans’ Affairs Committee, and the highest-ranking enlisted soldier to ever serve in Congress.

He stopped me there and said, “Democrat? No Chance!” My friend, being patient, allowed me to explain Tim’s platform, his commitment to his country evidenced by his service, his background as an educator and representative of all Minnesotans in the United States Congress. When I reviewed his platform regarding health care, his veteran’s opportunity care plan, agriculture, economic needs of all Minnesota, energy, education and environment, his response was muted. Tim Walz’s opponent’s platform pales in comparison.

I have voted Democratic, Republican and Independent, always paying attention to the candidate’s values, beliefs, accomplishments and ability to get things done. Recently, elections and politicians are being measured by accusations toward the other candidate and strictly by party affiliation.

Tim Walz is a person who has a history of reaching across party lines and is representative of all of Minnesota. Recent evidence of his collaboration and negotiation skills is his work across party lines affecting labor management and care delivery issues at the St. Cloud Veterans’ Affairs Hospital. Tim’s platform on education, health care, infrastructure, environment and community support for both rural and urban Minnesota is solid. With Peggy Flanagan as his running mate, we have a diverse, progressive and balanced ticket.

I hope this Nov. 6, Minnesota voters will mark their ballots for the best person who represents his/her beliefs, goals and values, not just the colors of Red and Blue!

Furniture business 'Crooked Hinges' to open Oct. 11



contributed photo

The creators/owners of Crooked Hinges are (left to right) Jill Haak, Kim Reno and Marilyn Hamblin.

by Dennis Dalman

news@thenewsleaders.com

A repurposed furniture and décor business dubbed Crooked Hinges will open Thursday, Oct. 11, in St. Joseph.

The shop is in an older, cozy, redesigned house, at 38 Birch St. E. (on the frontage road right across Hwy. 75 from the hardware store). Crooked Hinges will be open only four consecutive days each month – every second Thursday through Sunday. In October, the open-for-business dates will

be Oct. 11 through Oct. 14.

Business hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mondays-Fridays and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sundays. The owners of Crooked Hinges will also arrange private appointments with prospective customers for times and days not on the four-day open-for-business times.

Crooked Hinges is billed as “perfectly imperfect furniture and home décor.” It is owned by three friends – Jill Haak of St. Augusta, Marilyn Hamblin of Little Falls and Kim Reno of Sauk Rapids. The three women have an exten-

sive background in repurposed and painted furniture. Their paths crossed after they met one another often while they were selling their creations via area repurposed-furniture venues. They began to meet many Fridays for dinners to discuss with excitement their latest plans and projects. That mutual excitement and constant creativity led to plans to open Crooked Hinges, and they discovered a perfect place for their business in the small house in St. Joseph right off the highway.

Crooked Hinges will feature objects made by Reno, Hamblin and Haak but also works by other local vendors and custom builders.

“That will give the shop a good variety of personality and style in furniture and home décor,” Hamblin said.

Hamblin described the staples of Crooked Hinges as “repurposed, restyled, repainted, reimagined, antique, vintage and more-modern furniture and home décor.

“All of which will have been altered or handmade in some way to meet the current trends and styles of furnishing and decorating homes, cabins, offices and businesses,” she said.

The shop itself has the look of a farmhouse, a mixture of French country style and what the

owners call “shabby chic.” That look incorporates old barn wood and rusty-crusty objects currently popular in home-decorating trends. Most painted items will be neutral colors that fit in virtually any color schemes. Accent features will be done in a variety of muted colors.

One of Crooked Hinges’ specialties is lighting fixtures that

range from hanging lamps to lamps for tables and floors. Each one is unique, and the lamps include rusty-pail lighting to charming chandeliers.

In addition, there is a wide variety of custom pieces – from barn wood furniture to unusual clocks, from original framed paintings to yard art. A decorating service will also be available for customers.

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The St. Joseph Fire Department is hosting a



Friday, Oct. 12 • 4-7 p.m.

St. Joseph Community Fire Hall • 323 4th Ave. N.E., St. Joseph

- North Memorial Air Care Helicopter to land and be on display
- Gun safety locks provided
- Inflatable gyms for the kids
- Fire, police & ambulance equipment display
- Fire extinguisher info
- Safety tips and handouts

*** FREE *
hot dogs &
beverages**

**Fun for
the whole
family!**



Sponsored by:

St. Joseph Fire & Police Departments • Sentry Bank of St. Joseph • Central Minnesota Credit Union
St. Joseph Meat Market • North Memorial Air Care • Kay's Kitchen
Gold Cross Ambulance Service • Coborn's • Casey General Store
St. Joseph Legion Post 328 • St. Joseph Mutual Insurance Co.
Bernick's • Finken Companies • Summit Companies

Thank you for your continued support!



IS YOUR MEDICARE COST PLAN GOING AWAY?

Get a plan that goes where you go

If you're losing your Medicare Cost plan, Medica has 2019 plan options that can offer the coverage you're looking for:

- » Options with \$0 copays for most medical services
- » Plans with add-on Part D prescription drug coverage
- » Coverage that goes where you go and lets you see any provider that accepts Medicare
- » Extras to enhance your life, like a gym membership, and more

Attend a FREE Medicare Workshop to learn about the affordable coverage options from Medica.

October 15th, 2018 • 10:00am
Sartell Community Center
850 19th St. S
Sartell, MN 56377

October 15th, 2018 • 2:00pm
Sartell Community Center
850 19th St. S
Sartell, MN 56377

October 22nd, 2018 • 10:00am
Sartell Community Center
850 19th St. S
Sartell, MN 56377



320-654-6100
9:00am - 5:00pm M-F
Paul and Patricia Hamilton
Medicare Insurance Advisors
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