

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Dec. 28, 2018
Volume 30, Issue 36
Est. 1989

Town Crier

Christmas tree collection is next week

Curbside collection of Christmas trees will be Thursdays, Jan. 3 and Jan. 10.

Place the tree at the curb and remove all bags, stands and decorations.

When it snows, shovel within 24 hours

St. Joseph city ordinance requires that property owners need to clear snow and ice from sidewalks within 24 hours of a storm.

If the snow or ice is not cleared, the city will remove it and the owner will be charged for the service.

It's against the law to push snow from driveways and sidewalks onto a public road.

Utility bills available by email in January

St. Joseph residents will have the option of receiving utility bills by email instead of mail starting with the January bill.

To receive email bills, create an account on the city's website, www.cityofstjoseph.com. Click on the "Online Bill Pay" link.

Help prepare taxes

The Tri-CAP VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) is looking for volunteers to provide customer service, prepare taxes and review taxes for filing. Training is provided and preparers become IRS certified.

Contact Tri-CAP at 320-251-1612 or visit www.tricap.org/volunteer.

Birthing center guides needed

St. Cloud Hospital is seeking volunteers for the Family Birthing Center. Volunteers assist by welcoming expecting parents and families to the center and providing a basic introduction to the department. A script and training are provided for volunteers. This opportunity is currently available on various weekday evenings and Saturday mornings.

Contact Volunteer Services at volunteer@centracare.com or 320-255-5638.

Volunteers needed at St. Cloud VA

The St. Cloud VA Health Care System needs volunteers for assignments throughout the health care system and demand for volunteer assistance continues to grow.

Call the Voluntary Service office at 320-255-6365 or email vhastcvassstaff@va.gov.

\$7,000 donation brightens downtown

St. Joseph's streets are more festive this Christmas season thanks to a \$7,000 donation from the St. Joseph Lions to buy 18 lighted wreaths. Fundraising events during 2016 and 2017 supported the purchase.

The new decorations arrived in June and then were hung by St. Joseph Firefighters. The Lions' donation was added to a city fund to buy more decorations. Many of the new decorations can be seen along College Avenue S.

In addition to the new lights, Boy Scouts swapped out bulbs on the older decorations and replaced them with LEDs.



photo by Mike Knaak

Keith Louwagie, a captain in the St. Joseph Fire Department, and Mary Stommes, St. Joseph Lions president, stand under one of the Christmas decorations purchased with \$7,000 raised by the Lions.

Area school students spread Christmas cheer

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

Students at Kennedy Community School, St. John's Prep and St. Joseph Catholic School donated their time and talent to help fill area needs this holiday season.

Kennedy Community School WE ACT students, co-advised by teachers Mike Stuber and Kelli Maurer, organized a toy drive to collect toys for the local Toys for Tots.

Students from all grades donated 137 toys after Thanksgiving through Dec. 7. The older grades competed to see which advisory group could bring in the most items. Stuber's advisory group won with 31 toys.

Toys were collected at the beginning of December to ensure items could be picked up, delivered and wrapped for children who would receive them for the Christmas holiday.

Eighth-grader Ashley Kockler donated 31 toys to the drive.

"I brought a lot of toys for the toy drive because I believe it was a nice thing to do," she said.

"I think that the Toys for Tots drive is a great opportunity for our students to be able to give back to the community that helps them so much throughout the year," Maurer said.

"Our WE ACT students focus on improving the community around them, whether at Kennedy, in St. Joseph, or across

the globe," said Principal Laurie Putnam. "I'm so proud of their civic spirit and generosity."

St. John's Prep seventh- and eighth-graders recently spread some holiday cheer while they learned about auctioneering and raised funds for Anna Marie's Alliance.

The 62 students raised \$1,612 in a one-hour "white elephant" auction Dec. 13 to buy gifts for families at the shelter.

Students brought wrapped gifts to the auction, indicating if it was for a boy, girl or either.

Auctioneer Col. Frank Imholte, of Black Diamond Auctions, donated his time to lead the bidding process. He taught



contributed photo

St. Joseph Catholic school students (left, clockwise) Sofija YounglaoTalic, Josie Eastman, Lizzie Hartman, Addie Blenker, Elise Gramke, Jack Molus, Connor May and Mason Brill view items to fill shoeboxes for children at Place of Hope Ministries..

Area • page 4

2018 Year in Review

Elections, annexation top 2018 stories

Jan. 5 edition

The holidays can be a very stressful time for people who lose their jobs, are diagnosed with a medical illness or receive unexpected bills, but residents in St. Joseph are spreading good cheer by donating and helping others in need.

Some of those good deeds included donations to help clear lunch-account balances for students whose parents are behind in paying up the accounts.

The new full-time pastor, Jennifer Thul, introduced her-

self formally to the Resurrection Lutheran Church congregation on Dec. 31. The welcoming response by the congregation was another affirmation to Thul that she had found a church that was a good fit.

All Saints Academy students shared their acting and vocal talents as they performed the school's annual Christmas program, Christmas on Gloria Street.

Jan. 12 edition

The St. Joseph Lions Club held its annual awards cere-

mony Dec. 19. Awards were presented by Joseph Bechtold, president, assisted by Matt Killam, awards committee chairman, and Donna Hoskins, secretary. Lions highest award, the Melvin Jones Fellowship, was presented to Lion Doug Carlson.

Jan. 19 edition

The name of another priest has been added to a list of about 40 area Catholic clergy "likely to have abused minors," according to an announcement from Bishop Donald Ket-

ler, head of the Diocese of St. Cloud. The Rev. Antonio Marfori, who was ordained in 1978 at St. Mary's Cathedral in St. Cloud. Marfori has had two complaints against him. The first was filed in 2015, the second in 2016.

A former mayor of St. Joseph, Richard Carlbom, is now managing the "Coleman for Governor" campaign for DFL contender Chris Coleman.

Jan. 26 edition

Community leaders are

2018 • page 3

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

Dec. 2

3:14 p.m. No-pay customer. Super-America, Birch Street W. A customer left without paying. The driver was contacted, said it was an oversight and returned to the business to pay for fuel.

CORRECTION

to the Dec. 14 Holiday Greeting page

We hope your holidays abound with good cheer and good things!

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

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3. The name and street address of all persons conducting business under the above assumed name including any corporations that may be conducting this business: The Rusty Pick LLC, 311 28th Ave. S., Waite Park, Minn. 56387.

4. I certify I am authorized to sign this certificate and I further certify I understand by signing this certificate, I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Minnesota Statutes Section 609.48 as if I had signed this certificate under oath.

Dated: Aug. 8, 2018

Filed: Aug. 16, 2018

/s/ Todd Scott

Publish: Dec. 14 and 28, 2018

People

A St. Joseph student was awarded a degree during fall semester commencement ceremonies at Minnesota State University, Mankato on Dec. 15. **Shannon Beckl**, earned a bachelor's degree in nursing.

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STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEARNS

IN DISTRICT COURT SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

In Re: Estate of
Lawrence Earl Storms,
Deceased

Court File No. 73-PR-18-10232

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 11th day of Jan. 2019, at 8:45 o'clock a.m., a hearing will be held at the above named Court at St. Cloud, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the above named decedent, dated Sept. 16, 2014, and for the appointment of Darrell J. Storms, whose address is 21722 County Road 44, Clearwater, Minnesota, 55320, as personal representative of the estate of the above named

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEARNS

IN DISTRICT COURT SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

In Re: Estate
of Delmar Arthur Rosha
Deceased

Court File No. 73-PR-18-10589

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 18th day of January 2019, at 8:45 o'clock a.m., a hearing will be held at the above named Court at St. Cloud, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the above named decedent, dated Aug. 7, 2018, and for the appointment of Brandon Jon Rosha, whose address is 20510 County Road 7, South Haven, Minnesota, 55382, as personal representative of the estate of the above named

decedent in unsupervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, a personal representative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate.

Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.

Dated: Dec. 7, 2018

John H. Scherer
Judge of District Court

George Lock
Court Administrator

Daniel A. Eller #26438
Attorney at Law
2103 Frontage Road N. Suite 25
Waite Park, Minn. 56387
(320) 253-3700
daneller@ellerlaw.com

Publish: Dec. 14 and 28, 2018

decedent in unsupervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, a personal representative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate.

Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.

Dated: Dec. 12, 2018

William J. Cashman
Judge of District Court

George Lock
Court Administrator

Daniel A. Eller #26438
Attorney at Law
2103 Frontage Road N. Suite 25
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Publish: Dec. 14 and 28, 2018

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

Physical address: 1608 11th Ave SE, St. Cloud

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2018

from front page

speaking out and planning action after white nationalist posters appeared on main streets in St. Joseph last week. About two dozen members of Cultural Bridges, a group formed more than a year ago to help immigrants, plans to ask the St. Joseph City Council to support a resolution affirming St. Joseph as a welcoming community.

It's been nearly two months since the Minnesota Department of Public Safety launched the text-to-911 service statewide. But since the service has been active, law enforcement throughout Stearns County have seen limited use of the technology.

Feb. 2 edition
Members of the St. Joseph Catholic Parish, thanks to the Knights of Columbus, raised and donated nearly \$3,000 to help repair a school in Puerto Rico that was devastated by Hurricane Maria last fall.

Sen. Michelle Fischbach (R-Paynesville), president of the Minnesota Senate, now serves as the state's lieutenant governor following Gov. Mark Dayton's appointment of Tina Smith to fill the U.S. Senate seat vacated by Al Franken.

Feb. 9 edition
About 75 residents and students packed the Feb. 5 St. Joseph City Council meeting to ask the council to pass a resolution declaring St. Joseph "a welcoming and inclusive community."

For area fishing enthusiasts, it's time to get your jiggle sticks ready for the annual St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club fishing contest. The 25th annual ice fishing contest will be held from noon- 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17 on Kraemer Lake.

Feb. 16 edition
Students at Kennedy Community school are learning some mouse trivia such as the average mouse will breathe 163 times each minute, their tails have scales on them that help them climb and they can make their own vitamin C as they participate in the One District, One Book program.

Shoppers have a chance to check out new gift ideas at the recently "re-imagined" Whitby Gift Shop which opened Feb. 16.

Feb. 23 edition
Taxes? Regulation? Land rights and zoning? Lifestyle changes? Benefits? Government overreach? These were just a few of the concerns and questions 60-80 St. Joseph Township citizens had for the members of the St. Joseph City Council during the Feb. 15 open meeting dealing with the Orderly Annexation Agreement. But layered underneath the questions and statements was another message and it came

through loud and clear. We don't trust government.

Assistant Fire Chief Justin Honer recently hung up his fire gear and retired from the St. Joseph Volunteer Fire Department after 21 years of service.

March 2 edition
A memorial fundraiser dubbed Denim to Diamonds will raise money for Terebinth Refuge, an organization that is helping victims of sex trafficking in central Minnesota.

March 9 edition
The city of St. Joseph will formally ask the state of Minnesota to pay half the \$3 million cost of a pedestrian underpass under CR 75, according to Mayor Rick Schultz. State bonding money would pay half the cost while the 1/2 -cent sales tax would pay the rest.

Construction will begin soon on a 17-unit residential and retail complex on College Avenue North. Developers of 24 North Lofts said Tuesday, March 6, that after four years of planning, the project will be a reality.

March 16 edition
A community problem that advocates say is largely hidden will soon get a highly visible solution. Pathways 4 Youth, a resource center founded by central Minnesota's Rotary clubs, plans an open house from 4-7 p.m. March 20. The center, 203 Cooper Ave. N., Suite 206, St. Cloud will open for clients the week of March 26.

March 23 edition
St. John's Prep students are 'walking up' after participating in a nationwide #Never-Again movement walkout event to honor the victims of the Parkland school shooting in Florida. Students nationwide, including St. John's Prep students, participated March 14 in a walkout a month after the killing of 17 students and staff at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

Local breweries such as The Bad Habit Brewing Co. are enjoying some of the benefits of the passage of recent H.R. 1 Tax Cuts Jobs Act. Included with the passage of the act was the Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act, which helps lower the federal excise tax for breweries, wineries and distilled-spirits producers

March 30 edition
Many local residents received a special Easter basket from the St. Joseph Y2K Lions Club when members filled and delivered 49 baskets to children and adults with special needs who live in the area.

The St. John's Preparatory School math team recently earned first-place in the Beta class at the Minnesota State High School Mathematics League tournament March 12 at South St. Paul High School.

April 6 edition
The constant thump, thump, thump of tires crossing cracks felt by drivers on CR 75 will

end after a massive resurfacing project scheduled this summer.

Mayor Rick Schultz swore in five new police reserve officers at the April 2 City Council meeting.

April 13 edition
St. Joseph Police Chief Joel Klein urged business leaders April 11, to develop a plan for active threats. Klein spoke at the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce meeting a week after an attack occurred at the YouTube headquarters in San Bruno, Calif.

A total of 16 building permits were issued in St. Joseph in 2017, according to statistics compiled by the Central Minnesota Builders Association. All the permits were for single-family, detached homes.

April 20 edition
Business and education leaders in Sartell, Sauk Rapids and St. Cloud are in the early stages of launching a program that will teach high school seniors to be entrepreneurs. Called Great River CEO, the program will welcome its first students in fall 2019.

More than 300 people braved the spring snowstorm April 14 for the St. Joseph Community Showcase at Kennedy Community School.

April 27 edition
The St. Joseph city attorney is investigating claims made against St. Joseph Police Chief Joel Klein after the City Council voted to keep him on paid administrative leave. The City Council met in a closed session April 23 to consider allegations made against Klein. Klein was placed on leave April 19.

Four Kennedy Community School eighth-graders, troubled by social issues in their school and in the world at large, decided to take action. The result, a day informally named Project Kindness.

May 4 edition
Several significant business and commercial plans are changing the look of downtown St. Joseph. Construction is underway on the long-planned 24 North Lofts project. Across the street the old city hall could have a new owner. Aaron Rieland of Bad Habit Brewing is negotiating with the city of St. Joseph to buy the building. There's a new restaurant called Grilled Cravings and Quality Ice Cream set to open at 118 First Ave. NW.

The St. Joseph City Council is accepting applications to fill a newly created vacancy. Council member Matt Killam resigned at the end of April. He is moving out of the area. The city is accepting applications until 3 p.m. Friday, May 11. The council will interview applicants and aim to swear in the new member at the June 4 meeting.


May 11 edition
Opening fishing for walleye, northern, bass and others

YEAR IN

Review

2018

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Area

from front page

students how to bid in an auction and to think about their purchase before raising their hands. Students then bid on gifts not knowing the contents of the gift.

"It's fun to raise your paddle for stuff, even if you don't know what's in the bag," said eighth-grader Sam Rosenbloom, daughter of Glenn Werner from St. Joseph, who bought a cake pop maker, chocolate and soda can fizzy candy. "There's a lot of energy during the auction, there's always a lot of energy in our middle school."

St. John's Prep middle school science teacher Bob Ellenbecker, from St. Joseph, said the auction is a lot of fun because the students enjoy the auction atmosphere.

"The mystery of the wrapped gifts and gift bags make it very exciting," he said. "They don't know what they are going to get."

Proceeds from the auction were used to fill the wish lists of two fam-

ilies at Anna Marie's Alliance. Students shopped with the wish lists to find presents to help those families have a better Christmas. Gifts on the wish lists included clothing, toiletries, toys and electronics.

St. Joseph Catholic School students shared the spirit of Christmas with the school's annual Advent boxes service project.

Students collected and filled shoeboxes with donated items and gave the boxes to Place of Hope Ministries in St. Cloud, an organization that helps homeless people in the area.

Second-grade teacher Betty Pundsack has helped coordinate the project for many years.

Items were collected in bins during the school's common prayer times during the season of Advent, or the four weeks before Christmas.

During the final week of school before Christmas, students put the items into shoeboxes according to age/gender groups. The shoeboxes were then delivered to Place of Hope Ministries.

Anna Marie's Alliance provides safety for battered women and children in a nine-county region.

McIntyre chosen as runner-up in 'Live United' essay contest

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

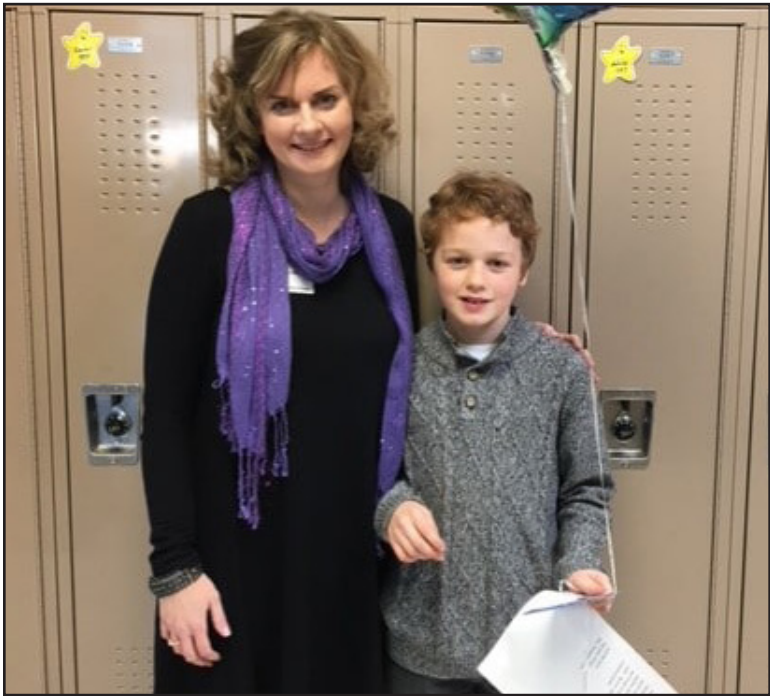
Kennedy Community School fifth-grader Lane McIntyre strives to make a positive impact for other people around him. He recently took time to write his thoughts about how he does so on paper when he entered the United Way "Live United" Essay Contest.

Because McIntyre's ideas were a positive example of how to "Live United," he was chosen as a runner-up in the contest.

"I was so happy to see Lane win this essay," said Kristin Sowada, McIntyre's homeroom teacher. "He did a very nice job writing his essay, but the best part is he lives it. He is an amazing young man."

This is the winning essay that McIntyre submitted for the contest.

"How do I help others and be a positive impact? I help pick up things at Scouts, even if other kids are playing games or something. I also help by not talking too much about something. I love trains, but most of my friends around me like sports, so I talk with them about sports too. I also behave properly. That really helps my teachers and classmates. I am always a positive thinker and honest at all times. I try to always follow my school's motto: Be kind, safe, and responsible. That is how I make a positive impact."



contributed photo
Kennedy Community School fifth-grader Lane McIntyre (right) and his mother, Suzy McIntyre, at the school shortly after Lane was recognized for being chosen as a runner-up in the United Way "Live United" Essay Contest.

McIntyre's mother, Suzy McIntyre, attended her son's award ceremony Dec. 6.

"Lane was so surprised when he found out he had won," she said. "He was just beaming. Lane works hard to always try to do the right thing and to be a friend to those who are especially in need of a friend."

"We are all so proud of Lane's accomplishment," said Laurie Putnam, principal. "He is a thoughtful young man who is also a skilled writer. He rep-

resents our school community well, and I am sure he will go far in his future."

McIntyre's sister, Kayla, is a third-grader at Kennedy Community School.

Jill Lenzmeier from the United Way said McIntyre's essay was chosen from 622 essays from 19 schools from around central Minnesota. There was one grand-prize winner and 14 runners-up selected.

Lenzmeier said the winners selected best expressed how they "Live United."

Essay contest requirements included incorporating the "Live United" theme in the essay, using no more than 100 words, being a fifth-grader and living within the United Way of Central Minnesota service area.

McIntyre and other runners-up winners received a \$75 VISA gift card and the grand-prize winner received a \$200 VISA gift card.

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2018

from page 3

opens May 12. One of the latest ice-out dates predicted for a number of Minnesota lakes this year had many wondering if there would be an opener until a recent stretch of warm weather freed local lakes of ice last week.

The St. Joseph City Council learned they have been doing a pretty good job of keeping revenues and expenses in check at their regular May 5 meeting. Janel Bitzan of BerganKDV summarized the 134-page audit giving the council the highlights which included a surplus balance of unrestricted net position amounting to \$2,967,863. After deducting for the governmental enterprise indebtedness, the balance still showed a positive balance of \$1,150,122.

May 18 edition
The St. Joseph City Council appointed Anne Buckvold to the council's vacant seat at a special meeting May 17. Buckvold was one of eight people who applied for the vacancy created when Matt Killam resigned at the end end of April. Buckvold was elected on a 4-0 vote.

The Church of St. Joseph Catholic church quilters have been busy stitching for the annual July Fourth parish festival and have much to show for their hard work. The array of quilts to be auctioned this year will include 21 queen-sized and 17 baby quilts.

May 25 edition
Managers for Republic Services presented St. Joseph City Council members with options for improving the twice-yearly refuse pickups after some residents created larger-than-expected piles of trash last week. Some of the excess refuse may be coming from people who live outside the city.

A St. Joseph woman's effort to raise awareness about gun violence got another boost at the May 21 St. Joseph City Council meeting. The council voted 4-0 to recognize June 1 as National Gun Violence Awareness Day. Cindy Abercrombie told council members more than 20 local businesses have agreed to use orange lighting on June 1 to support the gun safety issue.

June 1 edition
Michelle Fischbach's resignation from the Minnesota Senate means there will be a special election this fall for Senate District 13. Fischbach resigned May 25 and took the oath of office for lieutenant governor, a post she's legally held since January. Current District 13A Rep. Jeff Howe announced May 29 that he will run in the special election to fill Fischbach's Senate seat.

American Legion Post 328 has been the proud sponsor of a Legion baseball team for 28

years, according to Pat Schneider. But that sponsorship of Legion ball may come to an end soon. Mike Staller, who has been involved in the Legion ball program for four years and is the Legion liaison for the baseball team, has been having some difficulty in rounding up guys who are willing to commit to playing.

June 15 edition
Margaret Molus is not a person who enjoys being the center of attention but instead prefers to be volunteering where help is needed at local functions. Because of her many years of helping with local causes and serving others, Molus was selected to be the grand marshal for the Fourth of July parade, organized by the St. Joseph Lions Club.

It took a half hour of discussion in a closed session at the end of the June 4 regular meeting for the St. Joseph City Council to come to the decision to accept the resignation of Police Chief Joel Klein. Mayor Rick Schultz read from a prepared statement and took no questions dealing with the investigation or the council decision after the meeting citing the Minnesota Data Practices Act which protects private data.

June 29 edition
The St. Joseph City Council chose Dwight Pfannenstien as the new chief of police at its June 18 meeting after wrestling with the question of whether or not the position should be posted and more applicants solicited. The council made the offer on the condition Pfannenstien announce publicly that he's withdrawing as a candidate for Stearns County sheriff.

The Stearns County Board voted June 26 to deny a conditional-use permit for a trap-shooting range in St. Joseph Township. After a June 20 public hearing, the Planning Commission recommended the county board deny the conditional-use permit.

July 13 edition
Frustrated by lack of action on annexation, the St. Joseph City Council issued an ultimatum to St. Joseph Township at its meeting July 2: either act on previous promises or face legal action and enforcement of the entire orderly annexation agreement.

New St. Joseph Police Chief Dwight Dwight Pfannenstien took the oath of office from Mayor Rick Schultz at the July 2 city council meeting. Pfannenstien replaces Joel Klein who resigned May 31 in the midst of an investigation of a complaint against him.

July 27 edition
A crowd of about 200 St. Joseph Township residents gathered in the AMI Auction Facility on July 17 for a public hearing on what was going to become of the township and how it might change and affect them. The St. Joseph Township Board

voted 3-0 to accept the resolution for designation of an area for immediate annexation.

Aug. 10 edition
A recent run of vandalism at two city parks has cost the city of St. Joseph thousands of dollars for repairs and has led to a cutback in services. Fixing damage to the restrooms at the Wobegon trailhead cost about \$8,000 to repair. Vandals damaged the fixtures, electric heater, a hand dryer and power outlets.

Local races on the ballot for the Tuesday, Aug. 14, primary election include choosing a new Stearns County sheriff and electing St. Cloud school district board members. For the first time in 16 years, there's no incumbent sheriff on the ballot. Four men have filed for the office and the primary will narrow the field to two candidates.

Aug. 24 edition
The St. Joseph City Council tackled the city budget for 2019 at the Aug. 20 meeting. This is the first in a series of budget discussions that will take place over the coming months.

Steve Soyka and Dave Benrud will compete for Stearns County sheriff in the Nov. 6 general election. Voters chose Soyka and Benrud from a four-candidate field in the Aug 14 primary election. Soyka finished with 7,346 votes followed by Benrud with 6,335 votes, Robert Dickhaus with 4,112 votes and Dwight Pfannenstien with 1,115.

Sept. 7 edition
As students head back to school this week, teachers and administrators received their own report cards on student performance. The state Department of Education released the latest performance scores based on five indicators – achievement and progress on state reading and math tests over time, progress toward English language proficiency, graduation rates and consistent attendance.

St. Joseph's new comprehensive plan took one more step toward final approval with a unanimous vote of the planning commission Aug. 27. The plan replaces the 2008 document.

Sept. 21 edition
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.

Despite a rough winter that threatened never to end, spring and summer were sweet, sweet seasons for Shelly Carlson and her family. In spring, the sap from their maple trees was low in water content but very high in sugar density. During the Minnesota State Fair, the family

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Review

2018

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Opinion

Our View Protect voter's secret ballot

The secret ballot may not be so secret if Minnesota's presidential preference primary goes ahead as planned.

The presidential primary law requires separate ballots for each political party, requires that all voters disclose to election officials the party ballot they choose and makes that data public record.

The primary will take place on the first Tuesday in March 2020. The presidential primary will not replace the primary for all other races conducted in August. The August primary and the November general elections would still be conducted without recording a party preference.

Unlike some states, Minnesotans don't register to vote with a party preference. Even in primary elections, all parties' candidates are on the same ballot so a voter's party preference remains a secret. Publicly available election data only records your name, age, when and where you voted, not what party or candidate you vote for.

That tradition of privacy should be protected.

For years, Minnesotans have used precinct caucuses as the first step in choosing a presidential candidate. At the caucuses, delegates are chosen for district and eventually state political conventions. With the addition of the primary, caucuses will continue to conduct other party nominations and business, but parties would be bound by presidential primary results.

Precinct caucuses are run by the parties and when you attend, you have to pledge to support the party's principles. But the presidential primary is run by the state and paid for by taxpayers.

There are several options for conducting the primary while keeping voters' choices secret.

Secretary of State Steve Simon wants to conduct the presidential primary by mail.

Simon argues that under a mail balloting system, which is supported by counties and municipalities throughout Minnesota, every person registered to vote would receive by mail a ballot for the presidential nominating contest. To cast a ballot, voters would then be required to fill out and return their mail ballot by the day determined for the presidential primary. This would be functionally the same as those who chose to vote from home during the 2014, '16, or '18 election cycles.

Vote by mail could save millions of dollars in election administration costs, would allow voters to choose their party preference in the privacy of their own home, and has been shown in other states to increase voter participation.

"There is no good reason to require public disclosure of voters' party preferences," Simon said. "Minnesota's voter registration system has never required a voter to state a party affiliation. Minnesota does not need to change a system that has worked so well for us for so many years."

When the law was passed, the governor and both political parties supported collecting party preference data saying the national parties would not support the election outcome without it. The parties will find out who voted for their candidates and also who voted for the other party's candidates.

A more costly way to protect privacy would be to include all parties' candidates on a single ballot as is done with the August primary for local, state and federal races. All voters would receive the same ballot.

Either solution is preferable to capturing a voter's party choice. The presidential primary law appears to be a back-door way of recording voters' party preferences.

Contact your state legislators and urge them to work with Simon to change the law and protect Minnesotans' secret ballot. Public disclosure should not be a part of the presidential primary law.

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The ideas expressed in the letters to the editor and of the guest columnists do not necessarily reflect the views of the Newsleaders.

Letters to the editor may be sent to news@thenewsleaders.com or mail to 1622 11th Ave. SE., St. Cloud, MN 56304. Deadline is noon Monday. Include your full name for publication (and address and phone number for verification only.) Letters must be 350 words or less. We reserve the right to edit for space.

Not all shoppers are created equal

There's shopping and then there's SHOPPING. The definition depends on what you mean by shopping.

I'm more of a lower-case shopper. By that I mean I go shopping when I need a specific item. So I'm more of a buyer than a shopper.,

I'm definitely not a SHOPPER... someone who likes to check out products and dream about what they'd buy and sometimes actually buy something.

Of course, both types of shopping has changed as online shopping threatens actual stores.

This year on Cyber Monday... the Monday after Black Friday...U.S. shoppers spent about \$7.9 billion, up almost 20 percent over 2017.

Will online stores ever replace traditional brick-and-mortar businesses? I don't think so.

Online works great for buying commodities...items that are the same from store to store. For example, toner, paper and other business supplies. Or specific name-brand items with the same product number such as power tools.

Entertainment products are great online purchases because no matter how big the music store or book seller, brick and mortar stores can't match the endless selection available online. It's easy to read a book on a Kindle, but I prefer turning the pages of a book I can hold in my hand and add to my library.

When I taught photojournalism,

Mike Knaak
Editor



students would frequently ask me about what camera to buy.

I would answer by asking them questions about how they planned to use the camera now and in the future and how much money they had to spend. Students were often attracted to "deals" available online.

Buying a camera online can be tricky. First, just like a pair of shoes or a new car, you want to get the "feel" of the camera. There's no way to do that online. You need to visit a camera store. If you are going to buy online, make sure you know the EXACT make and model of the camera you want before purchasing.

My favorite camera store is B and H in New York City. They offer just about every camera, photo accessory, audio and video gear ever made. And their prices are very competitive. I've ordered many products from them. But beginning to shop online for a camera at B and H or any other online store is pretty daunting.

If you are ever in New York City, visit their retail store on Ninth Avenue where you'll find you can touch and choose from thousands of products.

I can't imagine buying a television

online although there are apparently great deals to be found. I want to compare pictures side by side. The best place to do that is at a Best Buy store, not Best Buy online.

Recently, I've seen ads for buying a car online from Carvana. You can search for the car and price you want to pay and make the purchase. You've got to be kidding. Drive a car without sitting in it, without driving it, without testing the controls?

Carvana promises a seven-day "test own" period so you can return it if you don't like it. No thanks.

There's at least one brick-and-mortar store that I'm pretty sure will never be replaced by online shopping. That's Crafts Direct in Waite Park.

During the holiday season, I accompanied my wife who was SHOPPING for yarn. The store features tens of thousands of products spread across 32 aisles and 40,000 square feet.

Where else can you find an aisle marker for EYES?

There's no way an online shopping experience could replace browsing the selections. As I followed my wife around, I assumed the posture of the other small number of men in the store by walking slowly with my hands in my pockets.

As we approached the corral that leads to the 10 cashiers, I checked out the items along the way. I found bags of pretzels and an iPhone holder for my bike.

I almost became a SHOPPER.

Vaping devices aren't harmless; ban them

These disgusting e-cigarettes remind me of the "candy cigarettes" we kids bought at Hackert's Grocery Store some years before we turned on to the real thing – tobacco cigarettes.

I sometimes wonder if those candy cigarettes were a "gateway" device that led me later to the real ones.

The candy smokes looked like thin chalk sticks with red tips that were supposed to mimic the ash flare of a real cigarette. After pretending to smoke them, we would chew them up. They tasted like wintergreen.

It wasn't long before we kids and our friends began filching real cigarettes at home and smoking them on the sly in our garage clubhouse. Sad to say, I was hooked on smokes when I was 12. My older brother, too. He was 14. We thought we were so cool, puffing away in the house when the parents were gone, listening to our 45 rpm records while smoking our fool heads off. Dumb!

The smartest thing I ever did was to quit smoking, cold turkey, 10 years ago. The dumbest thing I ever did? Started smoking. My lungs are still damaged. I often gasp and wheeze like an old emphysema victim. I've often said, if I – a chain-smoking nicotine fiend for years – could quit smoking, anybody can. The first three days after quitting were rough: kicking furniture, panic attacks, cursing, howling at the moon. But, I repeat, anybody can quit. Just make up your mind, get stubborn and then do it! If you fail, do it again!

These insidious vaping devices

Dennis Dalman
Reporter



(oh, they look so innocent, so benign) are supposed to help people quit smoking, and they are marketed as a safe alternative to tobacco. They are not. They deliver nicotine to the bloodstream, and nicotine is addictive.

It is so discouraging to hear these vaping devices are a hit with young people. According to one report, almost 40 percent of high-school seniors had tried vaping, and about 21 percent said they vape quite often.

The hip name for vaping is Juuling, which derives from a popular brand of e-cigarettes, Juul.

I'd bet a lot of these Juulers will graduate to smoking real cigarettes by and by. What's most disgusting is that e-cigs are marketed with children in mind. The vapes have candy-like flavors – cherry, melon, vanilla.

Sales by the Juul company increased by nearly 650 percent from 2016 to 2017, and vaping among teens is now a virtual epidemic. The vapor they inhale from the e-cigarettes contains nicotine and who knows how many damaging toxins? The research so far is far from conclusive as to just how safe they are. On the contrary, some respected research now shows

that e-cigs deliver carcinogens into the body.

According to Juul, each vapor pod for an e-cigarette delivers nicotine that is the equivalent of one pack of cigarettes – about 200 puffs. Safe? Not by a long shot.

Many parents don't know their children are vaping. E-cigs don't produce the pungent odors of tobacco cigarettes, and the devices themselves resemble those small, thumb-sized flash drives for computers.

According to a magazine article I read recently, when confronted by her mother about Juuling, an 18-year-old girl said the activity is "fun and pretty." She said she and her friends love to sit around and blow smoke rings with the vapor. We kids and our friends indulged in the same dopey ritual: seeing who could produce the neatest smoke rings, which we did by making a tight O with our lips and then tapping the side of our cheeks with forefinger. Dumb!

There should be stringent, enforceable restrictions placed on vaping devices. Current age and access restrictions are obviously not working because so many young people are indulging in the habit.

Vaping devices and their pods should be subject to the same restrictions required to purchase tobacco products and alcohol. Better yet, their use should be strictly limited, via prescription, for those who smoke real cigarettes and hope to wean themselves off of killer cigs. Or even better yet: Ban the dumb things.

GOT AN OPINION?

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

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Community Calendar

Is your event listed? *Send your information to: Newsleader Calendar, 1622 11th Ave. SE., St. Cloud, MN 56304., 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.*

Monday, Dec. 31
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.

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

St. Joseph Area Historical Society, 7 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave NW. stjosephhistoricalmn.org.

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

Friday, Jan. 4
St. Joseph Area Historical Society, open 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave. NW. stjosephhistoricalmn.org.
Post-polio Support Group, 10:30 a.m., Independent Life-

styles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids. 320-529-9000.

Moonlight Ski, 6-10 p.m., Quarry Park, 1802 CR 137, Waite Park. 4.2 miles of lighted trails. Bonfire, food, free parking, heated indoor gathering area.

Monday, Jan. 7
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.

St. Joseph City Council meeting, 6 p.m., City Hall, 75 Callaway St. E.

St. Cloud school district board reorganization meeting, 5 p.m., administration office, 1201 Second St. S., Waite Park.

Tuesday, Jan. 8
Central Minnesota Civil War Roundtable, 9 a.m., “Detecting the 1862 U.S. Military Posts at Sauk Centre,” Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud.

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

National Alliance on Mental Health, 7-8:30 p.m., Calvary Community Church, 1200 Roosevelt Road, St. Cloud. The group helps parents raising a child with mental illness learn coping skills and develop problem-solving skills. 320-654-1259.

Wednesday, Jan. 9
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.

St. Cloud school district board meeting/work session, 6:30 p.m., District Administration Office, 1201 Second St. S., Waite Park.

Thursday, Jan. 10
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.

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

Saturday, Jan. 12
Winter Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church fellowship hall, 610 CR 2, St. Joseph.

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

Knights of Columbus Free-Throw Contest, 3 p.m., St. Francis Xavier school gymnasium for boys and girls 9-14. Contact Jake Schneider at 320-761-7143 or jakeschneider34@charter.net.

2018

from page 5

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.

Oct. 5 edition
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.

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 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.

Oct. 19 edition
What do solar panels, bees

and apples have in common? It turns out quite a bit. On a few acres west of St. Joseph, a solar farm, bees, a cidery and smart entrepreneurs are collaborating to protect the environment and distill a tasty drink. This month, Milk & Honey Ciders introduced Solar Sweet Farm Cider, a cider blended with honey from the hives on the solar farm next to their orchard.

After 42 years in St. Joseph, Dr. Jerry Wetterling has sold his practice and is retiring. He’s handed off the practice to Dr. Brian Koltes, who grew up in Albany and graduated from St. John’s University, where he was a three-sport athlete. “I’m planning to chill out for maybe a year and not do any new things,” Wetterling said.

Nov. 2 edition
Aaron Rieland and Eric Geir of the Bad Habit Brewing Co. will soon be brewing and serving drinks at a new location at 24 College Ave. N. in St. Joseph. They are planning to move to their new location, the former St. Joseph City Hall building, in spring of next year. The new location will include more taproom space, a larger brewing space, a 2,000 square-foot outdoor patio, private-event space and a bar-rel-aged beer program.

St. Joseph resident Mark Re-

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St. John's Prep School students and faculty are shown in August 2018. The school has a current enrollment of around 260 students and will be adding a fifth-grade pilot program for the 2019-20 school year.

St. John's Prep Middle School to add fifth grade

by Cori Hilsgen
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The St. John's Prep Board of Regents recently announced it would be adding a fifth-grade pilot program for the 2019-20 school year.

The program plans to continue to include hands-on, project-based and outdoor rich

experiences. The new pilot program will integrate fifth- and sixth-grade to expand student learning experiences for students to further develop strong writing skills, language basics, fine arts and will include options to progress at a higher mathematical level.

"We have been asked repeatedly to expand our curric-

ulum to fifth-grade students," said principal Katie Bergstrom. "We are excited to be able to do that and to bring an even richer experience to our middle school program."

Local residents commented on their children's experiences at St. John's Prep School.

Kari Salzer, from St. Joseph, shared about her son, Wyatt's,

experiences. Wyatt is a seventh-grader at the school and began attending the school as a sixth-grader.

"My son loves that St. John's Prep has great opportunities for hands-on learning through the outdoor programming," she said. "Being able to see and feel what he is learning develops a great sense of reality. St. John's

Prep has shown my son not only the sense of accountability, yet also the positive encouragement towards his successes. "Families interested in learning more about the expansion are encouraged to attend the Jan. 21 Discovery Day. For more information or to schedule a visit, contact the Admission Office at 320-363-3315.

2018

from page 7

ber will again offer audiences a glimpse of his many talents on the stage as he performs his role of Max in "Lend Me A Tenor" dinner theater Nov. 9-18 at Great Blue Heron Supper Club. The play by Ken Ludwig is presented by the Great Northern Theatre Company.

Nov. 16 edition

The St. Joseph 2018 Winterwalk, which will be Nov. 30, will combine old traditions with new changes this year. The St. Joseph Y2K Lions will be taking over the annual event that was started by Margy Hughes and the St. Joseph Action Group and continues to grow each year.

Incumbent St. Joseph City Council member Dale Wick lost his bid for re-election in a three-way race for two seats. Voters re-elected Anne Buckvold and elected Brian Theisen to four-terms on the City Council. Buckvold received 1,555 votes, Theisen won 1,381 votes and Wick collected 1,013 votes. Buckvold was appointed to the council in May to fill a vacancy created when Matt Killam resigned. Mayor Rick Schultz ran un-opposed for another two-year term.

The St. Joseph City Council took up two budget items at its regular Nov. 5 meeting: The 2019 draft Enterprise Budget, and the proposed 2019 budget of the Park Board. Total proposed Park Board budget for 2019 is \$309,460.

Nov. 30 edition

For additional news highlights from 2018, go to www.thenewsleaders.com.

Just two days after winning election to the Minnesota House of Representatives, Lisa Demuth gathered in St. Paul with 38 other newly elected house members for orientation. "It was awesome," Demuth said of the program. "To hear the history of the Capitol from an inside perspective was humbling. The magnitude of what I have been elected to do and sitting in the original desks and looking around. What a privilege." The group of new representatives includes 34 Democrats and five Republicans.

After years of hoping and wishing, the establishment of the St. Joseph Community Center is finally taking shape. The first recreational sport laid out in the new center is two pickleball courts. Now what's needed are people to use them. When the city took over the care and maintenance of the old Ken-

nedy Elementary School, there were lots of things planned for the building.

Part of the building is rented and used for daycare. A section of it is being used for food shelf activity. And the historical society is in the process of setting up its area. But there is lots of room for other activities.

Dec. 14 edition

The Church of St. Joseph raised \$1.63 million during a capital campaign to renovate their sanctuary, the parish announced Dec. 10. The parish had set a stretch goal of \$1.5 million. The church is the oldest consecrated church in Minnesota. Early settlers brought stones from their fields for the construction of the church, which has stood on this spot since 1871.

When new St. Joseph City Council member Brian Theisen is sworn in Jan. 7, he'll bring

years of problem solving and public-service experience. Theisen, 40, is a Stearns County deputy and member of the St. Joseph Fire Department. "I'll be problem-solving for the city. That's what I do 50 hours a week as a deputy," Theisen said. "You listen to both sides and you make a determination of what's best for everyone. Voters re-elected Anne Buckvold and elected Brian Theisen to four-terms on the City Council. Incumbent City Council member Dale Wick lost his bid for re-election in a three-way race for two seats.

Despite missing two of its members, the remaining quorum of the St. Joseph City Council was able to wade through a short agenda that included an open hearing on Truth in Taxation and discussion of a feasibility study dealing with capital funding for the Jacob Wetterling Community and Recreation Center project.

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