

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Jan. 25, 2019
Volume 31, Issue 2
Est. 1989

Town Crier

Local K of C to sponsor youth free-throw contest

Boys and girls, ages 9-14, are invited to the local level of competition for the 2019 Knights of Columbus Free-Throw Championship on Sunday, Jan. 27 at the St. Joseph Catholic School gym, 32 W. Minnesota St. Registration and practice is at 12:30 p.m.; the contest begins at 1 p.m. Winners progress through local, district and state competition. Last year, more than 120,000 sharpshooters participated in more than 3,600 local competitions. All contestants on the local level are recognized for their participation in the annual event. Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent. For more information, contact Mark Berg-Arnold at 320-363-1077.

St. Ben's hosts Girls, Women in Sports Day

The College of St. Benedict Blazers Basketball Team hosts Bethel at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 30, as part of a celebration for National Girls and Women in Sports Day. The 2019 Bennie Spotlight Award honoree, Nancy Frost Bellmont, will be honored at halftime along with a performance by the CSB dance team. All girls and women wearing a sports jersey will receive free admission to this event.

SYHA Raffle: \$41,000 in prizes

Sartell Youth Hockey is now conducting its annual Scheels raffle with a grand prize of \$1,499.99; 100 prizes in total; 1:20 odds. Winners can choose the awarded firearm, with proper credentials, or a gift card for the awarded value. The gift card is redeemable for any merchandise in the St. Cloud store. Tickets may be purchased at both Blue Line Bar & Grill locations, the Firing Line Indoor Range & Gun Shop, during varsity hockey games at Bernick's Arena or from SYHA members. For more information, visit sartellhockeyaffle.com.

Snowmobile safety class offered

A snowmobile safety class starts at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, for riders 11 years of age or older.

Participants must have completed the online course in order to register. To sign up, send the student's name, date of birth and contact information to snowmobilesafety@co.benton.mn.us. Class is limited to 25 students. No walk-ins will be accepted. A parent or guardian must accompany each student on testing day.

The instructor is Sgt. James Dingmann of the Benton County Sheriff's Office.

St. Joseph City Council approves preliminary street improvement plan

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

six projects and the other council members all agreed.

Presented with three street improvements options with price tags ranging from \$1.5 million to \$2.8 million, St. Joseph City Council members chose the middle ground at the Jan. 16 meeting.

The proposed street improvement plan selected by the council comes with a \$2.1 million price tag.

The next step in the approval process will be a public hearing at 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 4 during the council's meeting where there will be a discussion of the details and merits of each project.

After discussing the three options and the impact on city debt, Council Member Bob Loso moved to accept the option that listed

The projects are:

- Fourth Avenue SE and Fourth Avenue NE.

- Birch Street W., Ash Street W., First Avenue NW, Birch Street W., and Second Avenue NW crosswalk.

- Pondview Ridge 1, 3 and 4.

- Jade Road.

- Old Hwy. 52 and Cypress Drive.

- Elm Street.

The total estimated cost of the proposed projects is \$2,173,980.

If, after the public hearing, the City Council gives final approval, the projects will be announced for bids.



A day off, a day out

photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Braydon Gruenke, 9, of St. Joseph, peers out between branches Jan. 22 while perched atop a tall spruce tree on Ninth Avenue SE.

Kennedy hosts first Academic All-Stars Breakfast

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

Middle school students at Kennedy Community School who achieved six "As" or more during the first trimester of school were recently recognized for their hard work and efforts.

Ninety sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-graders at the school were recognized Jan. 4 for their academic excellence during the school's first Academic All-Stars Breakfast.

Principal Laurie Putnam said 98 percent of families, where children were being recognized, attended the breakfast in the school's cafeteria/commons area.

Each student could invite



photo courtesy St. Cloud school district

Ninety sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-graders, and their guests, at Kennedy Community School receive recognition Jan. 4 for their academic excellence during the school's first Academic All-Stars Breakfast.

two guests, which could include a sibling at the school. Students who were recognized received a certificate from Put-

nam and Assistant Principal Anna Willhite.

"We are so proud of our academic all-stars," Putnam

said. "They showed perseverance and grit to earn this award."

Putnam said they plan to continue to honor the academic all-stars each trimester but may do afternoon tea, lunch or ice cream instead of breakfast some trimesters.

"We want to be sure our school culture is one of academic excellence and the Academic All-Star award and celebration is just one way we do this for our middle level," she said.

Kennedy kitchen staff served cheese omelets, blueberry muffins, potatoes, juice and coffee for the event.

About 840 students, not including pre-kindergarten, currently attend the school.

Eisenschenk served in Vietnam, Honor Guard

The American Legion will be celebrating its 100th birthday in 2019. In addition to national and statewide activities commemorating this milestone, American Post 328 of St. Joseph is planning a number of festive and patriotic activities for the community.

One of those special events will be profiles of St. Joseph-area veterans published in each Newsleader during 2019. The

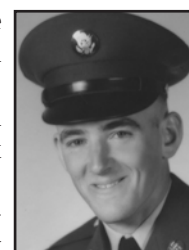
Newsleader is joining with Post 328 to recognize veterans and Legion members who served during World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and other theaters of conflict and Cold War tensions.

by Tom Klecker
St. Joseph American Legion

Leander "Lee" Eisenschenk, 76, U.S. Army - Vietnam era

Before Lee was inducted into the Army, he was raised on a farm west of St. Joseph. He attended a country school. He was no stranger to hard work.

Lee was drafted at age 23. He was inducted into the Army on March 17, 1964. Basic train-



Eisenschenk

ing for Lee was at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Appreciating Lee's mechanical skills, the Army designated his specialty as a heavy-equipment operator. After basic training, Lee was sent to Fort Walters, Texas, from August 1964 until February of 1965.

Having been transferred to an engineering battalion, he acquired additional skills. Lee

Leander • page 2

Leander

from front page

boarded a troop ship in Oakland, Calif. – destination Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam.

The trip over was not uneventful for the 3,500 soldiers on board. The journey was sub-

stantially longer than planned – 29 days. The USS Elroy Eltinch (an old ship taken out of mothballs) broke down three or four times at sea. The heat and stench below decks was memorable. Troops were transferred to another troop ship USNS Barrett at Midway Island. Lee says he was seasick most of the trip.

While in Vietnam, he helped

build air strips. In addition, the 864 engineering battalion built ammunition bunkers and large warehouses. To protect themselves from incoming mortar attacks, they slept all too often in underground bunkers. These bunkers were always infested with rats. Vietnam at the time was overrun with rats, thus necessitating immunization against the Black Plague. The monsoon rains accompanied by mud presented their own challenges. Some of the forward bases were only accessible by air.

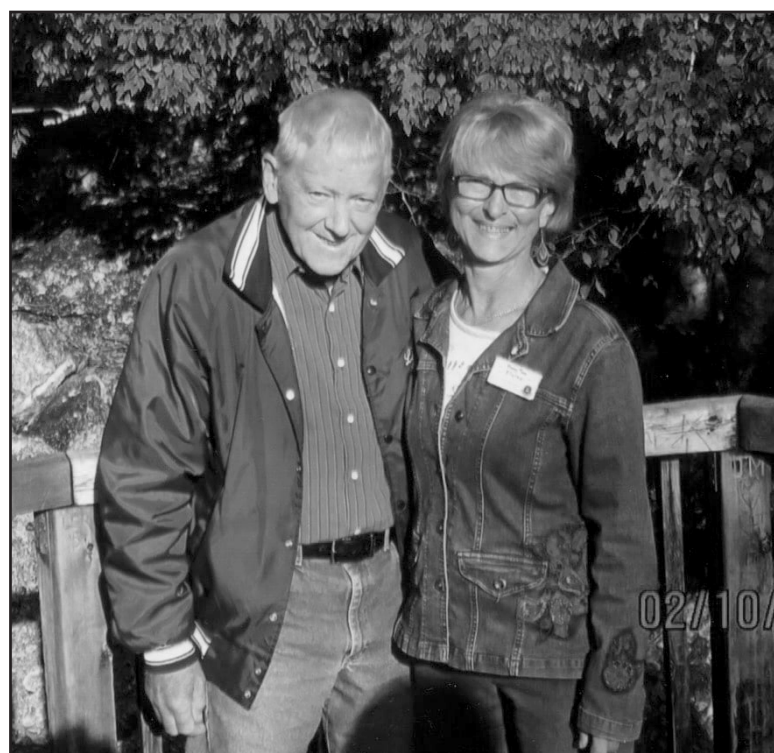
Lee spent 13 months in Vietnam during which time his meals were in the form of C-rations – MRE's. He did take in a Bob Hope Show. At the end of his tour in Vietnam, he flew back to the United States in what he describes as a "champagne flight." Boats over took 29 days vs. the flight into Oakland, Calif., took 48 hours.

Discharged from active duty, Lee arrived home in the middle of the night. When he got settled in, he bought a brand new car. He spent an additional 16 months in the National Guard.

Lee found employment in heavy equipment and construction, thus utilizing skills he learned in the Army. Lee retired from St. Cloud State University in 2005 having worked primarily as a welder.

In 1966 Lee met his wife Elaine. They were married after a 16-month courtship and have been married for 51 years. They have four adult children and nine grandchildren.

Lee enjoys a variety of hobbies and interests: restoring old tractors, gardening, cards and



contributed photo

Leander and Elaine Eisenschenk.

volunteering. Lee has achieved substantial notoriety for his excellent wood-carving skills. Lee has been a member of the American Legion for 47 years.

For 44 years, Lee was in the Honor Guard. Among the duties of the Honor Guard is to lead the Fourth of July parade in St. Joseph. Lee has painful recollections of how bystanders along the parade route were so disrespectful of the flag and the Honor Guard. There were hecklers, attempts to throw off cadence and a general lack of respect for what the flag represents and the veterans who proudly honored the flag. Throughout the years people were less disrespectful, perhaps more apathetic than anything else.

Lee says that "after 9/11 it all changed." People seemed to

be more respectful of the flag, veterans and country. Though we may not be as patriotic now, it still feels good to see parade watchers stand at attention, hand over heart or saluting as the flag passes by. It is particularly gratifying to see the little children imitate the adults in the crowd.

Lee's expressions remind us of a poem by Rudyard Kipling as he lamented the manner in which British soldiers (Tommys) were treated:

"For its Tommie this and Tommie that and chock him out the brute, but its savior of its country when the guns begin to shoot."

Lee Eisenschenk – Army veteran – as a grateful community, we thank you for your service.

ST. JOSEPH ROD AND GUN CLUB 26th ANNUAL

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Saturday, Feb. 16

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\$20 At The Lake

\$10 Kids (13 & under) Advanced & at the Lake

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\$3,000
IN
PRIZES

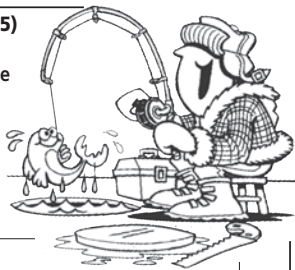
PRIZES:

Two Categories: Game and Pan Fish

\$200 FOR LARGEST FISH

\$150 FOR 2nd LARGEST

\$100 FOR 3rd LARGEST



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FREE overnight fish house rental for 4 people on Upper Red Lake!
Donated by JR's Corner Access. Sign up at the lake. Must be present to win.

Donated by the St. Joseph Rod & Gun Club:

- (1) Clam Refuge Ice Thermal FLR Fish House
(1) Clam Retreat Ice (2) HT Polar Fire XT Power Ice Auger

All Other Registered Fish Qualify For One Of 20 – \$20 Cash Drawings!

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MINNESOTA'S LINK TO A LOCAL EXPERT

Funded in part by MN Board on Aging & United Way of Central MN

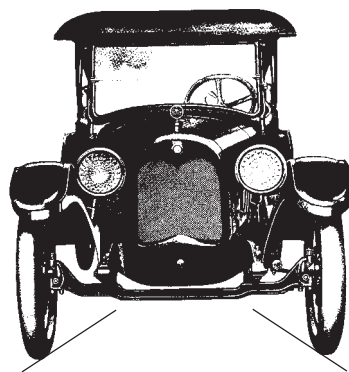
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Blotter

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

Dec. 8

8:25 p.m. Suspicious activity. Northland Drive. An officer investigated a complaint of four men smoking marijuana near the garages at 535 Northland Drive. The officer checked the area but did not locate anyone.

Dec. 14

9:25 a.m. Collision. CR 75 and First Avenue NW. Driver one was traveling west on CR 75 when driver two pulled out from Kay's Kitchen and entered the left turn lane on First Avenue NW. Driver one was unable to avoid rear-ending vehicle two. Driver two thought driver one was going too fast. No citation was issued.

3:15 p.m. Collision. CR 75 and CR 133. Vehicle one was rear-ended by vehicle two. The drivers pulled off to the shoulder. There were no injuries.

9:53 p.m. Traffic stop. Minnesota Street SE. and Fourth Avenue SE. An officer stopped a vehicle for driving east on Minnesota Street at 45 mph in a 30-mph zone. The driver had a revoked license. The driver was cited for speeding, driving after revocation and no proof of insurance.

Dec. 17

1:46 a.m. Suspicious person. Second Avenue NW. A suspicious person was reported at Kwik Trip West. A customer advised an employee that someone was looking into car windows. An officer checked the area but did not find anyone.

4:25 p.m. Suspicious vehicle. Jasmine Lane E. A woman reported a man in a pickup parked on Jasmine Lane. An officer checked the area but did not locate the vehicle.

Dec. 19

8:26 p.m. Suspicious activity. Dale Street E. and Jefferson Lane. A person reported a flashing light behind a residence. A light was reflecting off a bird feeder and appeared to be flashing.

Dec. 22

12:26 a.m. Theft. Second Avenue NW. A woman left her wallet at Kwik Trip after making a purchase. When she retrieved her wallet later the next day, she reported that \$160 in cash and a \$30 gift card was missing.

Dec. 23

11:35 p.m. Suspicious vehicle. Birch Street W. A vehicle was parked with its lights on at the end of Fifth Avenue NW. An officer met with the two occupants. The driver said he was waiting to pick up a friend. The driver could not tell the officer where his friend lived and then told the officer the friend was going to meet him. Because of the changing stories, the officer told the two men to leave the area.

Dec. 25

7:45 p.m. Burglary. 10th Avenue SE. An officer arrived to find a man using a power tool to open a garage. The man said he was helping a friend to get into the garage because the cable was broken. The friend verified that everything was OK.

Dec. 27

1:37 p.m. Burglary. Hill Street W. An officer arrived with a Stearns County deputy to a burglary-in-progress complaint. The officer found most of the missing items belonged to a person living in the house. The officer explained the incident was a civil matter and the caller could trespass the person.

11:53 p.m. Suspicious vehicle. Eighth Avenue SE. A man reported a car repeatedly driving slowly past his residence. An officer searched the area.

Dec. 28

7:14 a.m. Crash. CR 75 and CR 133. A truck struck a stop light pole and it fell over the bed of the truck. The driver was attempting to make a left turn and slid on the ice and hit the pole. The officer provided traffic control while county maintenance worked on the pole.

9:13 a.m. Collision. CR 75 and CR 133. Vehicle two ran into the back of vehicle one. Vehicle one was stopped in the left turn lane waiting for a green light and vehicle two was unable to stop.

7:53 p.m. Suspicious person. Fourth Avenue NE. A caller reported a suspicious man in the area. When the officer arrived, the man, described as just wondering around, had left. The caller said the man had been in the area multiple times.

Jan. 1

9:53 a.m. Crash. CR 75 and Second Avenue NW. The driver was heading west on CR 75 when he hit ice and went off the road. The vehicle was extensively damaged and needed to be towed.

Jan. 2

10:28 a.m. Vehicle complaint. Minnesota Street E. and Second Avenue SE. An officer observed a parked vehicle blocking a sidewalk. After the officer was unable to contact the owner, a tow was called. As the tow arrived, the owner showed up and the vehicle was removed.

Jan. 3

12:39 a.m. Warrant arrest. 10th

Avenue SE. When an officer went to a man's house to arrest him on an outstanding felony warrant, the officer learned the man was also wanted on a felony warrant from Iowa. The man was taken to Stearns County Jail.

Jan. 7

2:53 p.m. Counterfeit. Elm Street E. A Central Minnesota Credit Union teller reported a counterfeit \$50 bill. No suspect was identified. The bill was placed into evidence.

Jan. 8

5:58 p.m. Collision. Minnesota Street E. There were no injuries. The officer met with both drivers, obtained insurance information and completed a crash report.

Jan. 9

3 p.m. Collision. Elm Street E. Two vehicles collided in the Coborn's parking lot. The officer met with both drivers and advised them how to handle the situation.

Jan. 13

10:23 p.m. Suspended license. CR 75 and Eighth Avenue NE. An officer checked the registration of a vehicle off CR 75 near

Old Hwy. 52 and learned the registered owner's license was suspended and he was the subject of a misdemeanor warrant from Yellow Medicine County. The vehicle was stopped and the driver cited for driving after suspension and taken to Stearns County Jail for the warrant. A friend moved the vehicle.

Jan. 14

1:24 p.m. Theft. Minnesota Street W. A woman reported a sandwich sign board had been stolen from outside the American Legion on Oct. 27 or 28.

News Tips?
Call the Newsleader at 363-7741

It's time again for River of Life's Annual WILD GAME FEED!

6:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26 at River of Life in Cold Spring

For everyone ages 12 and older!

We always have great food and awesome giveaways along with an insightful message. There is no cost for this great evening of fun, food and friends!

We hope you will be able to join us at this fun annual event!
See our website for all the information: riveroflifeag.org
River of Life Church: 22881 178th Ave, Cold Spring
Feel free to contact us if you have any further questions at 320.597.7777

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Scotland/Ireland with Military Tattoo Performance.....Aug. 10-20, 2019
Cities of Lights Paris to Prauge-Viking River Cruises.....Oct. 8-20, 2019
Landmarks of Europe with Oberammergau Passion Play.....Aug 3-15, 2020

Florida Panhandle & Cajun Country.....March 18-30; 13 days
Washington, DC & New York City.....April 1-12; 12 days
Nashville (2 nights) & Memphis (2 nights).....April 10-17; 8 days
Spring Branson Tour, 5 great shows inc. "Samson".....April 22-27; 6 days
ARK Encounter & Creation Museum + Nappanee-Amish.....April 23-28
Pella Tulip Festival and Amana Colonies.....April 30-May 3; 4 days
Mackinac Island (2 nights) & Door County (2 nights).....June 22-27; 6 days
Niagara Falls (2 nights) and Mackinac Island.....July 19-26; 8 days
Great Parks of the West Tour.....July 30-Aug 6; 8 days
Summer Medora (2 nights-Medora).....Aug 6-8; 3 days
Canadian Rockies, Glacier Park & Medora.....Aug 7-14; 8 days
--more fall tours added--

ALASKA Roundtrip Air + Motorcoach & Ferry:
Fly to Juneau/return Anch July 21-Aug 1; 12 days

ALASKA Roundtrip Air + Motorcoach
Fly to Fairbanks/return Anch July 26-Aug 1; 7 Days

SS River Runners to celebrate 50th birthday

by Dennis Dalman

news@thenewsleaders.com

Nineteen sixty-nine was a long, long time ago – a half century, to be exact, but some members of the St. Stephen River Runners snowmobile remember that year fondly, as if it were yesterday, because that's the year their club began.

The club's members are planning a huge public birthday celebration to memorialize the 50-year event Saturday, Feb. 9, at various venues in downtown St. Stephen. Everyone is welcome, including nonsnowmobilers. It will start at noon that day at Trobec's Bar with a Vintage Sled Show followed by a Vintage Ride from 2:30-4:30 p.m. For a complete list of the day's activities, see end of this story.

Historic year

In 1969, the following newsworthy events happened: For the first time, two American men – Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin – land on the moon; a music festival in upstate New York, dubbed Woodstock, attracts more than 350,000 young music fans; the Boeing 747 jumbo jet makes its first flight; members of the Charles Manson cult murder six people in the Los Angeles area; the Beatles release "Abbey Road" and give their final live performance on the rooftop of Apple Records in London; a motorcycle movie called "Easy Rider" is a smash hit; football great Brett Favre is born; Richard Nixon is elected president; 200,000 people march in Washington, D.C., to protest the nation's involvement in the Vietnam War.

Members

The nonprofit St. Stephen River Runners was one of the first to be organized in Minnesota.

There are about 30 active members in the St. Stephen River Runners, but counting members' children, friends and relatives who



contributed photo

Members of the St. Stephen River Runners snowmobile club gather for a warm-up, lunch and a group photo at the Trestle Inn on Minnesota's North Shore during last year's annual special club trip – riding the trails near Two Harbors.



contributed photo

Working at night, two members of the St. Stephen River Runners put up trail signage. The men are Paul Radake (left) and Mike Hornung.

love to ride, that number is 40 riders and sometimes far more, depending on the event.

There are 14 members from St.

Stephen, six from Sartell, a few from St. Joseph, one from Rice, one or two from Holdingford, St. Cloud and Sauk Rapids, and a few

from rural areas in the general vicinity.

Dan Neid, who lives in Sartell, is the club's media director. He's been a member since 2016 when one day he walked into a club meeting and decided to join, partly because he likes the way the club involves spouses and children and how they chip in to do good deeds for towns and people. The two children of Dan and Carrie Neid – Megan, 12; and Ethen, 15 – help with trail work, and Megan helps with snowmobile safety training programs.

Neid is a wine-and-beer distributor for the Johnson Brothers Liquor Co.

An individual membership for the club costs \$30 annually; a family membership is \$35, which covers any children under the age of 18.

Meetings are at 7 p.m. every other Wednesday, September through April at Trobec's Bar. The upcoming ones are scheduled for Feb. 6 and 12; March 6 and 20; and April 3 and 17. Anyone considering joining or just wanting to find out more about the club should just show up at a meeting.

The current St. Stephen River Runners club president is Rodney

Welch of St. Joseph whose wife, Lori, is also very active in the club.

What they do

There are 13.31 miles of snowmobile trail the River Runners maintain and groom, most of the trail in St. Stephen and immediately surrounding it. Periodic fundraisers help foot the costs, including maintenance of the big trail-grooming machines. The current trail owned and managed by River Runners connects to the St. Joseph Sno-Joes Trail near Sartell. It also connects to the north with the Holdingford Sno-Flyers Trail.

Currently, the club plans to open an access point on the trail to connect with the Sartell area.

The River Runners typically host a summer barbecue party at a club member's lake cabin. They also host snowmobile-raffle fundraisers; safety courses for young people; Adopt-a-Highway ditch cleanups; Community Day trail signage and trail cleanup in spring and fall; a kick-off-the-season party and trail ride; and each year a special ride in another area. Last year, they enjoyed a long ride near Two Harbors in the Lake Superior North Shore; this year, they're going to Walker. Usually, the ride participants put in from 75 up to 125 miles per day, including warm-ups stops, lunch times and so forth.

The club also participates in rides for good causes, such as the Blackwoods Blizzard Tour to raise funds for research into ALS (aka Lou Gehrig's disease). Some club members participate in the Veterans Day Ride, now in Grand Rapids but formerly in Paynesville.

"That was caused by lack of snow in Paynesville," Neid said. "That's why it was moved to Grand Rapids."

Lack of snow, Neid said, is the annual dread of every snowmobiler because no snow means no fun.

Birthday party

The following is the schedule for the Feb. 9 River Runners' 50th Birthday Party:

- Noon-2 p.m. Vintage Sled Show. Registration, hot dogs and chili.
- 2:15 p.m. Judging and prizes for Best of Show and People's Choice awards.
- 2:30- 4:30 p.m. Vintage Ride, for anyone who wants to participate. Any year of sled can join in.
- 2:30-4:30 p.m. Games at Howie's Bar for those not going on the Vintage Ride.
- 4:30- 6 p.m. Vintage Clothing Contest and prizes at Rusty Nail Bar.
- 6-8 p.m. Entertainment and taco bar at Trobec's Bar. At 8 p.m. the 50/50 Raffle Drawing will take place, and a meat raffle will last from 6-8 p.m. The first prize is 50 percent of the prize pool, second prize 25 percent and so forth.

Proceeds from the day's events will be used for trail and grooming costs.

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St. Joseph

Park Board seeks new members

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

If you are someone who enjoys spending time in any of the St. Joseph City parks, maybe you would be interested in becoming a park board member to help with park planning.

The St. Joseph Park Board, which is an advisory board serving the City Council, is seeking new members.

City Administrator Judy Weyrens said the Park Board consists of six members and there are currently three open positions which need to be filled.

She said the city is looking for community members who want to be part of the Park Board to vision and plan for recreation development.

Park Board members serve three-year terms, however, two of the current vacancies are midterm. Therefore, one open position is three years, one is two years and one is one year.

Current members include Andy Deuhs, Sharon Rennie, and Alyssa Rennie. Members who are leaving include John Anderson, chair; Marguerite Fogarty and Jodi Keehr.

They recently updated the master park plan for the East park and have decided to start the park development with plantings.

Members have also completed items such as developing a dog park, purchasing playground equipment and replacing the Millstream Park shelter.

The Park Board has also been busy working on recreational options in the area such as pickleball. They have been discussing the use of the gym at the community center and are working with the St. Cloud school district to schedule programming.

Weyrens said the city maintains more than 175 acres of parkland. The Park Board helps with the development but does not get involved with the day-to-day operations.

People interested in becoming a Park Board member should submit an application to the city offices. The mayor reviews the applications and recommends applicants for appointment. This is usually done in January. If a vacancy occurs midyear, the appointment is made at that time.

Weyrens said city staff are part of the Park Board as liaisons but are not voting members.

For additional information, call 320-363-7201 or visit the city website at cityofstjoseph.



photo by Mike Knaak

Re-elected St. Joseph City Council Member Anne Buckvold takes the oath of office at the council's Jan. 16 meeting. Buckvold was absent when the other elected officials were sworn in on Jan. 7. At the Jan. 16 meeting, Buckvold was also chosen by the council to serve as acting mayor.

Snowplowing plan approved for former township streets

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Residents in the recently annexed portions of St. Joseph Township should continue to see the same level of snowplowing service after the St. Joseph City Council acted Jan. 16.

The council voted to continue contracting with Astech Corp. for snow removal in por-

tions of the former township.

According to documents submitted to the council, a two-inch snowfall takes 4.5 hours to plow and 10 tons of salt to clear the roads at a cost of \$2,092.

The city does not have the staff or the equipment to take on plowing the additional streets, according to the Public Works Department.

The council approved the

St. Joseph joins area police joint powers agreement

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

St. Joseph police will now be part of a joint powers agreement that will make crime-fighting easier after City Council action Jan. 16.

Police Chief Dwight Pfannenstien asked the council to approve the agreement with the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office to share investigative data such as booking photos among a number of agencies in central Minnesota.

"If people are doing illegal activities in St. Joseph they are doing it elsewhere," Pfannenstien said. "We will be able to solve crimes quicker."

The agreement calls for area law-enforcement agencies to share intelligence information by identifying patterns and modes of criminal activity by

using software paid for by Sherburne County. For example, if St. Joseph police officers have a security camera photo of a robbery suspect, the officer can use facial recognition software to match it with booking photos from other agencies in the joint powers agreement. Or, officers can compare details of burglaries reported across multiple jurisdictions.

Information that used to take days to get from one department to another can be shared instantly through the analysis and data-sharing hub set up at the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office in Elk River.

The joint powers agreement includes 22 law-enforcement agencies from across central Minnesota including Stearns County and the Sartell, Sauk Rapids, St. Cloud and Waite Park police departments.

agreement for the rest of this winter and it will be re-evaluated next fall.

In 2019, the city will receive revenues from the former township that include cable, gas and electric franchise fees, mining/gravel taxes and solar revenue that will go toward the added plowing cost.



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Opinion

Our View

Contact your elected officials before it's too late

With a new year comes a new team of elected leaders and a list of issues for them to tackle.

Some of those issues linger from year to year, unsolved because politicians couldn't agree, the solutions cost too much or because there's not enough pressure from voters to find an answer.

One way individual voters can act is to contact their elected leaders. Often, those phone calls and emails only are sent when a voter is upset by an action. And sometimes that's too late.

After the Legislature, the city council or the school board acts, it's too late to change the policy. About all you can do is be mad. But that's not very helpful.

To encourage early and frequent communication with your elected leaders, we're listing their contact information and we hope you'll share your thoughts on current issues now instead of just getting mad later.

One new member joined the St. Joseph City Council this year, Brian Theisen. Mayor Rick Schultz and council member Anne Buckvold were re-elected.

Here's their contact information:

Mayor Rick Schultz

rschultz25@msn.com
320-260-0393

Council members:

Bob Loso

bobloso52@gmail.com
Ph: 320-363-8703

Anne Buckvold

abuckvold@cityofstjoseph.com
320-333-1941

Troy Goracke

troygoracke@yahoo.com
320-241-2005

Brian Theisen

btheisen@cityofstjoseph.com
320-293-4712

The St. Joseph area has new representatives in the Legislature. Longtime member of the House of Representatives, Jeff Howe, now represents District 13 in the Senate. Former Rocori school board member Lisa Demuth won election to Howe's 13A House seat.

Sen. Jeff Howe

95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3231
St. Paul, Minn. 55155
651-296-2084

Rep. Lisa Demuth

223 State Office Building
St. Paul, Minn. 55155
rep.lisa.demuth@house.mn
651-296-4373

Three new members were elected to the St. Cloud school board in 2018 joining four incumbents. The members are:

Al Dahlgren

al.dahlgren@isd742.org, 320-492-4790

Zachary Dorholt

zach.dorholt@isd742.org, 320-224-0784

Les Green

les.green@isd742.org, 320-253-6613

Shannon Haws

shannon.haws@isd742.org, 320-250-3893

Jeff Pollreis

jeff.pollreis@isd742.org, 320-248-3436

Natalie Ringsmuth

natalie.ringsmuth@isd742.org
320-204-2261

Monica Segura-Schwartz

monica.segura-schwartz@isd742.org, 320-492-3775

By connecting with your elected officials, you can help shape the discussions and the solutions to the issues they are trying to solve on our behalf.

Constructive suggestions and opinions are much more useful in producing a satisfying solution than angry calls and emails after a final decision has been made.

News has no 'sides,' only facts

Mike Knaak
Editor



Smartphone apps are supposed to make life easier, to solve daily challenges. Apps help us connect with friends, track our steps, keep us from getting lost and find cheap tickets to our favorite entertainment.

So it's no surprise that now there's an app to help us deal with so-called Fake News.

You may have seen the ads on television for Smart News. The ads feature a graying baby boomer man, minus the MAGA hat, saying he only watches news he agrees with. Then he's answered by a smiling millennial, cheerily announcing that she gets her news from social media.

To help them both be better informed, the answer is the app Smart News, which promises to present "news from all sides."

Like many apps, this one has a bug, but the bug can't be fixed by programmers with a new release.

The bug is in the concept. News does not have "sides." News has facts. Different news organizations may report a story with different quotes, examples or focus, but news is based on the same set of facts.

No app will help readers who don't understand the difference between news, analysis and opinion. News organizations report stories based on facts, but they also offer analysis and opinion.

News is presented by reporters and editors who adhere to ethical principles that value fairness, clarity and truth. That doesn't mean journalists never make errors...they do...and

their ethics code requires they correct their mistakes.

Analysis is written by reporters or others with special expertise or experience that help them give readers insights to what's happening and why.

Opinion comes from many sources. Editorial boards or editors often offer opinion pieces to spur discussion and start a conversation. Columnists share their opinions to challenge or dispute conventional thinking. Readers submit letters to the editor.

Whether news, analysis or opinion, the writing should be based on facts. Sometimes those facts make people question their accepted reality.

Rather than looking to Smart News, look to trusted news brands. Locally, the reporters and editors at the St. Cloud Times, WJON, the Star Tribune, MPR and the Newleader adhere to ethical, fact-based reporting and opinion.

Nationally, subscribe to the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal and read the Associated Press, Reuters and Bloomberg online. Watch the major broadcast networks and CNN and MSNBC (in the daytime). Stay far away from Daily Kos and Occupy Democrats on the left and Fox, Breitbart, InfoWars and the Daily Caller on the right.

Obama's 'Becoming' is a stunning book

Many people assume life in the White House is a constant glamorous whirl of interesting meetings, fancy dinners, ballroom dances and dazzling entertainment.

Ask former First Lady Michelle Obama. She'll tell you the White House can too often be a kind of limiting prison in which one's natural spontaneity is constantly squelched by the need for security agents watching every move. She and her two young girls could not even step outside to walk on the lawn without a contingent of wary, watchful agents guarding their every move.

The First Lady wasn't complaining; she was just expounding on what a strangely wonderful but oddly constricting place the White House is in which to raise a family.

She details all of it vividly in her bestselling memoir titled "Becoming." I just finished reading it, and it is a real page-turner, one of the most insightful and well written books I've ever read about having to live constantly in the limelight of scalpel scrutiny and cruel criticism.

Michelle Robinson was raised in South Chicago with her brother Craig, the children of loving working-class parents, Fraser and Marian, who scrimped and saved to make it possible for their children to succeed. They knew the key to the "American Dream" was a quality education, and the children knew it too, almost by osmosis, as they excelled academically and went on to earn degrees at Princeton University. "Becoming" is brimming with

Dennis Dalman
Reporter



keen (often comical) observations, vivid memories both happy and sad, and profound psychological insights, especially comments about the roadblocks and hurdles Michelle and other blacks had to - still have to - struggle against in a society of systemic, racial biases. One example is that her parents taught her always to speak impeccably correct English. At Princeton, when hanging out with black women students, she was hurt to the core when one of them derisively asked her how come she talks like a "white girl." Yes, the racial biases came sometimes from blacks too.

She met and fell in love with Barack Obama when she was tutoring him as a new employee at a corporate law firm in Chicago. Her life soon changed drastically as she began to focus on public service, like Barack, rather than corporate problems.

For a long time, she was a queasily reluctant wife of a passionate political leader/community activist - mainly because she worried always about their two daughters, Malia and Sasha, missing time with their father and always being in the public eye. How she handled all the hurdles,

Even though print newsrooms and print editions have shrunk significantly in the last 10 years, they still have the biggest staffs and most experienced reporters (and in Minnesota, MPR joins the group of strong newsrooms.) Watch any broadcast or cable news coverage and you'll see their coverage driven by stories produced by print newsrooms and their affiliated websites.

Stay away from social media as well. Social media is great for sharing photos of your cat or sending your friends a delicious recipe. But it's not the place for news.

As we've recently seen, social media is a good place for mischief when it comes to news.

The most recent evidence about the dangers of looking to social media for news comes from an Associated Press report on a new study about "fake news."

The study found people over 65 and ultra conservatives shared about seven times more fake information masquerading as news on the social media site than younger adults, moderates and super liberals. The simplest theory for why older people share more false information is a lack of "digital literacy."

Saying your news comes from social media is like saying your food comes from the grocery store. When it comes to food, farmers are the true, trusted source and when you are looking for news, go to the trusted brands and leave apps for finding cheap hotel rooms and Uber rides.

all the juggling of family and work duties, makes for fascinating reading in a perfectly titled book - "Becoming." Her constant "becoming" and adapting to political life was not easy. Far from it. At times it was a case of cursed if you do, cursed if you don't, as detractors used vicious tactics in attempts to vilify her and her husband.

She writes this: "I was female, black, and strong, which to certain people, maintaining a certain mindset, translated only to 'angry.' It was another damaging cliché, one that's been forever used to sweep minority women to the perimeter of every room, an unconscious signal not to listen to what we've got to say."

In her book, Michelle doesn't whine or complain or blame, but she does lay it on the line in a straightforward no-nonsense style and dissects many of her own insecurities and doubts.

She has a touch of the poet. Some of her sentences and paragraphs are virtual poems: "Here's a memory and like most memories is imperfect and subjective - collected long ago like a beach pebble and slipped into the pocket of my mind."

I love her evocation of winter: "In the Midwest, as I've mentioned, winter is an exercise in waiting - for relief, for a bird to sing, for the first purple crocus to push up through the snow. You have no choice in the meantime but to pep-talk your way through it."

"Becoming" is a stunning book in every way. Please check it out.

Community Calendar

Monday, Jan. 28

St. Cloud school district Community Linkages Committee, 8 a.m., District Administration Office, 1201 Second St. S., Waite Park.

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

Intersection Improvement Meeting, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Stearns County Public Works, 455 28th Ave. S. Proposed changes to the intersection of CR 138 and 28th Avenue in Waite Park.

St. Joseph Park Board, 6 p.m., City Hall, 75 Callaway St. E.

Author Frank Weber, 6-7:30 p.m., Great River Regional Library, 1300 St. Germain St., St. Cloud. Weber writes true-crime thrillers, most recently "The I-94 Murders."

Thursday, Jan. 31

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

Great River Regional Coin Club, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Miller Auto Marine Sports Plaza, 2930 Second St. S., St. Cloud. 320-241-9229.

Monday, Feb. 4

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

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

Tuesday, Feb. 5

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

55 + Driver Refresher Course, 5-9 p.m., Kennedy Community School, 1300 Jade Road. To register, visit mnsafetycenter.org or 888-234-1294.

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

Wednesday, Feb. 6

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

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

Thursday, Feb. 7

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

Saturday, Feb. 9

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

Free admission to Stearns History Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. for residents with a Colleeville or St. Joseph ZIP Code. 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME STATE OF MINNESOTA

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

1. The assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted is: Bri's Lodge.

2. The stated address of the principal place of business is or will be: 334 Pine Ridge Road, Sartell, MN 56377.

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: What Would Bri Do, Inc., 334 Pine Ridge Road, Sartell, MN 56377.

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: Jan. 9, 2019

Filed: Jan. 10, 2019

/s/ Tami Kruzel

Publish: Jan. 25 and Feb. 8, 2019

TRUCK FOR SALE

Date and Time of Sale:
1 p.m. Thursday, March 14, 2019

Location of Sale:
Semi Legal Service LLC
30890 County Road 2
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Description of Vehicle:
2008 Volvo VVN
Serial # 4v4nc9tg58n484972
Red in color

Reason for sale and amount due:
Owner has not responded to calls or returned to location in over a year for payment of storage fees in the amount of \$6,000.

SEMI LEGAL SERVICE LLC

TRUCK FOR SALE

Date and Time of Sale:
1:15 p.m. Thursday, March 14, 2019

Location of Sale:
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30890 County Road 2
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Description of Vehicle:
2005 Freightliner Columbia
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Reason for sale and amount due:
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People



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

A game of tag ensues between neighbors Jan. 22. They are (left to right) Mila Gruenke, 7, Hazel Tschakert, 8, and Ella Tschakert, 4, all of St. Joseph.

Three St. Joseph students have been named to the dean's list at the University of Minnesota-Duluth for fall semester. To qualify for the dean's list, students must achieve a 3.5 minimum grade-point average.

The students are: **Tyler McElwee, Sierrah Skudlarek and Abigail Thomas.**

Five St. Joseph students have been named to the fall semester dean's list at North Dakota State University, Fargo. Students must earn a minimum 3.50 grade-point average to qualify for the dean's list.

The students are: **Morgan Eisenschenk, Callie Kostreba, Alisha Ophoven, Olivia Skudlarek and Jeremy Warzecka.**

Tyler Johnson of St. Joseph graduated summa cum laude after fall semester from the College of St. Scholastica, Duluth. He earned a bachelor's degree in finance.

Zachary Clayton Sinn of St. Joseph has been named to the fall semester dean's list at Iowa State University, Ames. Students must earn a minimum 3.50 grade-point average to qualify for this honor.

Aaron Ross Stanoch of St. Joseph graduated last fall with a bachelor's degree in animal science from North Dakota State University, Fargo.

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.

Need help to stretch your budget?

St. Joseph has a Food Shelf behind the Government Building at 75 Callaway Street E. You do not need SNAP but you do need a photo ID and a birth certificate for each member of your family. The food shelf is open from 1-3 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays.

Adult education

St. Joseph Cultural Bridges offers ESL classes on Monday and Wednesday from 9-10:30 a.m. at the Spirituality Center next to the College of St. Benedict campus.

Go west on Minnesota Street to Third Street and turn left into the north entrance of the College St. Benedict. Turn right at the first stop sign and then left at the white barn.

Evening classes are from 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the St. Joseph Catholic School at 32 Minnesota St. W.

Contact Monica at Quarry View Adult Education at 320-529-6500 to sign up for classes in St. Joseph.

Potluck

We will have a community potluck in February or March at Resurrection Lutheran Church in St. Joseph (where the Winter Farmers' Market is held). Watch this space in The Newsleader for time and day - we will have that soon.

If you have any questions, please contact Dianne DeVargas at 320-345-0593. Please share this message with other refugees and immigrants you know who live in St. Joseph.



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