# St. Joseph

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Friday, Feb. 8, 2019 Volume 31, Issue 3 Est. 1989

# **Town Crier**

**Travel Thursday to explore Northern Spain on Feb. 21** Walking the Camino de Santiago also known as "The Way" with Pat McNeal at 2 p.m. Thurs-

day, Feb. 21 in the Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. McNeal will share his experience hiking with friends on the medieval pilgrimage route that has sparked renewed interest from people with many

that has sparked renewed interest from people with many different motivations (in August more than 60,000 people walked "the way").

Luckily in October those numbers were way down but the experience was remarkable from the hilly French border to the running Bulls of Pamplona to the cathedral towns of Burgos and Leon and finally to the lush green hills of Galicia and Santiago. Then take in northern Portugal and end in Porto listed as the world city to see in 2019.

## Be a Big Family

A Big Family involves an entire family meeting with a Little from Big Brothers Big Sisters.. This is an opportunity for a family to volunteer together. Families provide friendship, emotional support and hope to the young person with whom they are matched.

Contact Ann, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Minnesota at 320-258-4517 or Ann@BigDefenders.org.

# Catholic Charities seeks foster grandparents

Catholic Charities Foster Grandparent Program offers seniors age 55 and older the opportunity to work with students in local schools or other nonprofit agencies where there are children who need extra assistance. Participants must volunteer five hours per week. They receive a tax-free stipend of \$2.65 per hour, transportation reimbursement for mileage or for using a city bus, orientation, on-going training and health benefits.

Contact Sara Heurung, Catholic Charities Foster Grandparent Program at 320-229-4589 or sheurung@ccstcloud.org.

# Help veterans

The St. Cloud VA Health Care System needs volunteers for numerous 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 vhastcvavsstaff@va.gov for more information. by Stephanie Dickrell news@thenewsleaders.com

The St. Joseph City Council moved forward Monday, Feb. 4, with an estimated \$2.2 million plan to improve and reconstruct city streets and underground utilities.

Reaching Everybody!

The council unanimously voted to order the projects Monday night, which will trigger work so the work can be put out for bids. The work is expected to begin this summer in six general areas of St. Joseph.

The improvements range from resurfacing roads to the complete reconstruction of roads and underground utilities, including sewer and water services.

Locations include:

Pond View Ridge, including 12th Avenue SE and Pond View Lane from roughly Baker Street to Dale Street, including Callaway Street E. Fourth Avenue from CR 75 to Baker Street.

\$2.2-million road plan

to move forward

Parts of Elm Street adjacent to College Avenue, near the city's water tower.

First Avenue Northwest, from Stearns CR 75 to Minnesota Street.

Birch Street and Ash Street from Second Avenue NW to College Avenue, with work on utilities continuing on Birch Street across College Avenue.

Parts of alleys between Memorial Park, Minnesota Street and First Avenue NW.

Cypress Drive and Old Stearns County Highway 52 from CR 75 to roughly Birch Street.

Jade Road, roughly from Kennedy Community School to Interstate 94.

The current condition of the road and underground utilities determined whether only routine maintenance or complete recon-**Road** • page 2



# Free-throw pro

**vsleaders** 

Scott Stephens, 10, of St. Joseph, practices at the Jan. 27 Knights of Columbus free-throw contest in St. Joseph. Boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 14 could compete to win a trophy and move up to the next contest level.

# **Celebrating Valentine's Day traditions**

by Cori Hilsgen news@thenewsleaders.com

Valentine's Day, which is celebrated on Feb. 14 each year, will be here soon and several area residents are looking forward to continuing their

holiday traditions. These residents commented about their traditions.

Anne Buckvold, St. Joseph City Council member and school mental health counselor, said she usually makes Danish Frikadellar, which is meatballs with ground beef and ground pork, in the shape of hearts for her children Harriet, 11, Jesse, 10, and Ingrid and Francine, both 5. Buckvold, who lived in Denmark for four years, said she thinks this is funny because in Denmark most Danes don't celebrate and often don't even like Valentine's Day.

Buckvold who has been married to her husband Sam Johnson for 16 years said she likes to buy her meat for the Frikadellars from the St. Joseph Meat Market.

Glen Werner, College of St. Benedict athletic director, said she and her daughter began a tradition at their house which led to Valentine's Day becoming her daughter, Sam's, favorite holiday.

They began by celebrating Valentine's Day with a lobster dinner and sharing their "best," "worst" and "weirdest" of the day.

Werner said this morphed into not just being for special occasions, but continued at dinner or at bedtime as a way to chat and connect after their busy days. Now, they do "best," "worst," "weirdest," "funniest" and "most profound."

Their only rule is they have to say the answer in a sentence and not only one word. An example is describing in a sentence why something was your best part of the day.

"I like our silly little tradition because it is a built-in way to get her talking without asking 'How is your day?;" Glen said. "I like our tradition because it is a fun way to talk about my day without my mom asking me a million questions," said Sam, who is an eighth-grader at St. John's Prep.

Gail Stanger, Netgain vice president of Client Services, said she became a great aunt almost 14 years ago and enjoys sending Valentine's Day packages to her great- nieces and nephews each year.

Stanger, who usually gathers with these children at Christmas time, said she enjoys frosting cookies with them and usually gifts them with pajamas but wanted to do a little extra so she began mailing Valentine's Day pack-

Celebrating • page 4

# | 'Fitness Fever' gives Kennedy kids a boost

by Dennis Dalman

news@thenewsleaders.com

By the end of January, many students at Kennedy Community School were feeling healthier and happier.

That's because of the school's annual month-long nutrition and fitness effort dubbed Fitness Fever. The program started Jan. 1 and lasted through the month, although fitness efforts persist throughout the year.

Physical-education teacher Barb Gabler explained how the program works. All students are encouraged to eat five different fruits and vegetables per day. In classrooms, teachers often interrupt



Fun in the gymnasium at Kennedy Community School Jan. 15 during Family Fitness Fever.

lessons so that students can get up and do some stretching exercises. Active aged. On one night in January, there

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is Fitness Fever Family Night, and this time the theme was Surfing into Fitness with a Beach Boys' beach theme. At the 90-minute fun night, parents, students and others danced up a storm and participated in all sorts of other fun physical activities.

Gabler, who is one of the school's three physical education teachers, started the annual fitness program way back in 1998. Throughout the years, she had students compile a list of alternative activities other than "screen time" (time spent gazing at TVs and electronic gizmos).

Among the answers on the students' Fitness • page 3 St. Joseph Newsleader • www.thenewsleaders.com

# Have any Achievements?

Grad. from HS/College, Military Honors, Awards Submit to news@thenewsleaders.com For contact purposes only, please include first/last name and phone.

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# **KRAMER FINANCIAL** INVESTING WITH A PLAN James Kramer III Recognized

as one of LPL Financial's Top Financial Advisors

James Kramer III, an independent LPL Financial advisor at Kramer Financial in St. Cloud, was recently recognized for his inclusion in the LPL Patriot's Club. This premier award is presented to less than 8% of the firm's more than 16,000 financial advisors nationwide.

"I congratulate James on behalf of LPL," said Andy Kalbaugh, LPL managing director and divisional president, National Sales and Consulting. "We applaud his dedication to clients and his ability to nurture trusted relationships with clients to help them work toward their financial goals. We thank James for his continuous commitment to the independent model, which enables the delivery of objective financial advice, and for the opportunity to be their enabling partner. We wish James continued success.'

Kramer is based in St. Cloud and provides a full range of financial services, including retirement and financial planning, individual money management, individual stocks and bonds, mutual funds, annuities and more.



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Road

## from front page

struction was needed, said Randy Sabart, the city's engineer.

"We tend to do the seal coats, the crack sealing and the overlays when the integrity of the street is still very good,'

Sabart said. "That sometimes is a concept that people will question. 'Well, jeez, my street looks good right now. I don't see a lot of potholes, or a lot of cracking. Why are you overlaying now?""

Sabart said routine maintenance work can increase the life of road work from 20 years to up to 35 years.

"That's the primary reason we don't overlay streets which are already riddled with potholes and cracks," he said. "They're too far gone at that point."

Part of the cost of the project will be assessed to property owners who will directly benefit from the project, but final assessment amounts have yet to be determined. Per city policy, the city can assess up to 60 percent of project costs to property

But in reality, the percentage is usually less than that, Sabart said. The city caps assessments by studying how much actual market value is added to properties by the

attendees discussed the merits of the proposed projects. Homeowners raised questions about the speed

assessment amounts at a public hearing when final numbers are available, which will likely be sometime in May.

Housing developments can make tion of roads can vary.

For example, parts of the roads in

mation.

## Potluck

our Somali and immigrant neighbors of St. Joseph to join with those of us who have lived in St. Joseph for years to come together and introduce ourselves. It takes place at Resurrection Lutheran Hall, 610 CR 2, where the farmers' market takes place.

to property owners, even though they're in the same neighborhood.

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For upgrades to sewer and water systems, engineers consider the age and type of pipes, and whether or not the pipes have been compromised. For example, clay pipes along parts of Old Stearns County Highway 52 are significantly compromised by tree roots, which could result in sewer backups.

"When we start to see root masses ... like this — and these are fairly impenetrable — these cause (us) heartburn from a standpoint of sewer backup," Sabart said. "Cities are used to having to combat to some level root intrusion. ... But they don't stop growing. Once the roots compromise the pipe, then it's time for replacement.'

If all goes to plan, construction could start mid-July, following the city's July 4 festivities. Because Stearns County may also be working on CR 75 around the same time, city planners will take that into consideration, to avoid as much traffic congestion as possible, Sabart said.

Construction could be mostly complete by November, with some finishing work in the spring of 2020, Sabart said.

most important thing to bring is your family and friends. There will be activities for the children after they eat.

### Adult Education

We apologize for so many canceled classes this last month, but your safety is our prime concern. We will try to make up for the days we have lost. Just remember, if your child's school is two hours late on Monday or Wednesday, there will be no morning class those mornings. If your child's school is closed because of weather or emergency, there is no ESL class that day – morning or evening.

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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| TRAVEL SHOW   Tuesday, Feb 12 6:30 p.m.<br>Quality Inn<br>4040 2nd Street South, St. Cloud   Come and join us for refreshments and information on Utopia Tours 2019.<br>Tours and a presentation by our European Specialist Ken Koob on the<br>following escorted tours:   Splendor of Norway          | 2019 MOTORCOACH TOURS<br>Early discounts apply - call soon!   Flordia Panhandle & Cajun Country |
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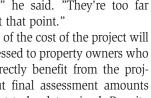
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News for Refugees

Ogevsiis! 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

construction work, he said. At the hearing Monday night,

owners.

and volume of traffic in residential neighborhoods, issues of water drainage and the potential high costs to certain homeowners. Residents will be able to discuss

the assessment process more complicated. Developments are built over a longer period of time and roads and utilities are usually built in segments as well. So in the same neighborhood, the age and condi-

the Pond View Ridge development will only need maintenance, while others may need more significant repair. This results in differing costs

family and neighbors about this infor-

You are invited to a potluck from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 10.

This is an invitation especially for

What is a potluck? Each family brings one favorite dish to share hamburger hotdish, sambusa, tacos, salad, bread or dessert. Water, tea and coffee will be provided as well as plates and silverware. College students can bring some fruit or cookies. The Fitness

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People



logs were:

"I read a book to my little brother (or little sister)."

"I cleaned my room."

"I played with my Legos."

"I danced to music in my room." "I played a board game with my family."

Getting students to stay away from screen time becomes a bit more difficult every year, Gabler said, because electronic activities have become more and more prevalent in just about everyone's life in recent years: TV, iPhones, computers and video games.

Gabler is happy that progress has been made when it comes to nutrition.

"Years ago students would eat just the basic vegetables like corn, peas, carrots," she said. "Nowadays, there are many students who enjoy many more fruits and vegetables, such as broccoli. And some just love avocados. Bananas are favorites for sure. Students are definitely trying new foods and eating a variety, and that's a good thing, of course."

Madeline Haeg of St. Joseph has been named to the fall semester dean's list at the University of Minnesota Crookston. To qualify, a student must attain a minimum 3.66 grade-point average.

Emily Boysen of St. Joseph has been named to the fall semester dean's list at Augustana University, Sioux Falls, S.D. The dean's list recognizes full-time students with a minimum 3.5 grade-point average.

Hillel Hinton-Williams of St. Joseph has been accepted for admission for the 2019-20 academic year to Luther College, Decorah, Iowa. Hinton-Williams has been awarded the President's Scholarship.

American Legion Post 328 of St. Joseph honored World War II veterans at a membership dinner attended by 100 members on Jan. 12. Four of the 11 living World



Honored veterans included Don Schneider, Othmar Schmitz (standing), Larry Tillemans, and Bob Wahlstrom.

War II veterans were able to attend. The four World War II veterans in attendance were Othmar Schmitz, Don Schneider, Larry Tillemans and Bob Wahlstrom. Schmitz has been a Legionnaire for 69 years, Schneider for 45 years, Tillemans for 52 years and Wahlstrom for 36 years.

World War II members of Post

328 who were unable to attend were Harold Gerlich, Richard Pike, Edwin Reber, John Schindler, Lee Schroeder, Oswald Thelen and Joseph Zimmer.

Three St. Joseph students have been named to the fall semester dean's list at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth. They are Maxwell Botz, Tyler Johnson and Courtney Thielen. Dean's list members have achieved a minimum 3.75 gradepoint average.

Fifteen St. Jospeh students have been recognized for fall semester academic achievement at St. Cloud Technical & Community College. To be named to the president's list a student must achieve a grade-point average of 4.0. To be named to the dean's list, a student must maintain a grade-point average of 3.5 to 3.99.

President's list students are: Sommer Davidson, Charles Reber, Elena Drake, Brianna Gill, Kevin Huichapa, Lauren Kappes, Mykaela Kappes and Mitchell Lowell.

Dean's list students are: Mitchell Jaeckels, Alexander Legatt, Cameron Knudsen, Abigail Notsch, Emily Notsch, Rose Phillipp and Amanda Symalla.

# Bierschbach served in Vietnam

The American Legion is 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

Marvin Bierschbach, 72, U.S. Army, Vietnam Marvin was born and raised

on a 160-acre dairy farm near



Marvin Bierschbach in Vietnam, 1966-'67.

Elrosa. Prior to being drafted, he farmed, was a construction labor-

er and worked at Fingerhut. Marvin entered the army Dec. 3, 1965. He was sent to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., for basic training. He was 19 years old.

Having completed basic he then went to Fort Carson, Colo., for advanced infantry training.

On Aug. 2, 1966, Marvin shipped out on the troop ship, USS Gaffey. The ship carried Bierschbach • page 5

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# Bierschbach

### from page 3

2,000 soldiers. The journey took 18 days. Upon arrival in QuiNhon Vietnam, Marvin was assigned to the 1st Air Cavalry Division. This combat infantry unit is not like most conventional infantry. It became in Vietnam an air assault division in which helicopters brought in units.

Marv was assigned to a .81 mm mortar platoon as a gunner. A mortar is best described as a short-barreled cannon which hurls shells in a high trajectory. This weapon is highly mobile and is an infantry weapon for close combat. Marvin says his platoon saw lots of action.

Involved in one particular ambush-fire fight, Marvin shared how his two best friends were killed right alongside him. That disclosure of fate prompted Marvin to say "I am a very lucky person."

Being in the field most of the time he was always wet from rain and tramping through rice paddies.

"We may go a month or two with no change of clothing," he said. Mail was infrequent and food essentially came in MRE boxes (meals ready to eat).

"We might be walking all day, tired and wet only to have helicopters come in, pick us up and take us to another location in which Viet Cong were sighted," he said.

Marvin felt particularly sorry for the Vietnamese people living in the villages. During the day, Americans would enter a peasant village looking for weapons, with some villagers selected for interrogation. At night Viet Cong would come into the same village threaten, torture some, kill the chickens,

confiscate rice **Bierschbach** and force the young men into their ranks.

Marvin laments the fact that these Vietnamese peasants were left with nothing but constant fear over a situation they had little to do with and no control over.

With Marvin's tour of duty over, he left Vietnam on July 30, 1967. After being discharged from the army, Marvin commenced work at Hoerner-Woldorf in St. Cloud. After 41 years, he retired in 2009.

Marvin dated Jane for about a year before the army.

"She was my girlfriend," he said.

Though mail call in the field was infrequent, "She kept writing me letters the two years I was in the army. Now you may ask, why would she?"

Being out of the army six months, Jane and Marvin Bierschbach married on June 1, 1968. They live in St. Joseph and have been married for 50 years. Jane and Marvin have four children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

In retirement Marvin enjoys golf, cards, fishing, bowling and volunteering.

On reflecting upon his military experience Marvin said in a melancholy manner "I did not get anymore stupid – it's history. That's the way it was back then." A time back then when he lost his two best friends. Enough said.

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

### Jan. 14

5:20 p.m. Collision. CR 75 and CR 1. Vehicle one was in the right lane of CR 75 at CR 2 waiting at a red light. Vehicle two approached from behind when the driver spilled coffee. She looked down and when she looked up, she collided with vehicle one. There were injuries.

### Jan. 17

9:54 a.m. Theft. Minnesota Street W. A woman reported a theft the previous evening at Sal's. A jacket was stolen and the credit and debit cards in the pocket had been used. The woman did not call back with transaction information but later reported that her coat was returned.

### Jan. 18

10:10 p.m. Suspicious vehicle. CR75. An officer found a car parked at the ball fields in Millstream Park. The owner was walking his dog and was told the park was closed.

### Jan. 20

5 p.m. Suspicious vehicle. CR 75. An officer found a vehicle parked by the softball fields in Millstream Park. The driver said he hangs out there. The driver was informed of park hours.

#### Jan. 23

9:48 a.m. ID theft. 10th Avenue SE. A woman reported a payment from a company in Texas. The woman said she never lived in Texas. The officer advised her to check with the Social Security office and to run a credit check to see if there were other discrepancies with her Social Security number.

# Editor wins opinion writing award



tion.

The award was in the Editorial Portfolio category with competition among the state's more than 250 weekly newspapers.

The entry included a collection of five editorials published in the past year. The award recognizes overall excellence in locally written editorials and sustained quality as reflected by a broad sample of the newspaper's editorials. Judges consider the editorials' significance to the community, sound reasoning, power to influence public opinion and clarity.

There were more than 4,100 entries in all contest categories. The awards were announced Jan. 24 in Bloomington.







Or call 320 241-GNTC (4682)

**Opinion**–

# <u>Our View</u> During extreme cold, more chilling news for Minnesotans

In the midst of the coldest weather in 25 years, Minnesotans heard more chilling news on Jan. 29 from the country's top spies.

Buried in the national intelligence chiefs' 42-page assessments of worldwide threats were several paragraphs that demand urgent attention.

The report says Russia and China have the ability to cripple gas and electric supplies now. Utilities and government need to harden these systems or last week's cold weather could become deadly instead of just inconvenient.

One Page 5, the report says: "China has the ability to launch cyber attacks that cause localized, temporary disruptive effects on critical infrastructure – such as disruption of a natural gas pipeline for days to weeks – in the United States."

On the next page, the Russian threat is clear: "Russia has the ability to execute cyber attacks in the United States that generate localized, temporary disruptive effects on critical infrastructure – such as disrupting an electrical distribution network for at least a few hours...Moscow is mapping our critical infrastructure with the long-term goal of being able to cause substantial damage."

China and Russia could cripple parts of the country without launching one missile or deploying one soldier. A few keystrokes could deliver more damage than ships and tanks.

When natural gas service failed in Princeton during the cold snap, about 150 Xcel customers experienced what life would be like without heat. Unanticipated demand for natural gas led to a drop in pressure and the utility cut off service to isolate the problem. To avoid even more outages, the utility asked customers across the state to lower their thermostats to 63 degrees.

Law enforcement and Xcel workers went door to door to make sure everyone was alright. Some people fled to hotels or stayed with friends. Xcel handed out electric space heaters so residents could keep water pipes from freezing.

But what would happen if, during extremely cold weather, the Russians or Chinese cut gas service not just to 150 customers but to an entire city or region. Imagine what would happen if, along with cutting gas service, enemies also crippled the electric grid? Electric space heaters would be useless. Fleeing to a hotel or a public space such as a school for shelter would be useless. There would be no power there either.

As the report says, the disruption could last for "days to weeks."

What would you do? Where would you go to keep warm?

The danger faces not only the frozen North in the winter. Imagine life in Phoenix on a July day when the temperature hits 110 degrees and there's no air conditioning and no pumps to keep the tap water flowing.

Let's not wait until we're all huddled in the cold to focus on this threat.

Here's an idea for Donald Trump and the Congress. Instead of spending \$25 billion on a third-century style wall that will take more than 10 years to build, let's spend \$25 billion hardening our power supplies from foreign attack. That's a real national emergency.

# St. Joseph · SouldE-St. Stephen Newsleaders Reacking EUERYbody!

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 1622 11th Ave. SE., St. Cloud, MN 56304. Deadline is noon Monday. Please 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.

# Future professional journalists honored at difficult time

When 500 of Minnesota's smalltown reporters, editors, advertising sales people and publishers gathered for the annual Minnesota Newspaper Association Convention in Bloomington in late January, they began their awards program by focusing on the future of journalism.

The awards program did not start with announcing the awards from the more than 4,100 entries in the annual Better Newspaper Contest, but by recognizing college journalists for top work in 21 categories.

In the same month as more than 2,100 journalists lost their jobs as cuts continued at newspapers and news websites across the nation, it would be a fair question to ask why anyone would plan a career in journalism.

Journalism has never been a toppaying profession. Journalists could fetch a higher paycheck offering their talents to business or government and be rewarded with more job stability and better hours. But like other professions, such as teaching or law enforcement, journalists are happy to earn decent, but not enriching money, to do a job for which they have a passion and that serves a higher purpose than a paycheck.

The young journalists' award-winning entries showed off their talents as well as their passion for storytellMike Knaak Editor



ing.

I was especially proud of two winners from St. Cloud State University – Jessie Wade and Maddie MacFarlane. The two women won awards for their photo work. They were students in a photojournalism class I taught at SCSU.

The job crisis in journalism is not the result of a lack or demand for news. On the contrary, with print as well as digital platforms publishing the news, the audience is larger than ever.

People are consuming more news, but publishers have not yet figured out a profitable business model for the digital world.

Traditionally, advertising covered about three-fourths of a newspaper's budget with the rest coming from subscriptions. Advertisers paid to put their products and services in front of the eyeballs who came to read the news.

With online news, all that changed. Print advertising dollars turned to dimes and nickels on the web. Readers who were willing to pay for paper tossed on their doorstep balked at online subscriptions for news they expected to read for free.

Of course, online news isn't free to the reader. You pay for internet access, your \$1,000 iPhone and you put up with advertising on Google where you "find" your news. Google makes billions on advertising while the publishers who provide those stories people eagerly find get zilch from Google.

More and more communities are becoming news deserts where the local paper has either shut down or drastically reduced staff.

The big national papers, the New York Times and the Washington Post, are doing well thanks to digital subscriptions from the entire nation.

There are working journalists skilled, experienced, dedicated reporters, editors, photographers who are doing their best to serve you, while a beleaguered news industry tries to find a path to a sustainable future.

They are the only people who are watching city hall, examining how your tax dollars are spent and how your children are being educated.

Will those talented college journalists be able to attend an MNA dinner 40 years from now to accept another award for their work?

# Catholic Church should be investigated as organized crime group

The FBI defines Transnational Organized Crime as groups that are self-perpetuating associations of individuals who operate, wholly or in part, by illegal means and irrespective of geography. They constantly seek to obtain power, influence and monetary gains. TOC groups' primary goal is economic gain and they will employ an array of lawful and illicit schemes to generate profit. To combat these groups, the bureau uses the RICO Act to expand criminal accountability for a number of "predicate offenses," and to expand a single offense across multiple members of a criminal enterprise. Unlike typical investigations, which target a single criminal act, this multi-pronged approach allows the FBI to disrupt or dismantle the entire enterprise.

When we hear "organized crime" most people will think of the Mafia or drug cartels. Another group may finally be added to the list: the Catholic Church. Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro just released the results of a two-year grand jury investigation into the widespread sexual abuse of children within six dioceses of the Catholic Church in Pennsylvania and the systemic coverup by senior church officials in Pennsylvania and the Vatican.

The grand jury identified more than 1,000 victims abused by 300 priests in six of Pennsylvania's eight dioceses. Their belief is the number of victims was in the thousands. The cover-up was massive. It involved the church leaders from top to bottom. Anthea Butler, an associate professor of religious studies at the University



of Pennsylvania, writes "The grand jury report about Catholic priest abuse in Pennsylvania shows the church is a criminal syndicate. What is clear from this report - as well as the previous grand jury reports from Philadelphia in 2005 and 2011 and Altoona-Johnston in 2016 – is that the Catholic Church cannot be and never should have been trusted nor expected to root out pedophiles in their midst, let alone punish them appropriately. Mercy was not extended to victims, but to perpetrators. Rules, it seems, were for the Catholics who continued to sit in the pews, not the ones who stood at the altars."

Often the worst predator priests would be sent off to a church-owned property to live out their lives at the expense of the church. As seen locally, they could even have a beautiful view of a lake and woods.

After the Pennsylvania grand jury report was released, 15 state attorneys general have contacted Shapiro to gain insight in the workings of such a case. The Justice Department is looking at the sexual abuse of children and transporting them across state lines for illegal purposes, both RICO offenses. Six more states have launched investigations. Illinois has identified 690 priests already. It's time Minnesota joins the list.

The root cause of all of this is

money. Had it become known early on that there were so many priests sexually abusing children, donations would have stopped. But as in many other businesses, money is power. Now the church can afford to hire high-priced attorneys, lobbyists and move their assets around to hide them from bankruptcy proceedings. Since 2005, 19 dioceses have filed. There are church "leaders" who appear to specialize in taking dioceses into bankruptcy. Bishop Kettler came to the St Cloud Diocese (which filed for bankruptcy in February) after leading the Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska, through bankruptcy. Many of us have heard the phrase "the insurance is paying." No insurance is free and think about what happened to your car insurance rates after you or your children had a couple of accidents. So, yes, those sitting in the pews are paying.

It's time the state and federal government investigate the Catholic Church's handling of the sexual abuse of children and prove the church truly fits the definition of a Transnational Organized Crime group and hold it responsible.

Schwegel was born and raised in a Catholic household. He and his brothers and sisters attended Catholic grade school in St Cloud. His parents were founding members of St Peter's Catholic Church and school in St Cloud and also of St Michael's Church. Schwegel recently retired after 38½ years in law enforcement. He is a St. Joseph resident.

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Editor

Friday, Feb. 8, 2019

**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 53677.

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

A drunk driver ruined something precious. Amber Apodaca. Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk



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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.

### 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 Collegeville or St. Joseph ZIP Code. 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud.

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

#### Sunday, Feb. 10

Benefit Breakfast and Silent Auction, sponsored by Project Astride, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Moose Family Center, 1300 Third St. N., Waite Park.

### Monday, Feb. 11

St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph. Fare for All, 3:30-5:30 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2, St. Joseph.

St. Joseph Planning Commission, 6 p.m., Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E.

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

# Tuesday, Feb. 12

Central Minnesota Civil War Roundtable, 3 p.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. "Culp's Hill at Gettysburg," John Cox.

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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.

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**Community Calendar** 

## Wednesday, Feb. 13

Stearns History Museum Breakfast Club, 9 a.m. Tom Smude will discuss Smude's Sunflower Oil. Free for members, nominal fee for nonmembers. 235 33rd Ave. S.

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

St Joseph Y2K Lions Club, 6:30 p.m., St. Joseph Community Fire Hall, 323 Fourth Ave NE. Kay Lemke 320-363-8663.

St. Cloud Friends of the Library annual meeting, 7 p.m., St. Cloud Public Library, 1300 St. Germain St., St. Cloud.

### Thursday, Feb. 14

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

### Friday, Feb. 15

Spiritual R & R Day, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., St. Benedict's Monastery. The day offers time for quiet prayer, reflection, reading, walking, resting and meeting with a spiritual director, if desired. 320-363-7071.

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

## Saturday, Feb. 16

Being, Belonging, Becoming, 10 a.m.-3 p.m, St. Benedcidt's Monastery. Single, catholic women under the age of 45 are invited to come and spend a day. 320-363-7180.

**Snowstomp,** 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Kraemer Lake Wildwood County Park, meet at 29709 Kipper Road,

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### Sunday, Feb.17

Breakfast, 8 a.m.-noon, American Legion, 17 Second Ave. N., Waite Park.

### Monday, Feb. 18

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

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

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

#### Tuesday, Feb. 19

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

Alzheimer's and dementia information meeting, 1 p.m., The Sanctuary, 2410 20th Ave. SE., St. Cloud. St. Joseph EDA, 6 p.m., Govern-

ment Center, 75 Callaway St. E. St. Cloud Area Genealogists, 7

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

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

#### Wednesday, Feb. 20

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

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

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Thursday, Feb. 21

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.

### Sunday, Feb. 24

Joe Town Table, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., American Legion, 101 W. Minnesota St., St. Joseph. every fourth Sunday of the month. centralmncw@gmail.com.

### TRUCK FOR SALE

Date and Time of Sale: 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

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# Demuth receives two bipartisan appointments

### First-year Rep. Lisa Demuth (R-Cold Spring) has been appointed to serve on two bipartisan legislative groups, including one to serve a task force on child protection.

The Legislative Task Force on Child Protection was created in 2015 to expand efforts regarding child welfare in Minnesota. It works with the Department of Human Services and others to establish and evaluate child protection

grants and also identify areas within the child welfare system that need to be addressed by the Legislature.

Demuth has also accepted a position with the P-20 Education Partnership, which "works collaboratively to maximize achievements of all students, from preschool through elementary, secondary and postsecondary education, while promoting the efficient use of financial and human resources."

"This appointment will allow me to draw from my background with the Rocori school board," Demuth said in a press reslease. "I once again am honored to be appointed to this position and welcome the opportunity to help give our children the best possible chance to achieve success in the classroom and in life."

Demuth represents House District 13A, which includes the St. Joseph area.

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