

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, March 22, 2019
Volume 31, Issue 6
Est. 1989

Town Crier

Spaghetti dinner proceeds to go to local family

A spaghetti dinner fundraiser including a silent auction and meat raffle for the Dan Milliron and Bonnie Supan family will be held from 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, March 23 in the Rusty Nail, 4 Central Ave. S., St. Stephen. If you are unable to attend but would still like to donate, please go to Dan's gofundme page: www.gofundme.com/dan-milliron.

5K Walk/Run to benefit Eagle's Healing Nest

The ninth annual 5K Walk/Run will be held on Saturday, April 27 at DeZURIK, 250 Riverside Ave. N., Sartell. Check-in is at 8:30 a.m. Start time is 9 a.m. 100 percent of registration fees go to the 2019 recipient, "Eagle's Healing Nest," a non-profit organization committed to meeting the needs of our veterans, service members and their families who suffer from the invisible wounds of war. For registration details, contact DeZURIK at 320-259-2000 or Brenny Transportation at 320-363-6999. This 5K walk/run is a non-competitive/non-timed family-fun event. Entries limited – sign up soon!

Apply online for Dollars for Scholars

The 2019 Dollars for Scholars scholarship applications are available online at StJosephArea.DollarsForScholars.org. Once there, click on the "Students and Parents" tab, then follow the instructions to register. If you need assistance, call 320-363-7721 and speak with Doug Danielson at Sentry Bank. The application deadline is Tuesday, April 9.

SYHA Raffle: \$41,00 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.

INSERT:
Sliced on College Avenue



photo by Mike Knaak

Isabella Loehlein, 6, of St. Joseph screws the top on a bluebird house she built March 18 at the St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club birdhouse building night. Providing helping hands is club member Ron Rennie. Isabella is the daughter of Janelle and Matt Loehlein and attends St. Joseph Catholic School. This was the group's 26th annual event. With supplies and wood donated by Ace Hardware, Manion's and the club, club members prepared 250 precut kits for assembly at the American Legion in St. Joseph.

Mayor offers vision of city's future

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Mayor Rick Schultz and city leaders shared their vision for the city as well as offered updates on a variety of plans at the Chamber of Commerce meeting on March 13.

The vision includes adding programming at the community center, pushing forward with bonding requests from the Legislature, organizational and policy changes at city hall and exploring how St. Joseph can become a digital city.

Schultz hit on a number of projects starting with the community center. He said the city is working with the St. Cloud



photo by Mike Knaak

St. Joseph Mayor Rick Schultz explained development and construction plans during a speech to the Chamber of Commerce.

school district as well as the YMCA to help with youth activities as well as senior activities.

The city continues to push

three bonding requests at the Legislature: community center funding, a pedestrian underpass on CR 75 and East Park.

Although this is not a bonding year, Schultz and City Administrator Judy Weyrens have spent what the mayor called "considerable time" at the Capitol laying the groundwork for the requests.

As a result of the controversy surrounding the resignation of Police Chief Joel Klein, the city modified the personnel policy.

"We invested in modifying our personnel policy and retooling the organization so it should in fact be much easier, more responsive and should eliminate some of the problems we had in the past," Schultz said.

The city started a Convention and Visitors Bureau supported

Mayor • page 2

City council considers affordable housing

by Stephanie Dickrell
news@thenewsleaders.com

St. Joseph could get some much-needed affordable housing, if local governments support a new project proposed by Sand Cos.

City council and economic development authority members heard preliminary details about an apartment building project on the east side of St. Joseph at a special joint meeting Tuesday, March 19.

Megan Carr, a senior business development manager with Sand Development, presented preliminary details, asking if council members were willing to commit to financially support the project. The company plans to apply for grant funding from the state, but needs local government support to do so.

The proposed property is southwest of the U.S. Army Reserve facility on 20th Avenue SE. It would include 48 units, including one-, two- and three-bedroom

units.

The apartments would be available to people at two income levels: 30 percent and 60 percent of the area's median income. For a family of four in St. Joseph, that is roughly \$22,000 yearly income and \$42,000 yearly income.

Rents could range from about \$600-700 for a one-bedroom unit, up to \$800-900 for a three-bedroom unit. The market rate rent for the area is about \$800 for a two-bedroom apartment, according to the National Low Income

Housing Coalition.

A 'desperate' need for safe, affordable housing

Affordable housing is sorely needed in the area, said Neil Fortier, executive director of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Stearns County.

"The need is there and it's not going to go away," he said. "Our waiting list has been closed for so many years."

Council • page 4

Mayor

from front page

with hotel tax money. The CVB is tasked with marketing the city and has come up with a slogan “Small town warmth, big city cool.”

Schultz highlighted several other issues that have been discussed for a while but not acted on including upgrading technology and meeting room facilities at the fire hall and a security surveillance system around town.

Work still needs to be done on streetscape issues to make the city welcoming and walkable including sidewalk repair and installing signs at entrances to the city.

Residents are also asking for a splash pad or pool, he said.

Innovation should also be part of the city’s vision, Schultz said. He outlined possibilities for a “smart city” that uses the internet and digital technology.

“The internet will be effortlessly seamless, so most people can tap into it easily like using electricity,” he said. “That’s really what it’s eventually going to be – so easy to use you won’t know you’re using it. We have a variety of ways we could use it internally to network the city, network business, network residents about impending weather...and provide city services rather than with pencil and paper.”

Schultz highlighted some of the successes including Bad Habit Brewing moving into the

old city hall, the 24 North Lofts residences and Krewe restaurant opening this spring, connecting the Lake Wobegon Trail to Waite Park and completing annexation with St. Joseph Township. On the downside, he listed business that have moved out of the city.

People attending the meeting asked about upcoming road projects. The city recently approved a plan for repairing a number of streets and Stearns County will repair and replace CR 75 from St. Joseph to Waite Park.

That project was supposed to happen last summer but the major portion, which involves alternately shutting down lanes of the four-lane, divided highway, will take place this summer starting in May.

Schultz started his presentation with things that did not go well in 2018.

“Quite honestly this was a bad year for me in the eight years, nine years I’ve been doing this,” he said. “It started with the St. (Joseph) police chief issues we had and it was his resignation that took a lot out of staff, took a lot of council time.” Schultz went on to mention several businesses that moved out of town, the time it took to get the East Industrial Park approved and ongoing litigation with the College of St. Benedict.

“These things add up and took a lot of stress, a lot of time and I want to get beyond this year. I want to move on,” Schultz said as he quickly transitioned to tick off the list of successes.

Carl and Peggy Moon, both members of the American Legion from St. Joseph, were in Washington, D.C., recently lobbying for issues that affect American war veterans and the military.

Carl, chairman of the Minnesota American Legion Employment Committee and Peggy, chair of the Minnesota American Legion Legislative Committee, were part of a delegation of 20 Minnesotans in Washington.

The delegation met with nearly every Minnesota Representative and Senator, and urged an agenda of veterans programs that Congress will be dealing with in the future.

Full Circle Water of St. Joseph earned a first-place award in the National Precast Concrete Association’s annual Sustainability Awards competition. The award was given on Feb. 28 in Louisville during The Precast Show 2019 and recognizes the company’s water recycling solution and development of the Slurry Silo product for concrete producers.

Lauren Stock of St. Joseph has been named to the president’s list at Bemidji State University for fall semester. To be eligible for the president’s list, students earn a perfect 4.0 grade-point average.

Nicole Bloch of St. Joseph has been named to the president’s honor roll at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks. To qualify, a student must have an overall cumulative grade-point average of 3.80 or higher.



contributed photo

Carl and Peggy Moon of St. Joseph joined Minnesota Department Commander Darrel Redepenning (right) to lobby for veterans rights.



contributed photo

(From left) Mike Hoffman, chairman of the National Precast Concrete Association Board of Directors, Brent Fuqua, Full Circle Water and Jesse Wingert, of Concreate Sealants, sponsor of the Sustainability Awards.

Two St. Joseph students have been named to the dean’s list at Bemidji State University for fall semester. The students are **Margaret Donnay** and **Shelbi Keehr**. To be eligible for the dean’s list, students earn a minimum 3.5 grade-point average.

Two St. Joseph students have been named to the dean's list for fall semester at the College of St. Benedict. The students are **Elizabeth Botz**, daughter of Mary and Jeff Botz, and **Jamie Muske**, daughter of Shelly and Tim Muske. To be included on the dean's list, students must have a grade-point average of at least 3.80.

Two St. Joseph students have been named to the dean's list for fall semester at St. John’s University. The students are **Jacob Hennigs**, son of Deann and Mark Hennigs, and **Adam Lepinski**, son of Lois and Al Lepinski. To be included on the dean's list, students must have a semester grade-point average of at least 3.80.

Correction

The size of Brenda Hommerding's family was incorrectly reported in the March 8 edition. Hommerding grew up in a family of 11, including her parents and nine children.

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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.
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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.

Feb. 27

8:38 a.m. Collision. Minnesota Street E. A vehicle was west-bound on Minnesota Street E. when the driver swerved to miss a turning vehicle. It slid into a vehicle parked on the north side of Minnesota Street, causing moderate damage. Three people in the parked vehicle were not injured.

8:05 p.m. Suspicious person. 20th Avenue SE. An officer saw a man working on a generator at a construction site near the armory. When the officer checked, the man was doing maintenance and had been contracted by the site foreman.

March 2

5:55 p.m. Suspicious vehicle. Delta Circle and Pearl Drive. An officer saw a vehicle parked on Delta Circle. The woman in the vehicle said she was waiting for her husband to remove snow so she wouldn't get stuck. There was a skid loader plowing snow.

March 3

1:46 p.m. Vehicle in the ditch. Baker Street E. and 12th Avenue SE. While on a vehicle-in-the-ditch call, an officer spoke to the driver and passenger who said another car failed to stop and caused them to go off the road and into the snow pile.

March 5

9:26 a.m. Theft. 19th Avenue NE. A man reported the theft of items from his storage unit including a red 5,000-watt Coleman generator sometime before March 1.

March 8

12:05 p.m. Suspicious person. 17th Avenue SE. A suspicious man was reported near 212 17th Ave. SE. A man had gone up to a residence and said he was there to replace an air filter. The resident said she was not expecting anyone to do that. The woman said the man's vehicle lingered in the area. The man or the vehicle was not located.

March 9

Midnight. Suspicious vehicle. Minnesota Street W. An officer noticed a vehicle in the park-and-ride lot with its bright lights on and motor running. The office found a man sleeping in the back seat. The man said he was on the way to Bowlus and got tired. He decided to resume his trip.

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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:

1. The assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted is: Oil the Way Boutique.

2. The stated address of the principal place of business is or will be: 627 9th Ave. N., St. Cloud, Minn. 56303.

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: Kaitlin Therese Palermo, 627 9th Ave. N., St. Cloud, Minn. 56303.

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. 3, 2019

Filed: Jan. 3, 2019

/s/ Kaitlin Palermo

Publish: March 8 and 22, 2019

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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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Dated: March 14, 2019

Filed: March 14, 2019

/s/ Janelle Schneckloth

Publish: March 22 and April 5, 2019

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Dated: March 14, 2019

Filed: March 14, 2019

/s/ Janelle Schneckloth

Publish: March 22 and April 5, 2019

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photo by Mike Knaak

Participants filled their plates March 10 during the potluck sponsored by Cultural Bridges at Resurrection Lutheran Church. About 60 people turned out for the multicultural event.

Council

from front page

The Stearns County HRA hasn't been able to issue new vouchers in more than a decade, he said. If the project receives state funding, the Stearns County HRA will likely allocate five housing vouchers for low-income families to the project, Fortier said.

"It's a great site for a great project," he said.

Carr agreed and said Sand Cos. sees the need for affordable housing every day.

"We receive five to 10 inquiries a day," Carr said, about the availability of affordable housing.

"People are desperate for a safe and affordable place to live," she said.

Council member Anne Buckvold agreed and said she sees the need every day in her work in mental health, referring to the number of kids in the school district experiencing homelessness. And not all fit the stereotypes attributed to low-income families: people of color, immigrants and refugees.

"There are many homeless kids in the district. ... It's not just any particular group anymore," she said. If it comes to fruition, the apartments wouldn't be move-in ready until 2020. But Carr hoped to get some commitment to support the project from city and county officials.

Sand Development hopes to receive public funding from the state to support the project. To do so, it has to submit a grant application for the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program by June.

Applications are judged on a variety of factors, including the

need for affordable housing in that area, the monetary support of local governments, adaptability for aging populations and access to public transportation.

Projects are also favored if they incorporate sustainable construction practices, design and utilities. For a project like this, Carr said, the apartments would include low-flow water fixtures, high efficiency heating and cooling units and water heating systems.

Local experience in affordable housing

Sand Development builds and manages affordable housing across Minnesota and Iowa.

It has developed more than 3,000 units at more than 50 properties, in sizes ranging from a dozen to more than 300 units. About 90 percent of its properties are affordable-housing projects.

Locally, Sand Cos. has developed and operates affordable housing and market-rate housing in Sartell, St. Cloud, St. Michael and Albany.

Carr said the company needs to get a commitment of about \$500,000 from local governments, in tax reductions and waiving of utility and other fees. The total project could cost \$8-9 million. Any monetary contribution would be contingent on the project receiving grant funding from the state, Carr said.

City Administrator Judy Weyrens said there are a variety of ways to get to the \$500,000 contribution, including creating a tax-increment-financing district and tax abatement for the property.

Carr said it can take a few tries for projects to receive funding. It all depends on the amount of money being given out that year

and the type and number of projects applying for the grants.

One option to show local support would be a negotiated purchase price for the foreclosed property, much lower than the market value.

One proposal is for Stearns County to sell the roughly six-acre property to the St. Joseph Economic Development Authority for about \$25,000, a small percentage of its likely appraised value. The difference between the purchase price and appraised price would count toward a local monetary contribution, Carr said.

If that route is taken, purchase agreements would be contingent on Sand Development buying the land from the city.

If council chooses to proceed and commits to a local contribution, the application would be submitted in June and likely awarded in October or November. Construction would start sometime in 2019 and it wouldn't be completed until 2020.

The project would add some temporary construction jobs, Carr said, as well as provide a small bump to local retail and food establishments. It would likely only create the equivalent of one new full-time job, among a few part-time management and maintenance positions, she said.

Potential problems

Despite the clear need, affordable housing projects often face community opposition. The project could also face public resistance to the cost of adding roads and other infrastructure, increased traffic and other issues.

"There are a lot of negative connotations to affordable housing," Carr said, and offered to make presentations and answer questions from the public as the project moves forward.

Council member Bob Loso said given local attitudes about the area's increasing diversity, the council may hear from residents concerned about the project becoming what he called a "refugee dump."

Carr said by law, they can't discriminate in allocating housing, and it is given out on a first-come, first-served basis.

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After enlisting in National Guard, Lorentz fought in Korea

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

William Joseph Lorentz, 87 US Army – Korean War Era

William “Bill” Lorentz was born and raised in Staples. His father owned and operated the Conoco Oil Co.-filling station. Bill drove the gasoline delivery truck in high school.

While still in high school, Bill enlisted in the Minnesota National Guard on Feb. 14, 1949. His father, a World War I veteran and a casualty of mustard gas, discouraged him from going into the military. But Bill wanted to be with “a bunch of (his) own guys.” Bill reports back then the military “had a much more positive image.”

Basic training was at Fort Ripley; “just about every weekend.” Bill says he was a “grunt” – infantry. His unit was the 194 tank battalion. In June 1950, North Korean troops invaded South Korea. In January 1951, Bill’s unit, along with other units were federalized. Bill and his battalion were sent to Fort Rucker, Alabama, for training in demolition. From there, he was sent to leadership school at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

For two months his training focused on armor reconnaissance. Back at Fort Rucker, Bill was promoted to sergeant.

Out of his battalion of 300 soldiers, Bill and “another guy shipped out for Korea. The rest of the battalion was sent to Texas.”

His troop ship departed Camp Stoman, California, for Japan. From there an LST took him to Pusan, South Korea. He entered the Korean conflict at age 19. Bill was in Korea 11 months. Being assigned to a reconnaissance company attached to a tank battalion, he was often in combat situations.

In one particular firefight he injured his knee. In another situation, he sustained a concussion that ruptured an ear drum. This injury subsequently resulted in a severe infection. A medical team wanted to send Bill home, but he requested to stay with his unit.

His unit usually operated in collaboration with Turkish soldiers. “We ate what the Turks ate . . . lots of cabbage and some jelly bread.”



contributed photo
Lorentz in 1951.

On one particular scouting recon, Bill’s squad came upon a large deserted building in which was stored an immense pile of rice. No sooner had they entered this storage shed when coming down the trail was a much larger group of North Korean soldiers.



Lorentz

Discretion being the better part of valor, the squad buried themselves under the rice. The North Korean soldiers entered the building, sat down, ate lunch and rested for about three-fourths of an hour. When they left, looking for an enemy they shared (if only briefly) a place to rest. Having accumulated sufficient points for being in a combat theater of war, Bill boarded a troop ship heading home. As the ship pulled into San Diego harbor, there were fireboats spraying water and there were dancing girls on the dock. Once the contingent of Marines disembarked, the ship sailed up the coast to Camp Stoman. Bill recalls an opera singer leading all others in “God Bless America.” A few donuts were passed out.

Bill flew to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, and was subsequently released from active duty. Shortly after coming home, he re-enlisted in the National Guard in Brainerd. Reflecting upon his military career of eight years, six months and 15 days, Bill said he seriously thought of staying in and making a career of it. He was honorably discharged as first sergeant.

From his military experience, Bill fondly recalls with appreciation the discipline instilled in him and others as well as the camaraderie.

Upon being discharged from active duty, Bill presented himself as somewhat of an enigma – a complex and perplexing young man. Bill worked on the railroad as a firefighter on a steam engine, worked at Franklin (Electrolux), completed air-traffic controller school in Oklahoma City and Indianapolis, joined the Minnesota Highway Patrol and became a licensed pilot. While working for the railroad, he met his future wife, Sally. They married in 1955 and have been married 64 years.

In 1963, Bill became chief of police in St. Joseph. This was a one-man police force. Initially Bill carried a sidearm but after a few years he stopped carrying one as the weight gave him troubles with his hips. In the absence of a police station, at least initially, Bill would interview or question a variety of criminals and noncriminals at the kitchen table of the house he and his wife Sally lived in. After 29 years as police chief, Bill retired in 1991.

At the age of 59 Bill was not quite ready for retirement. For several years he drove excursion buses around the country for Trobec’s Bus Service.

From Sally and Bill’s marriage, two daughters were born. Bill and Sally have two granddaughters and one great-granddaughter.

Throughout the years, Bill has had many hobbies and interests including woodworking, wine making and “getting along with people.” These days Bill has slowed down a bit given medical issues.



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Opinion

Our View

Gun safety skeptics weren't entirely right

A year has passed.

A year ago, we were focused on demonstrations and rallies supporting gun control safety legislation following the killing of 17 people at a Florida high school.

Skeptics doubted the public support would result in laws such as universal background checks, bans on assault-style weapons or high capacity magazines.

These measures are widely supported, for example, more than 90 percent of Americans are in favor of universal background checks.

The powerful gun lobby has blocked any legislation. In the 2016 election cycle, the gun lobby poured \$55 million into campaigns. Donald Trump benefited from more than \$31 million gun lobby money donated to support his campaign and oppose Hillary Clinton.

The skeptics were not entirely right. Democrats now control the U.S. House of Representatives and in St. Paul, Democrats control the state House, with Republicans holding a one-seat advantage in the Senate.

The election resulted in gun-safety legislation finally getting a vote. For these proposals to become law, citizens need to push Republicans to join the cause.

In Washington, the House passed two bills that address background check issues.

HR 1112 would require a gun dealer to wait up to 20 business days, as opposed to three under current law, to hear from the FBI regarding an individual's background check in instances in which no immediate determination on the individual had been made, before being allowed to complete the sale or transfer of a firearm. The bill would also modify the language that prohibits the sale of firearms to individuals on the basis of mental illness to bar sales to individuals "adjudicated with mental illness, severe developmental disability, or severe emotional instability." The bill passed 228-198, with Rep. Tom Emmer opposing it along with 190 other Republicans.

HR 8 would require most purchasers of firearms to undergo a background check through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, including all sales and transfers of firearms through public and private purchases. The bill would specify instances in which a background check could be skipped at the time of a firearm's transfer, including when transferred as a loan or gift between family members, when transferred for hunting or fishing purposes or when transferred for use in a shooting range, so long as the weapon remains in the presence of its owner.

It passed 240-190 with Emmer and 187 other Republicans opposing it.

In St. Paul, a bill to allow law enforcement and family members to petition a court to prohibit people from possessing firearms if they pose a significant danger to themselves or others by possessing a firearm is moving through House committees. A similar bill appears stalled in the Senate.

Also in the Senate, a bill introduced by three Democrats to tighten background checks is also stalled.

Prove the skeptics totally wrong. Contact your state legislators.

Sen. Jeff Howe (District 13)
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3231
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-2084

Rep. Lisa Demuth (District 13A)
223 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
rep.lisa.demuth@house.mn
651-296-4373

Rep. Tim O'Driscoll (District 13B)
237 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
rep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn
651-296-7808

Not all political leaders move slowly. New Zealand's coalition government plans to unveil gun law reforms within the next week in response to a deadly shooting rampage at two mosques last week. These could include restricting the military-style semiautomatic weapons that were used in the attacks, which left 50 Muslim worshippers dead.

The government's decision has been in part motivated by the frequency of mass shootings in the United States, which has among the most lax gun laws in the world. Since the beginning of the year, there have been 58 mass shooting incidents in the United States and 2,826 people have died from gun violence.

A year from now let's make sure the gun safety skeptics are out of business.

Though calendar says so, spring isn't here yet

It's spring. I know this because the calendar said so. Spring arrived at 4:58 p.m. Wednesday, March 20.

And I know this because last week, we sprang forward for daylight-saving time (more about that later). So now I can shovel snow at 8 p.m. without turning on the porch light.

I know spring is here because I spent a couple of hours this week rounding up the Sartell High School spring sports schedules that we'll publish in a couple of weeks. You'll be happy to know the baseball team kicks off its season with a game in Little Falls.

Spring is surely here because I can look out my patio door and see that the gas grill is no longer covered with a couple of feet of snow. And except for the snow-covered deck, it would be a great day for grilling.

Two of my favorite teams, the Twins and Minnesota United, will soon return to the Twin Cities for their home openers.

In just six days, March 28, the Twins will host Cleveland at Target Field. As an incentive, the team is offering puffy vests. Luckily, there's no game scheduled the next day, March 29. If by some odd chance, Opening Day is snowed out, the teams can play a day later. I hope the Cleveland players enjoy the day off. The long-range forecast for Opening Day calls for mostly sunny skies with a high of 47 degrees. Accu-weather says the RealFeel temp will be 42.

Target Field's grass is heated so it will be nice and green, even while the fans turn blue.

The Loons have a few more weeks for warm weather to return. After five

road games, the soccer team opens its new stadium, Allianz Field in St. Paul, on April 13. The team posted a video of stocking-cap-clad players touring the new facility and snow covered much of the field. About half of the players grew up in warmer locations but Ethan Finlay from Marshfield, Wisconsin, and Brent Kallman and Eric Miller from Woodbury should feel right at home.

I know it's spring because the streets are filled with potholes. You can spot them by the collection of roadside hubcaps knocked from wheels hitting the craters. I'll bet alignment shops and tire stores love spring.

Now, more about daylight-saving time. Again this spring, there's a push to make it permanent instead of springing ahead and falling back each year. The week after a time change has been found to lead to more car and work accidents, heart attacks and headaches, as well as decreased work productivity. It is estimated the resulting loss in productivity costs the United States economy \$434 million a year.

The permanent daylight time push comes from Florida, where theme park operations are happy to welcome you at Christmas or during spring break without having to turn on park lights



contributed photo

Before the March 9 snow storm, Jeff Petersen spotted this wishful scene in the Northland Park neighborhood.

Mike Knaak
Editor



until later in the evening.

Of course, permanent daylight-saving time would mean the sun would not be directly overhead at noon, rendering useless your backyard sundial.

Worse, in the dead of winter, the sun wouldn't rise until almost 9 a.m., long after most of have left for work or school.

The calendar and when the sun sets doesn't help mark the change in seasons. I'll really know it's spring when I can watch outdoor sports without a winter jacket, drive on smooth roads and see green instead of mountains of white out my windows.

Do not discard your Social Security card

Dennis Dalman
Reporter



Whatever you do, do not throw away your Social Security card.

About a year ago, while weeding useless cards from my stuffed wallet, I came across a fragment of something that in ancient times had once been my Social Security card. Faded, scuffed, creased and thin as onion-skin, it looked like a tattered scrap from one of the Dead Sea scrolls. Time to toss it, I foolishly decided. Why keep it? My Social Security number has long been "tattooed" in my memory, so much so it's probably the only thing I'll remember for sure when I end up in a memory-care unit.

(Which reminds me: They constantly warn us never to give out Social Security numbers and yet every time we fill out a form, an application, anything at all, they insist we cough up a Social Security number. Thus, my number has become engraved into my very being.)

Recently, I had to renew my driver's license. I'd learned earlier I could get a "Real ID," which would be included in the cost of renewal, \$25.25. A Real ID will become necessary, as an added security measure, starting in October 2020 for anyone who wants to board an airplane for domestic flights. To get that ID, I needed to bring my birth certificate, Social Security number and two bills show-

ing current address. Well and fine. I grabbed two bill statements and took the copy of my birth certificate from my file cabinet, then off I went to the government center.

At the service counter, I showed those papers, and like a robot I was about to rattle off my Social Security number. Then she asked for the card. Oops! The actual card, she said, is required for the Real ID. Oh well. I asked could I bring the card later, once I get a new one, and still get the Real ID included in the cost I was about to pay for my regular driver's license? Nope. She explained the Real ID is a kind of enhanced driver's license that allows one to fly as well as drive. It's a two-in-one card, not an added one in addition to a regular driver's license, as I'd thought.

Oh well. I won't be flying the friendly skies anytime soon. I'll have to get a new Social Security card and then a Real ID, just in case, so I'll be good-to-go when I win some fabulous trip.

Anyway, here's my advice: Mem-

orize your Social Security number if you haven't already. Do not keep the card on your person. Put it in an alphabetized folder in a filing cabinet or in a safety-deposit box. Check the expiration date on your driver's license (it always falls on your birthday, every four years). If you don't have a copy of your birth certificate, go get one and file that, too. That way, you'll be all set when you go off to get a new driver's license, one with Real ID status. Then you will be able to fly within the United States with that ID or with a passport. You will still need a passport for foreign travel.

Oh, and one more thing: When you go for license renewal, be sure to bring your eyeglasses. When I peered into the vision-testing gizmo at the license bureau, the woman told me to read the letters on the upper line. For a split second I panicked; the entire line was a hopeless blur. In the next split second, one of huge relief, I realized I didn't have my glasses on. I'd put them in my shirt pocket 10 minutes earlier so I could squint closely, like Mr. Magoo, at the microscopic print on the renewal form. Grabbing my glasses, I managed to identify the letters – or most of them.

Embarrassed, I laughed. She laughed, too. She was probably thinking, "He doesn't need a license renewal; he needs a dog and a cane."

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.

Saturday, March 23
Blast from the Past, St. Cloud Figure Skating Club show, 1:30 and 7 p.m., St. Cloud Municipal Athletic Complex.
Liturgy in French, 4:30 p.m., Sacred Heart Chapel, 104 Chapel Lane, St. Benedict’s Monastery.

Sunday, March 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.
Confronting Power and Violence with Faith-Focused Action, 1-4:30 p.m., Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 4310 CR 137, St Cloud. bethlehemplutheran.org/domorethanpray.
Blast from the Past, St. Cloud Figure Skating Club show, 1:30 p.m., St. Cloud Municipal Athletic Complex.

Monday, March 25
St. Cloud school district Community Link-ages 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.
St. Joseph Park Board, 6 p.m., Government Center, 75 Callaway St. SE., St. Joseph.
St. Joseph Township, 8 p.m., St. Joseph Township Hall, 935 College Ave. S.

Tuesday, March 26
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.
Joint Cities Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Waite Park Public Works Facility, 670 17th Ave. S., Waite Park.
Collegeville Township, 7 p.m., Township Hall, 27724 CR 50.
Wednesday, March 27
Health and Fitness Fair, 8 a.m.-noon, Whitney Center, 1529 Northway Drive, St. Cloud.

Thursday, March 28
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.

Saturday, March 30
Move the Mall Walk for Volunteerism, 8-10 a.m., Crossroads Center. Greater St. Cloud Retired and Senior Volunteer Program and Catholic Charities Foster Grandparent Program. ci.stcloud.mn.us/RSVP.

Sunday, March 31
Abuse and Power in Relationships, 1-4:30 p.m., Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 4310 CR 137, St Cloud. bethlehemplutheran.org/domorethanpray.

Monday, April 1
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.
St. Joseph City Council, 6 p.m., Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E.

Tuesday, April 2
Memory Writers group develops topics and turns in stories. 10 a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S, St Cloud.
St. Joseph Lions membership/executive board meeting, 7 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. meeting followed by board meeting, Millstream Park, new Lions building.

Wednesday, April 3
Advocates for Independence, 2-4 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids. 320-529-9000.

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

Thursday, April 4
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.

Friday, April 5
Lenten Fish Fry, sponsored by Farming Lions, 4:30-8:30 p.m., Trappers Pub & Grub, Farming.
Baseball Fish Fry Fund-raiser, sponsored by the St. Joseph Joes amateur baseball team, 5-8 p.m., La Playette Bar.

Saturday, April 6
Kids Used Clothing sale, sponsored by St. Cloud Area Mothers of Multiples, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Discovery Community School, 700 Seventh St. S., Waite Park.

Sunday, April 7
Faith and Prevention of Violence from a Muslim and Jewish Perspective, 1-4:30 p.m., Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 4310 CR 137, St Cloud. To register, bethlehemplutheran.org/domorethanpray.



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.
Words do not express our sorrow for all those families who have suffered yet another atrocity in two of the mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand. We stand united with our Somali and Muslim community here in St. Joseph and offer our prayers for healing throughout the world.
Cultural Bridges/Central Minnesota Community Empowerment Organization of St. Joseph also supports a statement from the Greater St. Cloud Area Faith Leaders and reaffirms its commitment to continue its daily work to build an inclusive community with our Somali brothers and sisters.
Two of the board members of CMCEO are also members of the faith leaders, Jama Alimad and Jon Armajani.

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

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Helpful neighbors pitch in to clear snow

by **Darren Diekmann**
news@thenewsleaders.com

It is a wide driveway, almost 30 feet, and John Kalla makes one last pass with his snowblower along the outside edge to make sure all the pavement is clear of the recent 6 inches of snowfall last Friday.

The driveway is on the south-east side of St. Joseph, but it's not John's driveway. It belongs to his cross-street neighbors John and Julie Taufen. It is his third driveway of the day, yet he still takes care to attend to details as if it were his own. As he does with his own side of the street, Kalla always widens the street in front of Taufen's house. This time he cuts 2 feet into the snow bank that was piled up by the city plow, and always clears a large area around the fire hydrant on the corner.

John does not labor alone. He has the company of Shirley, his wife, who makes sure the sidewalks and steps are clear and serves as manager and spokes-

person of the operation. For the Kallas, both 82, the word spry seems an inadequate description. Robust is more accurate. After more than an hour outside on an unseasonably cold night, John appears tired but happy. Shirley seems as though she has enough energy to clear three more driveways.

John, a carpenter with Local 930 in St. Cloud, and Shirley, a nurse from the Buffalo Hospital, both retired in 1992.

Shirley says that helping others keeps them young. "We have the time. We might as well be doing something active and helpful," Shirley said.

Besides the Taufens, the Kallas will sometimes help a few others down the road, including the Novaks next door.

"The Novaks are nice people. They are busy working people with two kids. They're good kids," Shirley said. "We enjoy it anyway, and have the time, so why not help out. They're very appreciative; the Taufens are too."



photo by Darren Diekmann

John Kalla clears snow from around the fire hydrant on the corner lot of his neighbor, John Taufen.

"They are the best neighbors you could have," John Taufen said. "They would do anything for you. And for their age, it's amazing. They have more energy than we do."

Taufen used to take care of his own snow but his asthma has worsened and is aggravated by

the cold. The Kallas know this and it's one of the reasons they help out, he said.

"It will be below zero, but it won't be unusual to see them out there at the crack of dawn until sunset," he said.

The Kallas may be unusual in their dedication, but after any

snow, you can find people helping others.

Of the several people spoken to March 8, about half said they had or would be helping a neighbor with their snow.

Cole Thomas, who also lives on the southeast side, said he recently bought a snow blower. Inspired by the generosity of his next-door neighbor, he, in turn, has begun to help his elderly neighbors.

"Everybody helps each other out," Thomas said.

Across the street from Thomas is Jim Uphoff. He has an agreement with Trent Rothstein next door: in exchange for the use of Uphoff's lawn mower and snowblower for his own property, Rothstein would take care of the lawn mowing and snow removal for Uphoff.

"I have to use a walker and I couldn't do it myself," Uphoff said. "Between Trent and Andy across the street, they get the job done. And as for neighbors, you can't beat them."

Putnam to leave Kennedy

by **Cori Hilsgen**
news@thenewsleaders.com

Kennedy Community School principal Laurie Putnam has been appointed to a new position as the assistant superintendent of secondary education and will be leaving Kennedy at the end of the school year.

In her new position, she will oversee Kennedy as well as Apollo and Tech high schools, North and South junior high schools and McKinley-ALC.

"I have greatly enjoyed my time serving the Kennedy community," Putnam said. "The families, businesses and city leaders in St. Joseph have been supportive of both me and the work our staff do daily. We have such a talented, dedicated staff and truly amazing students at our school, and I will miss them greatly."

Anna Willhite, who is currently assigned to North Junior High School for the remainder of the year but plans to return as the assistant principal at Kennedy next year, has worked with Putnam at the school.

"Laurie Putnam is a passionate and inspiring educational leader and her leadership at Kennedy will be greatly missed," Willhite said. "Laurie has been an excellent mentor and has had a profound impact on the lives of the students, staff and families at Kennedy. Although I am sad to see her leaving our school community, I am excited she will still be supporting our Kennedy community at the district level."

Putnam has been the principal at Kennedy since 2015. Before that, she worked for three years as a counselor and assistant principal at South Junior High School and also worked in the Minneapolis school dis-



Putnam trict. In Minneapolis she worked as a school counselor, Small Learning Community coordinator and Title 1 coordinator at Edison High School. She also worked as a school counselor at Stadium View, a seventh-through 12th-grade school that Minneapolis runs inside the Hennepin County Short-Term Detention Facility.


"Leaving this incredible community was not an easy decision for me," Putnam said. "It's tough to leave a place where I have meaningful connections and to leave a team that's doing such great

work for students and families. Though it's hard to leave, I have grown as a leader during my tenure at Kennedy Community School, and I look forward to the new challenges ahead."

Putnam said she is thankful she will be able to continue serving the Kennedy community through her new district leadership role and looks forward to working with the other secondary schools in the district.

When her replacement is determined, Putnam said they will partner to provide a smooth transition of services and leadership for students, families and staff.

Kennedy currently has about 850 students in kindergarten through eighth-grade and about 50 more Pre-K students.






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