

Reaching Everybody!

Newsleaders

Check out our 2019 grad salute
in the center spread!

Friday, May 31, 2019
Volume 31, Issue 11
Est. 1989

Town Crier

NEW! Summer Kickoff at Lake George

Start off your summer with St. Cloud Park and Recreation during its Summer Kickoff from noon-3 p.m. Saturday, June 1 at Lake George! Enjoy the park and an afternoon of free family fun while learning about what Park and Recreation has to offer the whole family. Activities for everyone: learn to fish, take a paddleboat and/or canoe ride around the lake, plant a flower, sample the many food trucks, play yard games and try your hand at arts and crafts. Due to inclement weather, the event was rescheduled from the original May date.

Farmers' Market is open for season

The Sartell Farmers' Market is open for the season from 3-6 p.m. Mondays at Bernick's Arena off Pinecone Road. The market is open rain or shine with great vegetables including asparagus, lettuce and much more as the season advances. In addition to vegetables it carries plants, meat, eggs, great snacks, honey and canned goods.

Expect delays at I-94 interchange

Motorists on Interstate Hwy. 94 and CR 159 near Collegeville may encounter delays beginning Monday, June 3. The CR 159 bridge over I-94 will close. Both directions of I-94 at CR 159 will be reduced to a single lane. All ramps at the interchange will remain open.

Disaster Action Team members needed

American Red Cross Serving Central Minnesota is in need of Disaster Action Team members. Teams provide emergency response to local disasters, particularly house fires, ensuring those affected have access to resources for basic necessities such as food, shelter and clothing. Time commitment is four six-hour on-call shifts per month. Contact Ramona Lindholm, volunteer recruitment specialist, at ramona.lindholm@redcross.org or 507-387-6664 ext. 1504.

INSERT:
Country Manor



photo by Mike Knaak

American Legion honors the fallen on Memorial Day
Legionnaires from American Legion Post 328 of St. Joseph line up before marching to St. Joseph Catholic Church on Memorial Day. The color guard was joined by members of the Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion. Legion members also visited area cemeteries to honor fallen service members.

Pen pals meet in person at Kennedy School

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Elleah Eiyneck, a third-grader at Kennedy Community School, grinned bashfully when she finally met in person Samantha Ernst, the woman she'd been corresponding with for nearly a year.

Corresponding in this case means the old-fashioned way. Via hand-written letters. The kind you have to seal by licking the envelopes shut, the kind on which you have to slap on a postage stamp and drop in a mailbox.

Eiyneck, of St. Joseph, is just one of many Kennedy



photo by Dennis Dalman

Pen pals Elleah Eiyneck (left) and Samantha Ernst share a laugh during a Pen Pals program celebration among third-graders and adult pen-pal volunteers at Kennedy Community School May 23.

third-graders in the St. Cloud school district's Volunteer Pen Pal program. Two classes of the students had a chance to meet their correspondents in person May 23 at the school for two special get-together celebrations complete with juice and plates full of cookies. Some of the adult volunteers were not able to make the celebrations, which took place in two classrooms – those of teacher Ann Hartwig and Deanna Hausmann. Hausmann volunteered to shepherd the program at Kennedy several years ago.

The Pen Pals program promotes communication by chil-

Pen Pals • page 2

Kennedy Coding Club helps students explore computer science

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

Sixteen Kennedy Community School students recently participated in an after-school computer science coding club.

The club was named the Coding Club and students learned about coding and much more.

This is the first year the club has been avail-

able to students. Holly Nelson, librarian/media specialist at the school, and Peter Ohmann, assistant professor of computer science at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University, voluntarily directed the club which was available free to all students.

Nelson teaches computer coding for kindergarten through fifth-

ers at the school in the fall. This usually ends with an "Hour of Code" sponsored by Code.org.

She attended a two-day seminar last summer conducted by the Apple Company. While there, she learned about the company's computer coding software program, Swift Playground, which is designed for students.

Coding • page 3



contributed photo

Kennedy Community School students (left to right) Tara Moore and Paityn Rutz participate in Coding Club at Kennedy Community School.

Pen Pals

from front page

dren connecting with others (strangers at first) who are not related to their in-school social world. The pen-pal experience can also bridge cultural religious differences through kindness and understanding. And last but not least it promotes what seems to be a lost art in the computer era – good penmanship.

Pen Pals is just one of many offerings of the St. Cloud school district’s Community Education. So far, it is also being done by third-graders at Oak Hill and Talahi Community schools. There are plans to extend it to other schools in the coming years, said Nantha Viswanathan, a community education volunteer who attended the May 23 celebrations at Kennedy. There are about 40 volunteer pen pals who write the school’s third-graders once a month throughout the school year, Viswanathan noted.

When Eiyneck and Ernst met, they enjoyed their casual chat in teacher Hausmann’s bustling, noisy classroom.

“I like writing her,” Eiyneck said, smiling at Ernst. “We catch up on what is going on

in the school.”

Ernst works in planning and compliance for the Reading and Math program, which helps students in the school district develop and sharpen their skills in those areas.

“It’s so nice to meet Elle-ah,” she said. “I like the Pen Pals program because it’s a chance to help kids, to see what they’re doing and to help the kids and the volunteers feel rooted to the community.”

In teacher Hartwig’s classroom, just down the hall, students first shared some haikus they’d written. Then they paired up with their Pen Pals volunteers for heartfelt chats. Each of the students presented the pen pals with the latest letter they had written to them. Student Derek Hommerding of St. Cloud handed his letter to Margie Schlangen, also of St. Cloud. His letter was an exciting summary of what he’d seen on a trip to the Minnesota Zoo: a Komodo dragon, monkeys, a sloth and how he “even got to pet a shark.”

At another table sat student Maia Fremo of Cold Spring and her pen pal, Lori Eich of Sauk Rapids, who works for United Way.

Fremo’s letter expressed



photos by Dennis Dalman

Margie Schlangen (left) meets her young pen pal, Derek Hommerding, May 23 at Kennedy Community School May 23. Two classes of third-graders met their adult pen pals in person after exchanging letters for the past school year.

her excitement about an upcoming trip to Britain with her mother, who is an art teacher.

“I like writing,” Fremo said. “And I like to draw pictures too.”

Eich also enjoys writing, and being a pen pal is a great way to get to know someone – namely Maia – that she would otherwise not get to know.

At yet another table, student Salman Ahmed of St. Joseph visited with his pen pal Jane Holmberg of St. Cloud. Holmberg does work for the Boy Scouts and is also a member of the St. Cloud Optimists’ Club.

“A couple years ago, someone asked me to become part of the Pen Pals program,” said Holmberg. “I agreed, of course, because I always like meeting new kids.”



photo by Dennis Dalman

Kennedy Community School third-grade student Maia Fremo visits with her pen pal, Lori Eich.

Ahmed also likes the program because it’s fun to write letters and, he added, “because asking questions is fun.”

There is always a need for volunteers in the Pen Pals program. Those who volunteer must be 14 years old

or older and be willing to commit to the program (one letter per month) for at least one year.

To find out more about how to volunteer, visit the school district’s website at www.isd742.org/volunteer.

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Coding

from front page

Programs used

The Swift Playground program was used during the Coding Club and the integration of the Lego Mindstorm EV3 robot. Robots for the club were provided by the Colleges' computer science department.

The Lego Mindstorm's EV3 helped the students build, program and command Lego robots smarter and faster. Students were able to be in control of robots that drive, shoot, slither, walk, slam and spin.

By using the EV3 Programmer Application they were able to bring the robot to life with a tablet. This allowed students to steer the robots and play challenging games with friends.

Kennedy, CSB/SJU collaboration

Nelson and Ohmann decided to collaborate for this program because they felt it provides an excellent after-school option for students who are interested in science, technology, engineering and math. Also, because computing is not a historically diverse field, they felt they could help change this.

At the university level, the national percentage of women who graduate with a computer science degree is about 10 percent, and ethnic minority groups make up about 5 percent of all computer-science graduates.

They said part of the goal of the program is to offer Kennedy students from various backgrounds a chance to gain exposure to computing and science, technology, engineering and math topics. They felt it was especially important for them to introduce computing to students who might not have otherwise thought it was "for them."

Nelson said the students are developing computational thinking skills that will benefit them no matter what they choose for their career.

"Developing a program for a computer is not so different than a chef developing a new recipe," she said. "Computational thinking is the thought processes involved in formulating a problem and expressing its solution(s) in such a way that a computer, human or machine, can effectively carry out."

Ohmann said the program is an opportunity for College of St. Benedict and St. John's University students to develop a culture of volunteering and giving back to their area, as well as important skills in communicating and teaching others about their computing knowledge. Explaining solutions to others is often more difficult than solving the problem in the first place.

Nelson submitted an application for the Spring 2019 Local Education and Activities Foundation grants made available to St. Cloud school district teachers to purchase a robot that was used with this program and received a \$500 grant. A robot has been ordered for students to use in the Makerspace, which is a creative space at Kennedy for students to explore many activities.

Student experiences

Some of the Coding Club participants commented on their experience.

"I am so sad this is our last day of coding club," said fifth-grader Spencer Olson. "I've had so much fun."

"Thank you so much, Mrs. Nelson, for volunteering and doing this for us," said fifth-grader Donovan Figalto. "I really liked it."

Volunteer College of St. Benedict students My Nguyen and Mengzhen Li, who are both studying computer science, commented about their experience with the program.

Nguyen said her favorite part of the collaborated program was to interact with the kids and help them explore their interest in computer science.

"It's satisfying both for the kids and me to go out of our comfort zone and try new things, such as how to write a line of code or how to work with a partner to complete a program," she said.

Nguyen said working with the students was the greatest benefit she got from helping with the club.

"When I work with the kids, I learn more about myself and the kids I'm working with," she said. "I get a chance to share my passion for computer science with the kids. The students also learn a lot in this club including teamwork skills, and problem-solving skills. I think the program went very well this semester and it should continue on."

Li said her favorite part of the program is the sense of achievement.

"We truly feel these kids' excitement when they do the robotic program and their happiness after they succeed," she



contributed photos

Kennedy Community School fifth-graders Tara Moore (left) and Evie Houston participate in Coding Club.

said. "As a volunteer, this is what I want to see. It is really nice to see all of them make their own progress. I also found some students are really talented in coding and I was impressed by their talent."

Li said she became more familiar with robots through the program.

"You have to know how to do the EV3 program first, and then you have the ability to teach them," she said. "The students in the club can have a basic understanding of coding and find their interests in it. It is a good experience for them."

Kennedy students who participated in the program included Hamda Ahmed, Carlie Braegelmann, Xavier Brophy, Finnian Brown Conway, Figalto, Lily Haffner, Evie Houston, Lane McIntyre, Tara Moore, Olson, Joseph Rassier, Mikeal



Kennedy fifth-graders (left) Donovan Figalto and Spencer Olson participate in an after-school Coding Club at Kennedy Community School.

Rogalski, Carter Rosty, Paityn Rutz, Aaron Spiczka and Lucas Waldusky.

College of St. Benedict com-

puter science students who volunteered for the collaborated program included Li, Nguyen and Karen Phillips.

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Cathedral Ultimate hosts tournament at Apollo

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

The Cathedral Ultimate Club recently hosted the Granite City Classic Ultimate, formerly known as Ultimate Frisbee, tournament May 4 and 5 at St. Cloud Apollo High School for area schools.

The tournament began May 4 with four rounds of play, with a showcase game at noon featuring the Drag'n Thrust team, a coed adult elite club team from the Twin Cities, against the tournament coaches. Sunday's events included another four rounds of ultimate play.

The Cathedral Phoenix women's team finished second in their division and the Cathedral Griffin men's team finished third in their division.

The Armstrong High School, Plymouth, women's team and the Great River School, St. Paul, men's team took first place.

In ultimate, players are constantly moving and passing. They score by catching a pass in the opponent's end zone. Players must stop running while in possession of a disc but can pivot and pass to other receivers on the field. Players rapidly move from offense to defense on turnovers that occur on dropped or out-of-bound passes, interceptions or when players are caught holding the disc more than ten seconds.

Spirit of the Game

Ultimate is governed by Spirit of the Game, sportsmanship that puts the responsibility for-



contributed photo

Ultimate players gather for a Spirit circle after competing. Spirit circles, where players from both teams gather in a circle and give compliments and have fun with players from the opposing team, happen at the end of every game at every level of play from middle school to college and pro teams.

fair play on players instead of referees. It is also a sport that is self-officiating, meaning the players on the field decide if a goal was in or out-of-bounds and more. It also means the players learn to call fouls on their opponent or on themselves. Coaches do not get involved in these decisions.

Jeny Meyer, president of the Cathedral Ultimate Club, said the game of ultimate has many unique features to it.

"We have as part of our game culture, Spirit of the Game," she said. "It encompasses many things, but most uniquely, the players referee themselves. I love watching the sport, my kids love playing it."

Meyer said it ends up being a fantastic way for the club's athletes to learn to develop communication skills and learn how to be confident in themselves while calling fouls and discussing them with their op-



contributed photo

Cathedral Ultimate Club 11th-grader (front, left, center) Will Medvec, leaps for the disc, as teammate 12th-grader (front, right, center) Peter Berg stays close to be his backup during the May 4 and 5 Granite City Classic tournament held at Apollo High School.

ponents.

Players also learn to understand integrity by calling fouls on themselves if they realize

they've made an error on the field.

"As a parent, it's so fun to watch players develop that side of their game play," Meyer said. "It really translates immediately into other areas of their lives."

Spirit of the Game for the ultimate players includes everything about good sportsmanship and progressing the sport of ultimate. Spirit circles, where players from both teams gather in a circle (often intentionally standing one team player next to the opposing team player) and give compliments and have

fun with players from the opposing team, happen at the end of every game at every level of play from middle school to college and pro teams.

Some of the Cathedral Ultimate Club players commented about the spirit circles.

"What I love about spirit circles is after a long hard-fought game, we can still come together and say nice things about each other, said 12th-grader Nicole Fish of St. Joseph. "It makes ultimate feel more like a team sport. Even though we are on different teams, we can still come together to enjoy such a fun sport. Spirit of the Game means we ref ourselves. This means we have to trust the other team to make the right calls and they have to trust us to do the same. This creates bonds between all of us despite the competition."

"One of my favorite parts about spirit circles are the various spirit awards that teams give out, from carrots, buttons and mini-Frisbees," said 12th-grader Peter Berg of Sartell. "It's really fun to see how people react to getting a spirit award, and also how they use it, usually to see if they can eat a food item in one bite. Spirit of the game is my favorite part about ultimate since it makes the sport different from any other sport I've ever played. Since I grew up playing hockey there was always a very competitive atmosphere, but when I joined ultimate I was amazed at everyone's ability to have so much fun while still working as hard as possible."

This is Meyer's second year as president and tournament director for the Granite City Classic tournament, which began in 2003.

Teams from around the state compete in the tournament. Currently, only high school teams compete. Cathedral's middle school team has a different schedule.

Cathedral • page 8

St. Cloud Rotary's

SUMMERTIME

by George!

2019

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April 10
6:59 p.m. Driving complaint. CR 75. After stopping a vehicle for erratic driving, the officer conducted a field sobriety test and also learned the driver had a revoked license. The driver was cited for driving after revocation.

April 11
5:22 p.m. Collision. CR 75 and CR 133. On slippery roads, vehicle two rear-ended vehicle one as they were heading east and approaching the stoplight at CR 133. When the light turned yellow, vehicle two could not stop in time. One passenger was taken to St. Cloud Hospital for possible neck injuries.

April 12
8:13 p.m. Suspicious person. CR 75 W. A suspicious man was reported at Subway. The officer determined the man was not under the influence. The man said he was on his way home from work.

April 13
9:27 a.m. Fraud. Second Avenue NW. A man reported fraud

with his debit card. He believed he lost it in Kwik Trip at 1:25 a.m. The card was used at 4:22 a.m. He canceled the card and he was going to dispute the latter charge.

April 16
1:15 p.m. Theft. Cedar Street E. A manager reported a theft from a trailer at Powerhouse. Total value of the items was \$220.

April 17
9:13 p.m. Fire. First Avenue NE. Officers were dispatched to a kitchen fire caused by grease on the stove. When officers arrived, the fire was out but the house was smoky. The fire department was called for ventilation. A man spilled grease on his hand while throwing the pan outside but he declined medical treatment.

April 20
1:23 p.m. Assault. 20th Avenue SE. An assault in progress was reported at Kwik Trip. Two men were arguing about a woman. One man threw chips and a sandwich at the car but the man claimed he never physically assaulted the other man or the woman.

April 30
9:06 a.m. Theft. Baker Street E. A woman reported an Xbox she bought on eBay had been stolen from her porch after it had been delivered by the Postal Service. Value of \$359.99. The item was purchased on April 3 and delivered on April 5.

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photo by Linda Bauer

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Lee Meyer holds a baby squirrel that he found in Klinefelter Park near his home in Serenity Village in late April. Unfortunately, the squirrel later died.

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Cathedral

from page 4

Middle-school program

In 2018, the Minnesota Ultimate season had the largest middle-school program in the nation with 42 teams. This year it has 48 teams.

Jake McKean, Minnesota Ultimate program director, said several aspects of the middle-school ultimate league make it stand out in a crowded sports landscape. These include that participants play with a disc instead of a ball. They also play a coed game that is inclusive of boys, girls, and non-gender binary participants.

He said the understanding of how young athletes, and young people in general, develop suggests we do not need to say some activities are strictly for girls, while others are for boys, and that they should not participate together. In fact, they can, and they should, participate together.

McKean said they are seeing a lot of positive outcomes from that strategy; breaking down stigmas of what each athlete is capable of and encouraging respect for all participants.

Because players self-officiate, they learn conflict resolution, advocacy, compassion and trust. Players who start at a young age are tuned into what is right and wrong and do not need a third party to make that decision for them and this removes blaming the referee.

He said the sport is affordable. Minnesota Ultimate works



contributed photo

Cathedral Ultimate Club 12th-grader (front, center) Jeremiah Kresky prepares to pass the disc to a teammate during the competition at Granite City Classic.

with schools and programs such as Cathedral Ultimate to get quality, trained coaches to supervise and instruct athletes. After that overhead, the costs are comparatively low. There aren't expensive and elite camps, or a lot of personal equipment and the program does not need to pay for referees.

Ultimate is a noncontact sport and reduces the need for equipment and also reduces the number of serious injuries when compared with other sports.

McKean said because of the amount of running, use of hand-to-eye coordination, pivoting, change of direction, jumping and field awareness, ultimate offers great cross-training for other sports.

Joan and Fred Krueger, St.

Cloud, have three children, fifth-grader Joey, sixth-grader Lizzie, and ninth-grader Matthew who are ultimate players.

"I love that it's self-officiated," Joan Krueger said. "It teaches them conflict-resolution skills and respect for the other players. It truly supports good sportsmanship which other sports try to promote but often fail. There is no complaining about the ref after the game by the players or spectators. I'll never forget the first time I saw a spirit circle after a game. Complimenting the other team and giving the other players spirit awards to show appreciation for their gamesmanship is unheard of in other sports."

She said she likes that people of all ages can play the sport to-

gether. Watching older children look out for younger ones is spectacular.

Open to area schools

Meyer said the Cathedral Ultimate Club was started by Cathedral High School students, but the club welcomes students from all area schools. Originally it included only high school students but now also includes middle-school students. The program currently includes participants from fifth- through 12th-grade on three teams. Fifth-through eighth-graders play mixed with boys and girls on teams together.

About 60 students from Albany High School, Apollo High School, Cathedral, Kennedy Community School, North Ju-

nior High School, St. Kathrine Drexel and South Junior High participate in the club.

Drag'n Thrust showcase game

The Drag'n Thrust team, who played the tournament showcase game, has won three national championships.

"I like to see the showcase game because I think it's cool to see our coaches play and to see more experienced players play the game," said Cathedral 10th-grader Josie Meyer.

"I like them coming, it's certainly fun to see them so we can watch our coaches play and see some more professional players," said Cathedral 12th-grader Jeremiah Kresky. "I think one of the most important things that stands out in ultimate that you don't see as often is the spirit, not just your own team but the other team as well. We have fun and joke around with other teams so much and that just makes the game so much more fun than any other sport I can think of."

Jeny Meyer said she felt their showcase game offered high-school players and their families a chance to see the elevated level of play they can strive for and what options players have.

Ultimate is a sport for all ages, something players can continue to play through college and beyond, with it being played in more than 80 countries.

Locally, the College of St. Benedict, St. Cloud State University and St. John's University have ultimate programs.

For more information, contact Cathedral Ultimate at cathedral-ultimatefrisbee@gmail.com or McKean at jmckean@MinnesotaUltimate.org.

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Valek’s Air Force service landed him in Alaska

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

Robert “Bob” Raymond Valek, 76, Air Force, Vietnam Era. Valek was born at home – a 160-acre dairy farm in Scott County, just outside of New Prague.

Farm work was hard work. “If I saw a job to be done I did it,” he said. “I didn’t have to be told.”

Besides milking 36 cows, the Valek family raised hogs and chickens. The sale of eggs bought the groceries.

Valek was very active in 4H and FFA. By temperament, he was introspective and reserved, but a leader none the less. Valek graduated from New Prague High School in 1961. While in school, he lettered in football and baseball.

After high school, not unlike most graduates, Valek wrestled with important life choices.

Contrary to his parent’s hopes, he did not want to spend his life farming. It was a painful decision because he knew well how disappointed his father was about his decision.

Valek is the oldest of five siblings. The farm was sold while he was in the Air Force. His decision not to farm prompted a good outcome for his parents.

Valek’s decision to join the Air Force served two purposes: it allowed him to “escape farming”



contributed photo
Robert Valek, 1961.

at the same time providing him the financial means, G.I. Bill, to pursue a college education.

Valek enlisted in the Air Force on Oct. 8, 1961. He signed up for four years. He completed eight weeks of basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. The “worst part of basic was pulling K.P.”

After basic training, Valek was transferred to Greenville, Mississippi. He was in the Deep South well before the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which banned racial discrimination. Valek well remembers the “white only” bathrooms, water fountains and other blatant signs of segregation.

Valek was trained in personnel and record keeping. He reminds us in the early 60s there were no computers. “Everything was on paper.” In spite of doing very well in training, Valek did not get his dream job; Europe or the Far East. He was given orders to report to Eielson Air Force Base. The closest large city was Fairbanks, Alaska. As he recalls,

the base was strategically located “26 miles from nowhere.”

Valek was stationed there for 18 months. Because Alaska was outside the contiguous 48 states, he got “overseas pay.” The coldest temperature he recalls was 46 degrees below zero with 22 hours of darkness. The roads were never plowed. So in spring, driving in the ruts became a challenge.

His duties among many were to encourage re-enlistments. Go figure! Valek was nominated for Airman of the Quarter for the entire base. He got out of K.P. duty.

On Oct. 1, 1963, Valek was reassigned to Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, Colorado.

Instead of flying back, he and a buddy bought a 1955 Oldsmobile and drove the scenic but perilous Alcan Highway (2,355 miles from Alaska through Canada to Washington State). At that time it was a gravel road for 1,255 miles.

Travel time from Fairbanks to

Valek • back page

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Opinion

Our View

What has always and never been?

Graduation. For parents it’s a time of pride. For students, it’s a time to celebrate achievements past and the adult challenges ahead.

As we mark this annual passage for our community’s young people, it’s time for the rest of us...friends, family and coworkers...to examine the mindset of this year’s high school seniors.

For the last 20 years, Beloit College has compiled “The Mindset List” for 18 year olds. It’s an annual compilation of what has always and never been.

Reading the list may help us enjoy commencement and graduation parties with the newest group of young adults.

Highlights from the list:

Among the iconic figures never alive in their lifetime are Victor Borge, Charles Schulz and the original Obi-Wan Kenobi Alec Guinness.

They are the first class born in the new millennium, escaping the dreaded label of “Millennial,” though their new designation—iGen, GenZ, etc. — has not yet been agreed upon by them.

Outer space has never been without human habitation.

They have always been able to refer to Wikipedia.

They have grown up afraid that a shooting could happen at their school too.

People loudly conversing with themselves in public are no longer thought to be talking to imaginary friends.

Afghanistan has always been the frustrating quagmire that keeps on giving.

Same-sex couples have always found marital bliss in the Netherlands.

When filling out forms, they are not surprised to find more than two gender categories to choose from.

Presidential candidates winning the popular vote and then losing the election are not unusual.

They’ve grown up with stories about where their grandparents were on 11/22/63 and where their parents were on 9/11.

They will never fly TWA, Swissair or Sabena airlines.

The Tower of Pisa has always had a prop to keep it leaning.

The Prius has always been on the road in the United States.

They never used a spit bowl in a dentist’s office.

They have never seen a crosstown World Series.

“You’ve got mail” would sound as ancient to them as “number, please” would have sounded to their parents.

A visit to a bank has been a rare event.

Unable to come up with a new tune, Russians have always used the old Soviet national anthem.

Horton has always heard a Who on stage in “Seussical the Musical.”

Robert Downey Jr. has always been the sober Iron Man.

Exotic animals have always been providing emotional support to passengers on planes.

Lightbulbs have always been shatterproof.

Xlerators have always been drying hands in 15 seconds with a roar.

I Love You has always been a computer virus.

Thumbprints have always provided log-in security — and are harder to lose — than a password.

Google Doodles have never recognized major religious holidays.

Chernobyl has never produced any power in their lifetimes.

Donny and Marie who?

There have always been more than a billion people in India.

Films have always been distributed on the Internet.

Environmental disasters such as the BP Deep-water Horizon, and the coal sludge spill in Martin City, Kentucky, have always exceeded the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

The detachable computer mouse is almost extinct.

Israeli troops have never occupied Southern Lebanon.

None having served there, American Presidents have always visited Vietnam as commander-in-chief.

Congratulations, class of 2019. What will the list look like when today’s kindergartners finish high school?

Will fans fill new stadiums when teams fail?

Mike Knaak
Editor



stadium as fans were eager to see baseball in the sun after years in the gloomy Metrodome. That first year, 3.2 million fans filled the seats. The Twins postseason campaign ended quickly in the Division Series against the feared Yankees. After two losses at home and one in New York, the season was over.

In 2011, with hopes for a longer post-season run, attendance held steady with 3.1 million paying customers.

Then, as the shine wore off the new stadium and the Twins sunk in the standings, so did attendance. With only one postseason appearance – a one and done wild-card loss in 2017 – and two last-places, attendance dropped to 1.9 million last year.

Now with a new manager and new lineup, the Twins are in first place with the best record in baseball. The fans returned for a couple of sellouts over Memorial Day weekend.

Over in St. Paul, Minnesota United continues to fill its 20,000-seat capacity stadium. Will fickle fans keep coming if the team doesn’t produce? The Loons missed the MLS postseason during their first two years. An improved team this year finds itself above the line and they haven’t lost at home.

When the team played at TCF, around 22,000 people showed up and for the last

game there last year, about 50,000 fans attended.

Meanwhile, baseball in general is suffering from dropping attendance. League-wide attendance in 2018 declined for the sixth straight season, to 28,659 per game, down 13 percent from its 2007 peak.

Fans say the games take too long and the pace is too slow. Despite minor changes to speed up the game, the average nine-inning game has taken 3 hours 2 minutes so far in 2019, just a few ticks below the 2017 record of 3:05 and about 15 minutes longer than it was 30 years ago.

Soccer doesn’t have a pace problem. The action continues for two 45-minute halves with no time outs or breaks for television commercials. Leave your seat for a beer or a trip to the restroom and you will surely miss something. With halftime figured in, the match is over in two hours.

While baseball leaders mull moving the mound back and limiting relief pitching changes, baseball may have another long-term problem.

As a regular fan of both teams, I’ve observed a younger and much more diverse crowd at Allianz Field than at Target Field.

A Gallup poll found that 7 percent of Americans named soccer as their favorite sport to watch. While that may not sound like much, the figure represents a significant, three-percentage-point gain from just four years ago. Baseball scored 9 percent, down from 13 percent four years ago.

Among adults aged 18-34, soccer was the favorite sport of 11 percent. Six percent chose baseball as their favorite sport.

The Twins’ challenge may be demographics, not numbers on the scoreboard.

MIAC booting St. Thomas shameful, wrong

Connor Kockler
Guest Writer



schools that dominate in one sport or the other.

Every college is different and attracts different kinds of students. The other MIAC schools have strong programs in other sports that consistently beat St. Thomas for titles. Just because St. Thomas has more teams placing higher in the standings across 22 men’s and women’s competitions sponsored by the MIAC doesn’t mean they’re winning every title or game.

What did the MIAC schools even have to gain by kicking St. Thomas out? I’ve struggled to answer that question myself. Kicking out a conference member doesn’t make the remaining teams any better. It’s more telling to look at how this process was conducted. On May 22, the MIAC schools decided in secret to expel St. Thomas. There was no on-the-record vote, though St. Thomas, St. John’s, St. Benedict and Bethel voiced opposition to the action. Because a vote of nine members was required to take this action, the remaining nine schools in the MIAC must have voted to remove.

Shame on them. If the presidents of the MIAC schools really believed this was the correct decision to make, they would have had a public news conference and personally laid out the reasons why they believed the MIAC was better off without St. Thomas. Instead, the conference issued a press

release and the presidents have largely refused to make any statements about the matter. This running and hiding is a clear sign even they know the terrible consequences this decision will have.

Morally, especially for the religious tradition these schools have, kicking out someone because they are better than you is a terrible message to send students. In the real world, there will always be people who are better than you at something. You won’t always win, but the most important thing is making your best effort, and then learning lessons to improve your performance in the future.

Financially, having St. Thomas in the conference, especially with the Tommie-Johnnie football rivalry, has been a massive publicity boost to the MIAC, even resulting in ESPN2 coming to Collegeville to cover the game. Losing St. Thomas would take this focus somewhere else, reducing the exposure the MIAC has to prospective college students. It has already been a public-relations disaster as well, with several national outlets commenting on St. Thomas being booted for being “too good,” harming the reputation of the MIAC across the nation.

This decision was a self-serving ploy by nine of the MIAC schools to satisfy their interests, rather than the conference as a whole. The students and alumni of the MIAC should stand together to make known their opposition to this action, and advocate for it to be reversed.

Connor Kockler is a student at St. John’s University. He enjoys writing, politics and news, among other interests.

News for Refugees

Ogeysiis! Importante para Usted, por favor léalo Please read! Announcements brought to

you by Cultural Bridges of St. Joseph, a committee of Central Minnesota Community Empowerment Organization. We are dedicated to ease your transition into our community.

Mary Quinlivan is on the Cultural Bridges Steering Committee and her group is working with a number of Somali

families that are having their first attempt at gardening at the Monastery of St. Benedict community gardens. They are planning to have a planting meeting from 2-4 p.m. Sunday June 2, at the community gardens down the road on Sunset Drive and past the Spirituality Center where the morning ESL classes are held.

If you are a gardener and if you are available on June 2, it would be great if you would join them. They could use about eight people who would be willing to teach how to make rows, use the tools and how to plant the seeds and plants. If you have an interest and are not available on June 2, please let us know when

you are available.

The group could also use one or two Somali interpreters to help with communication.

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.

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.

Friday, May 31

Brat sale, sponsored by Y2K Lions, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., St. Joseph Meat Market, 26 First Ave. NW. Proceeds donated to Project New Hope.

St. Joseph Farmers’ Market, 3-6 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, under the water tower near the Wobegon Trail Center, CR 2.

Saturday, June 1

Collegeville Township Cleanup Day, 7-11 a.m.

Brat sale, sponsored by Y2K Lions, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., St. Joseph Meat Market, 26 First Ave. NW. Proceeds donated to Project New Hope.

Sunday, June 2

Breakfast, sponsored by Knights of Columbus, 8:30 a.m.-noon, dining hall, Church of St. Joseph School, 12 W. Minnesota St. Proceeds will be donated to the Knights of Columbus Seminarian Fund.

Monday, June 3

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, June 4

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

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

Wednesday, June 5

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

Sauk Rapids. 320-529-9000.

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

Thursday, June 6

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, June 7

Burger and brat sale, sponsored by the American Legion Post 328 of St. Joseph, St. Joseph Meat Market, 26 First Ave. NW.

St. Joseph Farmers’ Market, 3-6 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, under the water tower near the Wobegon Trail Center, CR 2.

Saturday, June 8

Burger and Brat Sale, sponsored by the St. Joseph American Legion Post 328, St. Joseph

Meat Market, 26 First Ave. NW.

Caramel Roll Ride, sponsored by the Lake Wobegon Trail Association, 8 a.m., Lake Wobegon Trail. Check in and registration at the Albany trail-head.

Sunday, June 9

Parish Bazaar, 8 a.m.-noon breakfast, 9 a.m. Mass, events continue until 4 p.m., St. James Parish, Jacobs Prairie.

Monday, June 10

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

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

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

Tuesday, June 11

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

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

Wednesday, June 12

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

Thursday, June 13

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

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

Friday, June 14

St. Joseph Farmers’ Market, 3-6 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, under the water tower near the Wobegon Trail Center, CR 2.

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contributed photo

The Lake Wobegon Trail in St. Joseph.

Deals link businesses, bicyclists on trail

A new program encourages more bicycling by using incentives with businesses along the Lake Wobegon Trail.

The Bicycle Benefits Business program encourages biking to a business through incentives that are awarded to customers who arrive by bike and show their Bike Benefits helmet sticker. Helmet stickers are purchased by the customer for \$5 and are good at any participating business.

Rewards and discounts vary by business but can include two-for-one, discounts or free items. Participating businesses sign up for the program by purchasing a start-up kit for \$26.75. The kit includes 10 helmet stickers, a listing on the Bicycle Benefits website and inclusion in local promotions.

“This is a wonderful program that links bicycling and business to the benefit of both,” said Pia Lopez, board president for Minnesota Street Market.

Businesses that are planning

to participate in the program so far include Local Blend, Minnesota Street Market and Bad Habit Brewing in St. Joseph. Other area businesses include Nori Café, Good Earth Food Co-Op and House of Pizza in St. Cloud and Gathering Ground and Fisher’s Club in Avon. The first 20 participating businesses get a free start-up kit.

Support for the program comes from the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership, Bike St. Cloud and the Lake Wobegon Trail Association.

The Lake Wobegon Trail is 65 miles long and runs from Waite Park through St. Joseph, Albany, Holdingford, Bowlus, Freeport, Melrose, Sauk Centre, West Union and Osakis.

For more information on the Bicycle Benefits Business program, or to sign up, contact Allison Dudek at Stearns County Public Health at 320-656-6083 or allison.dudek@co.stearns.mn.us.

Valek

from page 9

Seattle was 69 hours, 55 minutes. The total cost of the trip was \$97.35. Valek sold his half of the car to his friend and flew home to New Prague for a well-deserved 30-day leave. With nothing to spend his pay on in Alaska, he had saved up enough money to buy a brand-new car (in cash).

Valek was stationed at Lowry Air Force Base for two years. He lived on base for a year. The second year, he lived off base with his wife Lynn and baby son. Both Bob and Lynn wanted to move back to Minnesota. At the age of 22, discharged from the service, on Oct. 7, 1965, Valek and family packed the car and the U-Haul and headed for New Prague. With no job opportunities there, Valek found work in Faribault, investigating potential clients’ risk for insurance. He worked that job for two years. Later he worked seven years for New Prague Lumber and Ready-mix Co.

During this time, Valek went to night school at Mankato State University under the G.I. Bill. Working full-time days, a part-time job on weekends in a liquor store, with a wife and two children, he earned his associate’s degree in business management. After securing his degree, he was offered a position with Menards, Valek and his young family moved to St. Joseph.

After one year he took a position with Wally Honer – developer and builder. Valek worked

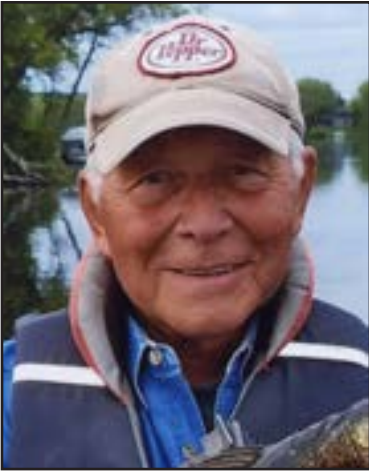
as a sales rep/office manager for seven years.

From 1980 to 2006, Valek was the office manager/sales associate for Amcon Block and Precast Inc.

Because of Lynn’s health-related issues he took early retirement. In the last five years, Lynn’s health has greatly improved in no small measure due to Valek’s caring and loving ministry.

Valek has had his share of health issues too. Currently he is being treated for cancer. This is the fourth time he has been treated for this disease since 2004. He says his deep and abiding faith in God continues to sustain him as he faces once again this particular trial.

Valek has many hobbies and interests, fishing and hunting being by far his favorites. Volunteering is also important to him. The wooded 80 acres in



contributed photo

Robert Valek

Morrison County bought in 1974 have been the family recreational sanctuary. He is committed to ecological preservation of the land.

Bob and Lynn have been married for 54 years. They have a son and daughter and six grandchildren.



Chakra Sound Garden

New Store Opening

Saturday June 1st 10:00 am–3:00 pm

Regular hours after opening
Tuesday-Friday 10:00 am–5:00 pm Saturdays 10:00 am– 3:00 pm

Our goal at Chakra Sound Garden is to offer products that add value to the health and well being of your entire family.
Some of the products we will be offering include:

- Crystal singing bowls
- Gemstones
- Gemstone jewelry
- Gemstone water bottles
- Nutritional supplements

- Essential oils
- Essential oil rollers
- Water filtration systems
- Flower essences
- Books

- Space-clearing products
- Authentic Himalayan salt lamps
- Organic cold-brewed lattes
- Kids’ tees and more!

We are partnering with *Family Tree Health & Wellness LLC* to offer a variety of classes with topics including:

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- Sound healing and essential oils

- Essential Oils for Pets
- EFT (Emotional Freedom Technique)
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