

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, July 26, 2019
Volume 31, Issue 14
Est. 1989

Town Crier

Multicultural potluck planned for Aug. 25

Cultural Bridges is hosting another multicultural potluck at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 25, at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2, in St. Joseph. Children are welcome and activities will be provided for them after they have eaten.

Catholic Charities Emergency Services needs volunteers

Catholic Charities Emergency Services program has several weekly opportunities for volunteers. Check-out, clothing support, donation door assistant, food-shelf guide and other positions are available. These opportunities are at 157 Roosevelt Road, Suite 100, in St. Cloud. Register at <http://ccstcloud.org/volunteer> or contact Michelle at 320-2259-4586 or michelle.callahan@ccstcloud.org.

Senior Games are coming to St. Cloud

Athletes 50 years of age and older will compete in more than 20 different sports on Aug. 1-4. Volunteers are needed at a variety of events during the games. Each volunteer will receive a 2019 Minnesota Senior Games T-shirt and those who sign up for two or more shifts will be entered to win a \$100 Visa Gift Card. Go to mnseniorgames.com to volunteer or email rsvp.msg@ci.stcloud.mn.us.

Do you enjoy the smell of fresh-cut grass?

Anna Marie's Alliance is looking for an assistant groundskeeper to mow and trim. Equipment provided. Anna Marie's Alliance/Central Minnesota Task Force on Battered Women provides a domestic violence shelter for women and their children, as well as 24-hour advocacy services and crisis line. Contact Kim S., Anna Marie's Alliance at 320-251-7203 ext. 210.

Now retired, Weyrens loved her job



photo by Dennis Dalman

On July 12, the morning of her last day of work, Judy Weyrens (second from left) listens to a tribute to St. Joseph resident Audrey Twit, who donated \$11,000 to the City of St. Joseph to purchase four automated external defibrillators. Twit happens to be Weyrens' good friend. Just hours later, the city hosted an open house and send-off party for Weyrens, who served the City of St. Joseph for 33 years, 18 of them as city administrator.

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

After 33 years of service for the city of St. Joseph, city administrator Judy Weyrens retired July 12 with a feeling of deep satisfaction.

"It was a lot of work, but I got a lot of enjoyment out of the job, and I'm proud of being a part of what St. Joseph has become," she said.

City employees hosted an open house for the public and a send-off party for Weyrens July 12 at the St. Joseph Government Center.

"It was very nice, a lot of fun," Weyrens said.

Employees gave her a variety of gift certificates.

Reviewing her many years of work for the city, Weyrens said St. Joseph is a city that is the "best of both worlds." It is, she said, so unique in that it's a city with a small-town ambience and yet is near the big city of St. Cloud,

the Twin Cities via the freeway and three major colleges in the area. Throughout history, many influences became intertwined to shape St. Joseph: German immigrants, St. Benedict Monastery, the College of St. Benedict, nearby St. John's University, arts, crafts, cultural productions, the growth of business and industries, residential developments, the annual Fourth of July events and an overall mixture of the old and the new, the traditional and the modern.

The demographic profile of St. Joseph has become younger with every passing year, Weyrens noted. There are more and more younger families with younger children that energize the city.

"And students too," she said. "I really think students have brought a lot of excitement to the city."

Weyrens said the most challenging part of her job – and everyone's jobs – was to manage growth and stay within budget

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Twit honored for SaveStations donation

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

St. Joseph is the safest city in Minnesota – at least it is in so far as SaveStations.

That fact was announced on a warm July 12 morning when St. Joseph resident Audrey Twit was honored for donating \$11,000 for four SaveStations in St. Joseph. The presentation took place outside the St. Joseph Government Center.

SaveStations are outdoor cabinets where automatic external defibrillator machines are kept so anyone in an emergency can have ready access to them.

An AED is a small, portable machine that delivers an electrical shock to a person who

has been stricken by sudden cardiac arrest. That happens when the electrical system in the heart goes haywire and suddenly stops the heart from pumping. Death is certain within 10 minutes, at most, unless cardiopulmonary resuscitation is administered and/or a defibrillator is used. Each AED gives voice prompts about how to use it. Each year, about 350,000 people die of sudden cardiac arrest in the nation. Three-fourths of people who are defibrillated with an AED survive cardiac arrest.

Audrey Twit's husband died Dec. 30, 2018. About a month ago, St. Joseph City Administrator Judy Weyrens, who is a friend of Audrey's, was talking

Twit • page 3



contributed photo

Joel Vogel of St. Joseph teaches two children how to do CPR as based on audio directions from an AED SaveStation. The event took place outside the St. Joseph Government Center July 12 when St. Joseph resident Audrey Twit was honored for donating \$11,000 for four SaveStations in honor of her late husband Ken Twit. Audrey is second from the right in the background with members of her family.

51 quilts to be auctioned at St. Stephen festival

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

If you missed out on getting the highest bid at a recent quilt auction, you still have a chance to pick and choose from a large selection of quilts at the St. Stephen Catholic Church's annual parish festival which will be 11 a.m.-7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 2 (Labor Day).

At the festival, attendees

will have a chance to purchase or win any of the 51 quilts the St. Stephen Quilting Group has been busy creating and stitching for the festival. These quilts which include 25 queen/king and 26 baby/youth and twin-sized quilts will either be auctioned, sold or raffled at the festival.

The quilt auction will be at 2 p.m. and 10 quilts will be raffled by chances.

Liz Legatt and Barb Nathe are the co-chairs of the festival's quilt stand.

"Hand quilting is an art," Liz said. "Thanks to everyone who helped me work on the quilts this year including Jeanette Trobec, Ruth Vouk, Carole Mehr, Barb Nathe, Jay Seaton, La Vonne Legatt, Cindy Swenson, Rosie Keul and Ruth Supan. Also thanks to our auction quilt holders Alex Legatt, Matthew Hell-

mann, Candice Koopmeiners and Peter Schumer."

The quilt tops are assembled and sewn together by Liz Legatt, Barb Nathe, Mehr, Annette Grebinoski and Lori Nathe. Liz Legatt, Mehr, Seaton, Swenson and Trobec sew the binding on the quilts.

"What a wonderful group of people we have for quilters," Barb said.

"We get along so well, it's

Quilts • page 4

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TIMED CONTEST

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Register at the Cold Spring Bakery

Retired

from front page

constrictions. That was not always easy, especially considering the city is one of the three or four top cities in the state for the large amount of its tax-exempt properties (the college, for example).

But Weyrens said thanks to the frugal habits of staff and City Council members throughout the years, St. Joseph managed to grow despite budgetary constraints.

"The staff (was) always looking for used equipment to buy to save money," Weyrens said. "We've always had a really good staff that worked together well."

Being an administrator is a

kind of balancing act, Weyrens noted. Throughout the years, there are always new people elected to the council and new or slightly altered directions and emphases with each council. That requires a lot of tweaks, shifting of gears and coordinative efforts.

In the St. Joseph administration, the number of staff members is six, including the city administrator. The total city staff, all departments, is 22 full-time employees and 30 paid-per-response firefighters.

When Weyrens began her job, back in 1986, the population of St. Joseph was about 3,000. Today, it's about 7,400, which includes some college students who live in residential areas. Thirty-three years ago, there were about 900 households, which has since doubled to the current 1,800.

Along with the growth and so many positive developments there came two tragic shocks to the city. One was the abduction of 11-year-old Jacob Wetterling, a case that wasn't solved until nearly three decades later when his killer confessed to the crime and his body discovered buried near Paynesville. Another tragedy was the murder of St. Joseph police officer Brian Klinefelter, shot to death after he made a traffic stop in the city on CR 75.

On a personal level, another shock happened when Weyrens discovered she had breast cancer in 2014. It was a tough struggle, with bouts of chemotherapy, but she kept working at her job through the entire ordeal because she wanted to keep busy, to stay connected, not wanting to succumb to any feelings of depression or hopelessness. She said she was overwhelmed with all of the support from the people of St. Joseph during her health crisis.

What she enjoyed most about her job is the number of people

she had a chance to meet and/or to work with.

"I enjoy the people of St. Joseph and I always liked the variety of the work I did," she said. "I learned so much and met a lot of people. I have a lot of friends here. It was a great place to work."

Weyrens was raised in St. Joseph at the corner of Minnesota Street and Second Avenue. She is the daughter of Hugo and Rita Weyrens, who now live at the St. Benedict Center in east St. Cloud. Longtime avid gardeners, they now do their gardening in Judy's yard at her residence in St. Cloud. She is the fourth of five siblings - three girls, two boys.

Weyrens attended St. Joseph Lab School, graduated from Cathedral High School, then attended the College of St. Benedict and St. Cloud State University. She then enrolled in Concordia College, St. Paul, where she earned a bachelor's degree in organizational business and management and also a master's degree in that field.

She was an auditing sales employee at Herberger's in downtown St. Cloud when she heard of an opening in administration in St. Joseph. At first, in 1986, she served as a secretary, then as finance director from 1988 until 2000, when she was named city administrator.

Weyrens, 58, is not sure what she wants to do in her retirement years. She said she wants to take it easy and take her time before deciding which direction and which projects she wants to take on.

Friends prize Weyrens for her playful, pointed, sometimes mischievous sense of humor.

"Oh yes, humor is important," she said. "I always compare myself to an ice cube in a glass. I want to be the positive person on the top of the liquid in a glass."

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Twit

from front page

about how the City Council plans to order and have installed in the city some SaveStations. Just then, Twit had an inspiring thought. She told Weyrens she would like to donate money for four SaveStations in memory of her husband, who was a local pharmacist, member of the St. Joseph Fire and Rescue team and a City Council member.

Each of the SaveStations in St. Joseph will have a bronze plaque attached in memory of Twit. The plaque reads as such:

"Donated in memory of Kenneth H. Twit

Loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend.

Ken passionately shared his knowledge, time and skill as a community pharmacist, volunteer for St. Joseph Fire and Rescue and member of the St. Joseph City Council. He was also known personally as a friend, mentor and family man.

Ken is remembered for his generosity, wit and love.

A life well lived is a beautiful legacy."

At the July 12 presentation, Twit was surrounded by family members, relatives and friends. The two presenters were Rich Feneis of Sartell and Joel Vogel of St. Joseph, who is a member of the Mending Heart organization. Those two men got the ball rolling, researching, organizing and raising funds some months ago to have three SaveStations (the first ones in the state) installed locally – one in Sartell, two in St. Cloud. They thanked Twit for her generous gift and for helping raise awareness for SaveStations. Then Vogel demonstrated how the AED machines work in conjunction with



contributed photo

This is one of the AED SaveStations installed recently in St. Joseph thanks to a cash donation from St. Joseph resident Audrey Twit, who donated the money in memory of her late husband, Ken Twit. This SaveStation is located at the Lake Wobegon Trail's trailhead building.

cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Feneis said it's astounding how quickly word of this area's SaveStations is spreading. People in Albany, Melrose, Holdingford and Foley are now planning to have some installed, and more are expected for Sartell. Stearns County Sheriff Steve Soyka, who was at the presentation, is a strong promoter of SaveStations, as is St. Joseph Mayor Rick Schulz, who was also in attendance. On her last day of her job before retirement, City Administrator Weyrens looked on, smiling and applauding as her friend, Audrey, was honored.

Another attendee was Sharon Metzger, program manager for Take Heart, a CentraCare program that promotes CPR and heart health, as well as SaveStations. CentraCare has a grant program to help cities buy the stations.

Vogel and Feneis remain overwhelmed by the growing support they and others have received for the SaveStations: Li-

ons clubs, churches, city councils, scouting groups, the Greater St. Cloud Safety Foundation, CentraCare and individuals like Twit and like Betty Pundsack, a longtime St. Joseph teacher. Supporters are working to raise money to install many more of the stations in St. Joseph.

And the support keeps growing. Right after the July 12 presentation ceremony, a man from Fargo who was a friend of the late Ken Twit approached Feneis for some quick advice on how to get SaveStations for Fargo.

In St. Joseph, the SaveStations purchased will be installed at the following locations:

The Wobegon Trailhead at 605 First Ave. NE.

The Lift Station at 612 Baker St. E.

The Fire Hall at 323 Fourth Ave. NE.

The Government Center at 75 Callaway St. E.

A fifth one will be installed at Well House 24 at Third Avenue NW.

People

Three St. Joseph students have been named to the spring semester dean's list at the College of St. Benedict. The students are **Jamie Muske, Taylor Notsch** and **Amber Klein**. To be included in the dean's list, students must have a minimum grade-point average of 3.80.

Angelica Hight of St. Joseph earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Western Governors University in Salt Lake City.

Hallela Hinton-Williams of St. Joseph has been named to the spring dean's list at Grinnell (Iowa) College. To make the dean's list, students must have a minimum grade-point average of 3.75.

Emily Boysen graduated this spring with a bachelor's degree in nursing, magna cum laude, from Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Michelle Fischbach has joined the Central Minnesota Builders Association as the Government Affairs director. Fischbach served as the lieutenant



Fischbach

governor in 2018 and president of the State Senate in 2017-18 and 2011-12. She was elected to the Senate in 1996. She will be working part time at the CMBA office to maintain a working relationship with elected officials

and agencies as well as with counterparts at the city, county, state and national levels on matters that affect the industry and CMBA members.

The National Endowment for the Humanities has named the **Rev. Columba Stewart**, OSB, executive director of the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library at St.

Stewart

John's University, as the 2019 Jefferson Lecturer in the Humanities. Established in 1972, the lectureship is the highest honor bestowed by the federal government for contributions to the humanities. This is the first time the award has been given to a Minnesotan, a member of the clergy or a Benedictine monk. The lecture will take place Monday, Oct. 7, in Washington, D.C. The title of the lecture is "Cultural Heritage Present and Future: A Benedictine Monk's Long View."

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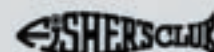
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at thenewsleaders.com which hyperlinks to each business' website.

Quilts

from front page

a great winter project and we look forward to getting together every Monday," Mehr said. "We share quilting tips and learn new tricks."

"I can't quilt very fast, but the sit-down job is great for me," Supan said.

"We have lots of fun and it goes for a great cause," Seaton said.

Liz Legatt is the youngest quilter and Vouk is the oldest, having recently turned 90. Among the group, Vouk is considered the youngest at heart and is known for her tiny "perfect" little stitches done with a very tiny needle.

"I enjoy quilting with the ladies," Vouk said. "Also, just seeing what our next quilt top will be, there is also a surprise to it. The girls do such a great job."

Trobec is a more detailed person and often gives good suggestions to encourage the rest of the group to do a little extra sewing.

"Gets me out of the house and I love to be with the ladies," she said. "We tell some fun jokes and laugh a lot."

The quilts are hand-stitched by the quilters. Liz Legatt said it varies on what type of quilt the quilters want to work on. Together, they decide what type of quilts to make by discussing what



contributed photo

The St. Stephen Quilting Group which includes (left to right) LaVonne Legatt, Ruth Vouk, Jeanette Trobec, Rosie Keul, Ruth Supan, Liz Legatt and Barb Nathe accept a \$2,000 matching grant donation from KSKJ Life, American Slovenian Catholic Union, matching Funds-Lodge 197. Not pictured are Carole Mehr, Jay Seaton and Cindy Swenson. The group has been busy stitching 51 quilts for the St. Stephen Catholic Church Labor Day parish festival.

they would like to create for the next festival, along with input from Liz Legatt and Barb Nathe.

Liz Legatt said this year's selection includes wildlife and patchwork options.

The group has been displaying some of the quilts in the church and church annex since the beginning of June and will continue to do so until right before the festival.

The group quilts from 9

a.m.-5 p.m. every Monday in the church basement from the first Monday in October to the first Monday in May or whenever the last quilt on the frame is finished.

They take coffee/tea breaks at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. and share snacks with each other. In September, Barb Nathe will host a "thank you" meal at her house to celebrate the group's hard work.

Liz Legatt and Barb Nathe work on making some of the quilt tops during the summer on rainy or very hot days, as time allows. So far, they have created eight new ones for next year's festival.

The annual quilt auction and raffle helps raise funds for the parish.

Along with the annual quilt auction, the event will include a bake sale, beer garden, children's games, country auction, country store, dice game, face painting, farmers' market, grandma's attic sale, inflatables, silent auction and more.

A homemade chicken and ham dinner, which includes pie, as well as bouja, hamburgers, hotdogs and taco-in-a-bag will be available to eat at the festival.

JJ's Band will perform from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and La-verne and the Starlights will perform from 2-7 p.m. A grand raffle will take place at 5:30 p.m.

For additional information about joining the St. Stephen Quilting Group, call Liz Legatt at 320-251-5062 or Barb Nathe at 320-251-0462. Quilts can be viewed online at greatrivercatholic.org.

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Co-chairs of the St. Stephen Quilting Group Barb Nathe (left) and Liz Legatt hold a pheasant and maple leaf quilt that they pieced and the group hand-stitched, which will be auctioned at 2 p.m. This quilt and 50 other quilts will be available for purchase or to win at the Monday, Sept. 2 (Labor Day) annual Catholic Church parish festival.

PET CARE GUIDE | EXPENSES



Money Saving Tips

Every responsible pet owner realizes their four-legged friend is a commitment. In addition to annual wellness checks, there are often emergencies. The American Veterinary Medical Association reports cost of pet care is increasing due to advances in medical technology. For this reason, they suggest acquiring pet health insurance.

Of course, you should ask your local provider for thorough details regarding what is covered, if premiums increase as your pet ages and if you can choose your own veterinarian. Read on for other considerations you should make when planning on how to afford the wellness of your pet.

CUTTING COSTS WITH REGULAR CARE

Most veterinarians urge owners to complete annual wellness exams and vaccinations to help

avoid expensive emergencies. A benefit to these checkups is finding issues early, before they become serious problems. Not only will treatments be more affordable, your pet will have a better chance of overcoming a medical scare with proper care.

The AVMA suggests these tests and procedures should be completed regularly to maintain a healthy quality of life.

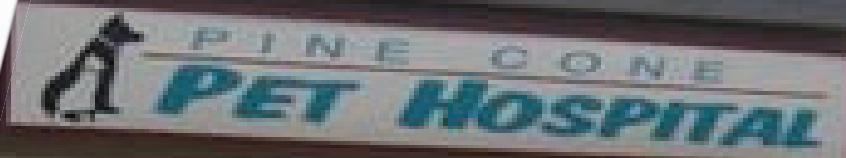
- Annual Vaccinations

- Heartworm Exams
- Fecal Parasite Tests
- Dental Evaluations

It's important to adjust the frequency of your visits based on a vet's recommendations. As your pet matures or begins developing health problems, the number of exams they require may need to be increased. Remember, promoting a healthy lifestyle is the best route to avoid expensive emergency situations.

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Rueckert's Army training led to medical career

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

Raymond George Rueckert, 70,
U.S. Army/ Vietnam Era

Raymond Rueckert was born at St. Cloud Hospital. He was raised on a 160-acre farm in Morrison County. The family raised dairy cattle, chickens and "lots of pigs." Milking the cows and feeding the pigs before school, given the time constraints, often resulted in certain fragrances accompanying him to class. Work at home was a priority over playing any sports.

Rueckert said he remembers the farm finally getting electricity when he was 6 years old. Rural electric service came to the farm in 1955. The outdoor toilet



Raymond Rueckert in 1971.

and the outdoor well freezing up are just memories of bygone days.

Rueckert attended a two-room country school – one teacher for sixth, seventh and eighth grades. It was an adjustment when he commenced high school in the much larger Foley High School.

Rueckert doesn't recall the family having a lot. Hard work on the farm was the norm: a work load he shared with his older brother and parents.

After high school, Rueckert worked on the farm and also at Franklin Manufacturing. Just before he was drafted into the army in August 1970, his parents sold the farm. Rueckert was 21 years old when he completed basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

This was perhaps his first experience with being immersed into the wider world of multicultural diversity. Rueckert said he vaguely recalls sharing with the Army his interest in perhaps someday becoming a veterinarian. He was transferred to Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, for specific training in becoming a combat medic. After training, he was ordered to Wurzburg, Germany where he was assigned to the Third Infantry Division, Fourth Brigade, First Battalion.

Before his departure to Germany, Rueckert was promised: "Every day in Germany will be like Sunday and every evening like Saturday night." During his 14 months in Germany, Rueckert had an opportunity to travel.

Training • page 8

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Local man receives Legion of Honor medal

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Like all true heroes, Boyd Sorenson insists he's not a hero and brushes off extravagant praises. His attitude is that he just happened to be there in a war zone and did the best he could do, along with many others.

But that's not the attitude of others. They consider Sorenson to be an extraordinary, courageous man who gave his all (yes, as a hero) not just in one but in two wars.

Raised as a farm boy in Pipestone, he enlisted to become a fighter pilot in World War II and in the Korean War, and on July 1 at the age of 96 – soon to be 97 – he was awarded the internationally prestigious Legion of Honor medal in Waite Park.

The highest honor France can bestow, the medal was pinned to Sorenson's lapel by Guillaume LaCroix, the Chicago-based Consul General of France for the Midwest Region. The ceremony took place in the community room of Sorenson's assisted-living complex in Waite Park. A Stearns County Veterans Service officer, Cory Vaske, emceed the gathering.

Nearly 200 people, including many descendants of Sorenson, gave him a loud, sustained standing ovation. Reporters and videographers, including some from the Twin Cities and from Fox News, dashed and scrambled among people in the packed room to get their stories. Also attending were local dignitaries, including St. Cloud Mayor Dave Kleis; former Sartell Mayor Joe Perske; and representatives of U.S. Rep. Tom Emmer and U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who sent a letter of congratulations and thanks to Sorenson that was read aloud at the ceremony.

Another special guest, who sat next to Sorenson, was Ozzie Grothe of Alexandria, now 92, who enlisted when she was 17 in order to learn how to become a pilot, but the war ended before she could get her wings.

At the start of the ceremony, there was the Posting of the Colors and the playing of "La Marseillaise" (French National Anthem) and "The Star-Spangled Banner."

After LaCroix's speech honoring Sorenson and his tribute to the long-time historical-cultural bonds between France and America, the medal was presented. After the applause and commotion subsided, Sorenson – humble to a fault – paused a long time, then said simply "Thank you," paused again and said, "And now I hope you all enjoy your lunch."

Born in Flandreau, South



photo by Dennis Dalman

Just seconds after receiving the Legion of Honor, Boyd Sorenson (with red medal on lapel) receives a standing ovation from the audience. To the far right is French Consul General Guillaume LaCroix, who presented the award to Sorenson. In the middle is Ozzie Grothe of Alexandria, who aimed to be a pilot in World War II.

Dakota, Sorenson's parents moved to a farm near Pipestone in southwest Minnesota when he was a young boy. He graduated from Pipestone High School in 1940, studied for a time at Mankato State Teachers College, then moved to Los Angeles where his brother lived and where he went to work in a factory. Once America joined the war, after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, Sorenson was eager to become a pilot. A co-worker suggested he join the Canadian Royal Air Force, and that is just what he did in 1941. He later transferred to the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1943 as a fighter pilot and flew 89 missions over Europe, including during the all-important D-Day invasion of northern France in 1944. After the war, in the early 1950s, Sorenson again began to fly missions – 72 of them – after the start of the Korean War.

After the wars, Sorenson returned to the job he loved most – farming on the Pipestone farm. He and his wife, Phyllis, who died in 1999, have four children.

Before presenting the Legion of Honor, LaCroix noted that 89 missions over Europe, not to mention 72 over Korea, is a phenomenal number. Most Legion of Honor recipients flew less than 20 missions, he said.

LaCroix thanked Sorenson for "saving my country," and he also thanked him on behalf of French President Emmanuel Macron, who personally approved Sorenson's high honor.

Founded by French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, the Legion of Honor has been given to war heroes worldwide who have helped France and Europe, and it is also given for cultural, academic and intellectual achievements. It was bestowed, for example, on telephone inventor Alexander Graham Bell; to movie-maker Walt Disney; and to Minnesota



photo by Dennis Dalman

Boyd Sorenson, circa mid-1940s, in his fighter pilot gear.

natives aviator Charles Lindbergh and singer-songwriter Bob Dylan.

Several other Minnesota veterans also received the Legion of Honor in past years, two of them in 1970.

LaCroix said he was honored to be in the St. Cloud area because he had become aware that St. Cloud, Minnesota and St. Cloud, France are sister cities. A suburb of Paris, St. Cloud (in French pronounced "Cloo") was the location of Napoleon's favorite palatial residence. John Wilson, the man who founded St. Cloud in the mid-1800s, was a Napoleon enthusiast and thus named the city on the Mississippi River St. Cloud. Throughout the years, mayors and delegations from both cities visited one another from time to time. An interesting fact is both cities are more or less located on the same geographical latitude line.

The day after the ceremony, Sorenson said it was one of the nicest days he's ever known.

"It was a very good time," he said, "and I don't know how to thank enough everyone who worked so hard to make that day happen."

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Training

from page 6

el about somewhat, including Salzburg and Hitler's retreat at Berchtesgaden. He also visited Paris taking in the sights among which were the Mona Lisa by Leonardo da Vinci at the Louvre Museum as well as looking out over Paris from the Cathedral Notre Dame Bell Tower. (The beautiful church that recently caught fire)

Rueckert is rightly proud in having been awarded the Army's Expert Field Medical Badge.

As a soldier in a medic platoon, he was out in the field for training much of the time. He found the locals around the base to be very friendly. On one particular evening Rueckert and others were involved in a night compass course exercise. Somehow the group ended up on a farmer's property. The farmer invited the GIs in for a libation and fellowship. So much for completing the compass course.

While in the Army, Rueckert took a college course in criminology. Because the Army was downsizing, he was given somewhat of an "early out." He was discharged on March 14, 1972, and he immediately enrolled at St. Cloud State University. While going to college Rueckert worked at Franklin Manufacturing and later as a nursing assistant at the VA hospital in St. Cloud.

Rueckert was awarded a bachelor's degree in medical technology. After serving a one-year internship at St. Cloud



Raymond Rueckert

Hospital he was offered full-time employment.

Besides responsibilities related to routine laboratory testing, he spent 14 years assisting on autopsies. This particular assignment helped him develop a real appreciation for the resilience of the human body, in spite of how humans may not necessarily take care of this wonderfully complex creation.

Rueckert is in the process of retiring from full-time employment at St. Cloud Hospital, where he's worked for 44 years. The hospital, reluctant to lose a loyal and competent employee, asked him to stay on as a "casual part-time employee."

While in Germany, Rueckert commenced letter writing with his new pen pal. Prior to his departure for the Army, he had a few dances with her at the Benton County Fairgrounds. Actually he did not know her, but in the course of their letter writing, he told an Army buddy, "I'm going to marry that woman." The day after Rueckert returned to St. Cloud, he had

his first real date with Joann (March 15, 1972). As the saying goes the rest is history.

Ray and Joann became engaged in 1972 and were married in December of 1973 (while he continued to work and go to school). They will have been married 46 years this December. They have a son, four daughters and eight grandchildren.

Rueckert is in good health, which he attributes to proper diet and exercise. He and Joann are avid bicycle riders. He also enjoys woodworking. He and Joann or both active in their parish.

Rueckert has been a member of American Legion Post 328 for 40 years. Since 1980, he has been a member of the color guard; one of its duties is to lead the Fourth of July parade.

As a former army medic, Rueckert shares this bit of advice if one per chance comes upon an injured person.

"Remember the A - B - C-s: Make sure the Airway is open; stop the Bleeding; Cover for shock.

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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.

Members of the Cultural Bridges Committee interviewed Hodan M. Ahmed.

Hodan knows five languages. She is intent on becoming proficient in English.

Her life is busy with classes at St. Cloud State University, learning English, and working in Home Care through REM Central Lakes in St. Cloud. Her

ready smile and friendly conversation confirms her desire to work with people. She is considering a future as a teacher or a social worker.

Hodan was born in the Qabribayax Camp in Ethiopia. Life in the camp was challenging in that there was no heat, no air conditioning and no lights. Sometimes water was scarce and very expensive to purchase.

She lived there for 14 years before her family came to the United States in 2011. She, her mother and siblings moved to St. Joseph in 2015.

Her family chose to live here because they preferred a small, quiet town. Some of her siblings attend Kennedy Community School where they have found the people there welcoming and friendly.

Recently her family planted a garden in a section of the Community Garden sponsored by the Sisters of St. Benedict.

Another new experience for her and her sisters was an opportunity to swim in a lake. She proudly showed a video clip of them splashing in the water.

She wants the people of St. Joseph to know that Somali people are "very nice."

Their loud voices and hand gestures are cultural and not to be feared.

She also wants the people of St. Joseph to know that she is a "nice lady," she always tries to speak English and she wants to help people.

Cultural Bridges is hosting a multicultural potluck at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 25, at Resurrection Lutheran Church in St. Joseph. Children are welcome and activities will be provided for them after they have eaten.

If you have any questions, please contact Juliana Howard at 715-791-8976 or Khadija Salah at 320-345-0593.



contributed photo

Hodan Ahmed of St. Joseph.

Liturgical Press wins record number of awards

by Dennis Dalman

news@thenewsleaders.com

The St. John's Liturgical Press recently received an unprecedented number of awards for its published books, and two of its designers were also honored.

It is the highest number of awards ever won by the Press in one year since the Press was founded in 1926 on the campus of St. John's University by a monk named Virgil Michel.

The Press won 39 awards – 32 from the Catholic Press Association and seven from the Association of Catholic Publishers.

The individuals honored in the category for "Best Trade/Seasonal Catalog" were Tara Wiese (second place for designing the Fall 2018 Parish Catalog) and Monica Bokinskie (third place for designing the Fall 2018 Academic Catalog). Both are employees who work at the Liturgical Press building on the campus of St. John's University where they also designed some of the covers for the award-winning books. The two received their awards from the Catholic Press Association.

All of the other awards were for books written by authors from

throughout the United States and from other countries. The categories of awards included books about theology, spirituality, history, scripture, sacraments, biography, pastoral ministry and liturgy.

"Liturgy," from which the Press derived the word "Liturgical" in its name, is defined as public worship performed by a religious group to establish a relationship with a divine agency and with other participants in the worship service.

The Association of Catholic Publishers named the best book of the year "Proverbs" by Alice

Ogden Bellis, an ordained minister and professor of Hebrew Bible study at Howard University School of Divinity in Washington, D.C. Her book was praised as "a huge undertaking" with a diversity of biblical commentary from a feminist point of view. That book was published by the St. John's Liturgical Press and one of its seven books honored by the ACP.

All told, the Press won 11 first-place honors and numerous awards for second place, third

place and honorable mentions.

The Press has a staff of about 20 monks and laypeople. Its purpose, as stated in its mission statement, is "to publish the Good News of Jesus Christ through various media to deepen the faith and knowledge of a richly diverse church. The work of the Press reflects the Benedictine emphasis on hospitality and the deep commitment of St. John's Abbey to teaching, learning and fostering good liturgy."

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Opinion

Our View

Day of reckoning for Rep. Emmer

The day of reckoning is at hand for Rep. Tom Emmer.

He must choose if he endorses Donald Trump's racism or if he will stand with his constituents.

Emmer's past positions as well as current statements push Emmer to pick a side.

Donald Trump's latest Twitter tirade attacked four women of color who are members of Congress. One of those is Rep. Ilhan Omar, who represents Minnesota's 5th District, adjacent to Emmer's 6th District.

Trump wrote the four women should "go back" to the "totally broken and crime-infested places from which they came." If they don't like it here, they should leave, implying only European immigrants or their descendants are entitled to criticize the country.

Days later, at a rally in Greenville, North Carolina, the mostly white crowd chanted "send her back" about a black woman while Trump remained silent on stage and let the chant wash over him. That rally, attended by few people of color in a city that is more than 30 percent nonwhite, fueled more outrage.

The Greenville chant was too much for Emmer and the next day he said, "There's no place for that kind of talk. I don't agree with that."

But he couldn't go all the way. Emmer added "There's not a racist bone in this president's body. What he was trying to say, he said wrong. What he was trying to say is if you don't appreciate this country you don't have to be here. That goes for every one of us."

He should have stopped with the first two sentences. But he had to show his loyalty to Team Trump. Emmer needs Trump for the 2020 election, not so much for the 6th District, but in his new national role.

Emmer is chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee. That position means he's tasked with raising money, finding candidates and winning enough seats to give Republicans control of the House.

Emmer's job will be tougher if Trump sees him as a wobbly supporter.

Two days before criticizing Trump's words, Emmer voted against a resolution in the House condemning Trump's racism. By voting no, Emmer implicitly endorsed Trump's tweets.

But four years ago, "send her back" wasn't on Emmer's agenda. Along with Rep. Keith Ellison (who preceded Omar as 5th District representative), Emmer announced the creation of the Congressional Somalia Caucus. Like Ellison, Omar is Muslim, but unlike Ellison, she immigrated from Somalia and became a U.S. citizen.

"We are proud to announce the formation of the Congressional Somalia Caucus," Emmer and Ellison said. "As Somalia emerges from decades of violent conflict and humanitarian crises, we are committed to assisting the Somali government to build on economic and security gains they have achieved. This assistance is vital to Somalia's continued progress and to the United States' national security."

This is the key paragraph from the two Minnesota representatives:

"Together, we represent some of the largest Somali-American communities in the United States; for us and the constituents we represent, Somalia is not a far-off foreign policy issue, it's a matter of domestic policy and national security. We are committed to advocating on behalf of all of our constituents while ensuring Somalia has the tools it needs to create strong democratic institutions that provide safety and economic opportunity to its people."

Emmer needs to remember the words written with Ellison and the people he represents. He should stand with those words and not with the words of Trump.

Trump may not have a racist bone in his body, but Trump's words prove he has a racist mind and racist heart.

A census undercount hurts us all

Proposing a citizenship question on the 2020 Census is nothing but yet again another bright shiny object that distracts us from the real issue – the purpose of the census and the importance of an accurate account.

An inaccurate count threatens our voice in government at all levels and could rob us of government funding for programs we all depend on. Rather than asking people if they are citizens, we should do everything we can to support 100-percent participation in the count.

The citizenship question thrills the "Make America White Again" crowd but for policy and practice it's useless and actually a danger.

Article 1, Section 2, of the Constitution specifically dictates why, how and when the count takes place. Congress has delegated the actual work to the Department of Commerce and the "enumeration" takes place every 10 years.

The census is a count of who is here and where they live. The data lists who lives in a residence, their age, gender, relationship, race and ethnicity.

From that data, political boundaries are set for everything from members of Congress to members of city councils. In addition, funding for all types of government programs, including education, health and transportation, rests on a true count.

And here's what's wrong about pushing the citizenship question: the Constitution demands an "enumeration" – a count – without mentioning citizenship.

Including the question would deter many immigrants and their families, both legal and undocumented, from

Mike Knaak
Editor



filling out and returning their census forms.

Anything that discourages full participation hurts all of us. In census lingo, that's an undercount – tallies that are lower than the actual number of people living here.

If there's an undercount in Minnesota, we could lose a member of Congress to another state where the population has grown faster or produced a more accurate count. Instead of eight members in the House of Representatives, we could end up with seven. The redrawn district lines might place Central Minnesota in a congressional district that stretches to Moorhead and International Falls. With fewer representatives, citizens of Minnesota would have less clout in Washington.

In the Legislature, district shapes and sizes would change. Cities and other places with an undercount would be disproportionately under-represented.

In the Electoral College, Minnesota has 10 votes. With one less member of Congress, we'd have one less Electoral Vote, making us less important in future presidential campaigns. If you don't think the Electoral College matters, just ask Donald Trump. Without it, he'd just be another old, sort-of-rich guy who used to be on TV.

While the argument rages over a citizenship question, the fact is the government already tracks people who are

not citizens or are not here legally.

The Department of Homeland Security issues a yearly tally of illegal immigration, including countries immigrants come from and where they end up living.

In addition to the Constitutionally mandated 10-year count, the Census Bureau collects detailed information about people. The American Community Survey produces yearly detailed data on people by surveying a selected portion of the population.

Here's the ACS citizenship question: If this person is not a U.S. citizen, mark the "No, not a U.S. citizen" box. Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs) or "green card" holders, or other non-naturalized immigrants or visitors to the U.S. are not citizens of the United States and therefore should mark the "No, not a U.S. citizen" box.

We have the ACS because policy makers and business people wanted more detailed and more frequent data available than the 10-year census. That need produced the long-form census questionnaire, which surveyed one in six households. In 2005, the ACS, with its rolling data collection, replaced the long form.

If you are curious about your community, the ACS offers detailed facts. You can check them out here: factfinder.census.gov. You'll be able to see the 10-year census data, the ACS and other census surveys.

The government already counts citizens and noncitizens – both documented and undocumented. We should be worried about getting an accurate count of people...the enumeration the Constitution calls for...and not be distracted by a fake issue.

Alex Jones hurled vicious lies about Sandy Hook

Imagine your child is killed by a school shooter and then hearing that the child you are so deeply mourning did not exist.

Imagine the harassment and death threats against you from cruel creeps via phone calls, letters and social media, claiming not only did your child not exist but you were an actor at a staged event in the school that day. That so-called "massacre" was only a hoax cooked up by left-wing gun-control fanatics, the willingly deluded conspiracy theorists.

Try to imagine that, then consider this: Lenny Pozner doesn't have to imagine because he and his family have been the brunt of those cruelties for seven years. On Dec. 12, 2012, Pozner's son, 6-year-old Noah, was shattered to bits by rounds fired by a killer at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. Twenty children and six adults were fatally shot just two weeks before Christmas.

But there's a problem; it didn't happen. So said radio shock-jock Alex Jones. The Wicked Wizard of Fake News, Jones is a disseminator of lunatic conspiracy theories, constructed from webs of lies. His most vicious lie was "Sandy Hook as Hoax." Jones doesn't really believe his lies, his theories. No, he's not quite that dumb. But he cynically hawks them to his gullible followers who want so badly to believe anything is true except for the mainstream media. Jones' schtick makes him money hand over fist.

Ten Sandy Hook parents finally filed defamation lawsuits against Jones.

During a recent legal deposition, Jones, in the hot seat, began spinning

Dennis Dalman
Reporter



yet another Big Lie. The pressures of his job, he stated, made him experience a temporary psychosis, causing him to believe for years that Sandy Hook had been a hoax. He now says – in a sudden switcheroo – that he thinks the massacre really did happen. Imagine that! Thanks to Jones, we can now believe those parents are real and their dead precious children once lived.

Among Jones' psychotic "theories" through the years:

- The government was nefariously involved in the Oklahoma City bombing and in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

- The government now uses weather as a "weapon" against people by creating and directing storms to certain populated areas.

- Jones accused U.S. Special Counsel Robert Mueller of being a "demon" who has perpetrated violent sex acts against children and then challenged him to a shoot-out.

Some Jones fans insist he's just an entertainer. Pushing fantastical fake news, spewing sinister suspicions, defaming people in the most vicious ways, inciting anxieties, fears and hatreds. That's entertainment? Bring on the clowns!

In recent months, numerous social-media sites have banished Jones'

venomous fantasies from their platforms. It's about time. What took them so long?

But wait, there's more good news. Pozner won his defamation lawsuit against two other men. The two are co-authors James Fetzer and Mike Palacke who penned a book titled – take a deep breath – "Nobody Died at Sandy Hook." Their theory? It was only a staged FEMA drill. After the lawsuit was filed, the publisher met with Pozner the grieving father and conveniently agreed that, gee, the killings must have happened, after all. Surprise, surprise.

Among Jones' targets are the media, deep-state government forces, corporate lawyers, the elite establishment and the Democratic Party. His modus operandi is to dream up the most outrageous theories he can muster, then shout them to his 10 million (at least) followers, who, in turn, pass on the theories, the slanders, to others in the Jones Cult social network, their bubble world of "news." When confronted, Jones retreats a bit, then later doubles down, doing a virtual fox trot around the lies and theories he's spun. Anybody who challenges his demented theories (lies) he calls a "hoaxer." Sound familiar?

Jones insists he is only using his rights as protected by the U.S. Constitution. He has said "questioning public events is an essential part of the First Amendment in America."

Yes, that it is. But as lawsuits have been proving, the First Amendment is not a shield from which to hide behind while hurling vicious lies aimed at the devastated parents of murdered children.

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, July 26
Brat sale, sponsored by St. Joseph Y2K Lions, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., St. Joseph Meat Market, 26 First Ave. NW. Proceeds donated to Sauk Rapids Lions Building Project. Old glasses, hearing aids and cell phones will be collected.
St. Joseph Farmers' Market, 3-6 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, under the water tower near the Wobegon Trail Center, CR 2.

Saturday, July 27
Brat sale, sponsored by

St. Joseph Y2K Lions, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., St. Joseph Meat Market, 26 First Ave. NW. Proceeds donated to Sauk Rapids Lions Building Project. Old glasses, hearing aids and cell phones will be collected.

Sunday, July 28
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.

Monday, July 29
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.
St. Joseph Planning Commission, 6 p.m., Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E.
St. Joseph Township Board Meeting, 8 p.m., Township Hall, 935 College Ave. S.

Tuesday, July 30
Collegeville Township Board meeting, 7 p.m., Township Hall, 27724 CR 50, St. Joseph.

Wednesday, July 31
St. Cloud school district job fair, 2-6 p.m., Quarryview Education Center, 800 Seventh St. S., Waite Park. Openings for teaching and nonlicensed positions including bus drivers, paraprofessionals, nutritional services and custodial staff.

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

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

Monday, Aug. 5
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.
St. Joseph City Council, 6 p.m., council chambers, St. Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. 320-363-7201.

cityofstjoseph.com.
Tuesday, Aug. 6
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, Aug. 7
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, Aug. 8
St. Joseph Senior Citizens, potluck at noon, meeting at 1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Community Fire Hall, 323 Fourth Ave. NE.
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St.

Joseph.
St. Cloud Area Mothers of Multiples, 7 p.m., VFW Granite Post 428, 9 18th Ave. N., St. Cloud.

Friday, Aug. 9
Brats, hot dogs and roast beef sandwiches, sponsored by the St. Joseph Lions Club, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., 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, Aug. 10
Brats, hot dogs and roast beef sandwiches, sponsored by the St. Joseph Lions Club, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., St. Joseph Meat Market, 26 First Ave. NW.
Central Minnesota Chapter of the Federation of the Blind of Minnesota, 12:30 p.m., American Legion, 17 Second Ave. N., Waite Park.

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.

June 27
12:59 p.m. Counterfeit. Fourth Avenue NE. Management at Casey's General Store reported receiving a counterfeit \$100 bill. The suspect was driving a newer Dodge van bearing New York plates with the last three digits being 281.

June 29
1:06 p.m. Fire. 20th Avenue SE. A grass fire was reported near Kwik Trip east. An officer arrived to find a burned area but no active fire. The fire department sprayed the area.

June 30
3:48 p.m. Suspicious activity.

315 Fourth Avenue SE. A resident reported that three times a vehicle had stopped in front of their residence with a woman who photographed the house. The house had been sold. Police will provide extra patrol and suggested if the activity continues, to get a restraining order.

July 1
7:24 a.m. Crash. Fourth Avenue SE and Elena Lane. A driver was on the way home from working overnight and fell asleep on Fourth Avenue SE. The driver crossed Elena Lane, continued through a yard and struck a garage. There were no injuries. The vehicle was towed.

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